Carnegie Mellon University

Between Strategic Plan and Infrastructural Reality:
Founding a Digital Research and Publishing Center at CMU

Rikk Mulligan, Jessica Otis, David Scherer

@critrikk @jotis13 @davidascherer

@cmu_dSHARP

CMU Strategic Plan

1. Goals for the Individual Experience
2. Goals for the University Community
3. Goals for Societal Impact

University Goals

    Strategic Recommendations

        Aspirational Sub-Goals

@davidascherer

Carnegie
Mellon
University

CMU Strategic Plan

Strategic Recommendation

Creating a 21st Century Library That Would Serve As A Cornerstone of World-Class Research and Scholarship.

1. Develop information specialists as partners in research, teaching, and learning
2. Collaborate with peer institutions to provide coordinated access to a global collection of information resources
3. Steward the evolving scholarly record, and champion new forms of scholarly communication
4. Be recognized globally as a leader in the development of the scholarly information ecosystem

@davidascherer

Carnegie Mellon University

University Libraries Strategic Plan

Expanding Libraries faculty to expand coverage and support to faculty staff and students

Subject Liaisons

Psychology, Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Biology, Computational Biology, Cyber Security

Consulting Specialists

Research Data Management, Scholarly Communications and Research Curation, Digital Scholarship, Digital Humanities, GIS, Data Visualization

@davidascherer
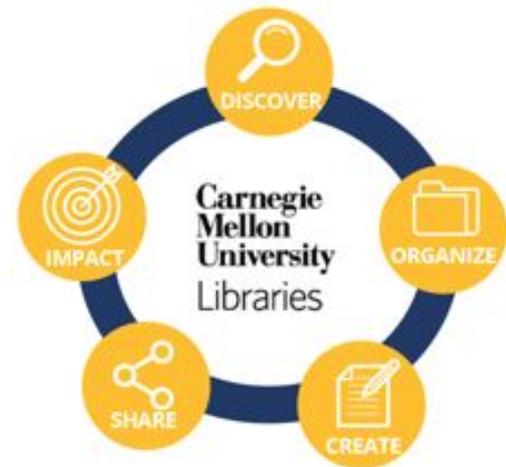
Carnegie Mellon University

University Libraries Strategic Plan

Reshaping the mission and image with campus partners.

Be a central campus resource for research activities

Provide tools, services, and campus collaborators focuses on the research lifecycle:

Discovery, Organize, Create, Disseminate/Share, Impact

@davidascherer

dSHARP Background

Environmental Scan: Stanford, Princeton, Duke, UVA, and Pitt

Digital Scholarship - The use of digital evidence, methods, and tools for research, pedagogy, and publications

Common Thread: Active, on-campus digital scholarship or digital humanities (DS/H) centers based in their Libraries

Infrastructure: Vital to growth and success of digital scholarship

@davidascherer

Carnegie Mellon University

dSHARP

dSHARP—the Center for Digital Sciences, Humanities, Arts: Research, and Publishing, co-sponsored by the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries and Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Nimbleness and Reliability

Connecting, Educating, & **Practicing Research with Digital Methods**

@davidascherer

Carnegie Mellon University

dSHARP: is People

- digital **Sciences:**
  - open science and research data management
- digital **Humanities:**
  - Andrew W Mellon Digital Humanities/Technology Enhanced Learning Grant
  - Post-grant DH project consultations
- digital **Arts:**
  - Design School (CFA),
  - BXA Intercollege programs,
  - Entertainment Technology Center (ETC)

@critrikk

Carnegie Mellon University

Current Resources: Core Team

- Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences
  - Scott Weingart, Program Director for Digital Humanities (digital humanities specialist)
  - Dan Evans, Digital Humanities Developer
- University Libraries (Faculty)
  - Lisa Zilinski, Research Data Management Consultant
  - David Scherer, Scholarly communications and Research Curation Consultant
  - Jessica Otis, Digital Humanities Specialist
  - Rikk Mulligan, Digital Scholarship Strategist

Carnegie Mellon University

Current Resources: as Faculty

Research Support

- Time
- Travel funding
- Flexible Schedules

University Libraries Support

- Specialty Tools and Software
- Free and Open Source platforms and applications
- Limited Project Hosting

@critrikk

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Current Resources: Affiliates

Pittsburgh region

- University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

CMU

- Dietrich College, College of Fine Arts, Entertainment Technology Center

CMU University Libraries

- Liaison Librarians: GIS, Text Analysis
- Archives: digitization, metadata, data management
- Digitization: digitization, metadata, institutional repository, digital publishing
- CLIR postdoctoral fellows: GIS, data visualization, software curation

Carnegie Mellon University

Current Resources: Center

Center-specific Funding

- Annual Budget $21,000
- Core team member moved from soft (grant) to hard (faculty budget line)

Center Proposal and Plan accepted, with a Vision for

- Physical Space: Offices and Meeting/Studio Spaces
- Dedicated Personnel
- Technology and Infrastructure

@critrikk

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Connect: the Vision

- Physical space: on campus
  - Collocated offices and meeting room
  - reconfigurable workspace
- Virtual space: website
  - Directory, Matchmaking
  - Communication: announcements, calendar, blog
- Social space:
  - Social events to introduce DH/S curious from across Pittsburgh
  - Speakers and workshops
  - Informal meeting space

@critrikk

Carnegie Mellon University

Connect: the Reality of Physical Space

dedicated physical space is complicated
- off-campus spaces too high a barrier to access for our target audience
- expensive to rehab main library: asbestos, HVAC upgrades needed
- politically sensitive to be seen supplanting stacks space with offices

borrowing space is stop-gap solution
- scheduling activities to fit availability of borrowed space
- cannot choose consistent times
- cannot plan more than 1 semester in advance

weekly office hours demonstrate space is vital to achieve our goals

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Connect: the Reality of Virtual Space

social media easy to set up
- listservs
- Twitter: **@cmu_dSHARP**

website required significant effort: **www.dsharp.cmu.edu**
- domain space required Deans Council approval of center proposal and name
- central IT domain space has strict tech limitations for hosted websites
- library maintaining a custom server for us to host the website
- had to justify need for a "top level" subdomain under www.cmu.edu
  - *we are hosted between units, not just under the Libraries or Dietrich*
- website remains in beta due to lack of dedicated time to revise

currently strategizing how to increase awareness of and links to website

@jotis13

Carnegie Mellon University

Connect: the Reality of our Achievements

events
- weekly office hours
- quarterly speaker series
- biannual PGH|DH social events
- annual THATCamp

advocates and affiliates
- PGH|DH community
- HASTAC graduate scholars
- CLIR postdoctoral fellows
- related library faculty/staff - digitization, GIS, etc.

@jotis13

Carnegie Mellon University

Educate: the Vision

As faculty and consultants we meet with people, but a dedicated, reconfigurable space would allow us to hold:

- Workshops using appropriate technology
- Speaker series with receptions and meet-and-greet
- For-credit courses
- Contribute toward DH minor and graduate program

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Educate: the Reality of Teaching

"traditional" library-based teaching easiest to implement
- one-on-one consultations and guest lectures
- center faculty and visiting speaker workshops

difficulties with lack of dedicated space and technology
- central scheduling
- limited other options

uncharted path to for-credit courses
- library has no tradition of offering courses in its own right
- Dietrich-wide courses generally used for freshmen seminars / senior theses
- University-wide courses require significant extra hoops to implement
- ad-hoc teaching through English and History Departments

@jotis13

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Research: the Vision

Collaborative studio or lab using dedicated, reconfigurable space

- Grant-funded collaborations
    - AW Mellon DH/TEL funded
    - AW Mellon Digits
- Non-grant funded projects
- University Libraries
    - Institutional Repository: KiltHub
    - Archives (including Omeka S implementation)
    - Investigating new services and support
- dSHARP projects

Research: the Reality of Supporting Others

Grant-Funded Projects Support

    primarily focused on supporting A.W. Mellon grant-funded projects
    continuing to support select projects after grant funding period ends

- based on personal interest
- based on project needs

General Projects Support

    hosting a priority for digital humanities in particular

- A.W. Mellon grant-funded projects
- other flagship digital humanities projects
- future faculty and graduate student projects

microgrants - limited resources for other projects

@jotis13

**Carnegie
Mellon
University**

Research: the Reality of Center Projects

Center Scholarship

"Mars Frontier," put on ice due to lack of time as we founded center
"C-MESH," technically an A.W. Mellon-grant faculty project with pan-team interest

Collaborative Scholarship

"Digital Frankenstein," involves 2 of 6 team members
"Bridges of Pittsburgh," has 2 team members as co-Principal Investigators

Individual Scholarship

each continue to pursue individual research

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Future Steps: Connect

- Ongoing Speaker series
- Continuing social events
- Advisory Board
    - Better communicate with faculty
    - speakers and lectures
    - course and workshop content
    - Formal survey of digital scholarship and publishing needs
- In the University Libraries
    - Help our liaisons grow their DH knowledge base
    - Work with liaisons to promote digital scholarship

@critrikk

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Future Steps: Educate

Workshops

      run skills-based workshop on subjects of interest to core audience
- research data management
- copyright, fair use, open access
- network analysis, GIS, text analysis

      host workshops as requested by faculty, staff, students

Courses

      design dSHARP undergrad/grad cross-over course, to be offered on a regular basis
      coordinate with English and History Departments to run graduate courses
      coordinate with "Humanities Analytics" minor as core faculty

@jotis13

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Future Steps: (Supported & Center) Research

Supported Research

      transition A.W. Mellon grant-funded projects to dSHARP support, post-grant
      continue faculty and student project consultations
      focus on building infrastructure to support sustainability & preservation for projects

Center Research

      continue to pursue annual (or biennial/triennial) center research projects
      continue to pursue research projects of personal or small-group interest

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Future Steps: Research (Hosting & Publishing)

Digital Library Publishing Imprint
  Open Source Publishing Platform
  Open to Faculty and Students

Carnegie
Mellon
University

Questions & Comments

Rikk Mulligan rikk@cmu.edu   website: http://dsharp.cmu.edu

@CritRikk

Jessica Otis jotis@andrew.cmu.edu

@jotis13

David Scherer daschere@andrew.cmu.edu

@davidascherer

Carnegie
Mellon
University