

Coalition for Networked Information
Digital Scholarship Planning Webinar Series 2020
<https://www.cni.org/events/cni-workshops/digital-scholarship-planning-2020-webinar-series>

Campus Discussion Questions

These questions are intended for use by committees, task forces, and planning groups that are considering a digital scholarship program, re-thinking an existing digital scholarship program, or augmenting an existing program. They are designed for guiding discussion after viewing each recording of the CNI Digital Scholarship Planning Webinar series. Individuals in a planning group can watch the recording of a webinar and then discuss these questions as a group. The questions for each session were developed by CNI's Associate Executive Director *Emerita* Joan Lippincott in consultation with the speakers for each session.

Session 1: The Case for Developing Digital Scholarship Programs

1. How will (or does) a digital scholarship program in your library/IT organization support your institution's priorities in research, teaching & learning, social justice, and community engagement?
2. What are the key committees or other groups at your institution for setting policies and procedures for such things as data management, technology infrastructure, acceptability of various formats of digital output in promotion and tenure review, etc.? Are representatives from the library and IT organizations on any of these groups? If not, what strategies might work to get a seat at the table or otherwise influence the considerations and outcomes of these important matters?
3. How are you currently communicating your organization's expertise and programs and what could you do to strengthen the visibility of your organization? Is your library/IT organization viewed by the research community as a leading provider of expertise, infrastructure, and services related to digital scholarship?
4. Do you think your library or library/IT organization will be able to move from being partners to faculty in the digital age to becoming pioneers in the 4th era of the industrial revolution?
5. If you were asked by your Provost why the library or library/IT organization should have a role in digital scholarship, what are three key points that you would make?

Session 2: Supporting Digital Scholarship During the Pandemic

1. As you work through what you continue to offer during the pandemic, are you taking the time to think through competing needs and demands in the context of campus priorities?
2. Can you think of ways that you can do less with greater impact during this turbulent and uncertain time?
3. Which of the virtual programs and services featured in the presentations were useful to your institution and why?
4. Did the presentations provide you with some new ideas of how to maintain community during the pandemic period?

Session 3: Assessment: Needs and Ongoing

1. Have you done a needs assessment for your digital scholarship program? If not, how might you go about it during the pandemic? If you have done a needs assessment in the past, is it time to repeat it or to do a needs assessment targeting a particular population, e.g. graduate students, or discipline?
2. Are you aware of the scope of programs and services across your institution, such as makerspaces, GIS centers, etc. that offer digital scholarship services? Would library/IT services complement those offerings or compete with them? If they exist elsewhere, would the other unit be open to partnership?
3. Do you have criteria for what constitutes success for your digital scholarship program? Can you explicitly state some desired outcomes and then describe how you would gather and analyze data related to those aspects of the program?

Session 4: Staffing

1. What is your current staffing for supporting digital scholarship? Which staff have full-time positions in this area? What other staff contribute their time and skills? What units in the university do you collaborate with currently?
2. Most digital scholarship work is done collaboratively. Did the presentations give you some ideas about partners you could approach to work on some aspects of digital scholarship? Can you map out both current and potential collaborators in your institution?
3. How might you gain more buy-in by administrators and staff for supporting digital scholarship in your library or library/IT organization? Do you have a sense of what underlying issues or challenges may exist that would impede participation by additional staff?
4. Did you get some ideas for training a wider group of librarians to participate in digital scholarship activities? What might work in your organization?

Session 5: Supporting Research

1. What unique resources, expertise, and capabilities does your organization bring to the research process? Can you communicate these attributes to administrators and researchers?
2. Have you determined which disciplines your digital scholarship program will or will not support? If you have an existing library program, is there a need to re-evaluate this?
3. Do you have guidelines for negotiating research project support and credit with PIs? Do you have criteria for accepting or declining to work with projects? Do you have specific criteria for funded research?
4. How do you work with other units in the university when a research project requires the collaboration of multiple units, such as the library, IT organization, and a research institute?

Session 6: Initiatives in Teaching & Learning

1. What is your current program in teaching and learning related to digital scholarship? What types of formats do you offer (before and during the pandemic), which disciplines do you reach, and are your participants both undergraduate and graduate students? In what ways would you like to grow your program? In addition to digital scholarship staff, who else might become involved in the instructional program?
2. Do you have a program that would provide faculty with the perspectives and skills to incorporate digital scholarship assignments into their curriculum in collaboration with the library staff? If this would be desirable on your campus, what steps would you take to develop the program? Who would be involved? Do you think this type of program would help you develop a sustainable educational program?
3. Are community educational programs a priority at your institution? Which groups might you work with, e.g. schools, makers. How would you begin to reach out to those sectors?

Session 7: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Do your institution's goals or strategic plan include statements about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)? Can those statements form the basis of a conversation among the planning group and/or library staff about how to incorporate DEI into digital scholarship programs?
2. Can you build on students' interest in current social movements to work with them on digital projects? Can you also encourage faculty to partner with you on integrating assignments that collect and/or use

- digital resources on social movements (local or national) into their courses?
3. Do you have criteria that include diversity, equity, and inclusion aspects that are used to evaluate which digital scholarship projects the library will partner with and support?
 4. Are your staff and digital scholarship spaces welcoming to a diverse student body? Do your spaces make a wide variety of your students feel welcome?

Session 8: Space and Place

1. Before the pandemic, what spaces in your library were being used for digital scholarship programming, e.g. consultation spaces, collaborative work spaces, spaces with specialized equipment and screens, workshop spaces? What worked well with those spaces and what could be changed post-pandemic? What needs to be added?
2. How does the range and variety of spaces and programmatic activities fit with spaces and programs across campus? Is there any planning or service coordination?
3. In planning new spaces and their affiliated programs, e.g. a data science initiative, are you also making plans to have the staff expertise needed available?
4. Have you considered whether you want to be reactive or proactive in offering spaces with new technologies and affiliated services? Will the role of the library be provider of services, collaborator, or an entity that expands the idea of the possible?
5. Is your library currently providing a showcase for student and faculty digital scholarship projects? If not, how might you do this when facilities re-open?

Session 9: Reflections on Libraries and Digital Scholarship and Looking Ahead

1. If you are just beginning a digital scholarship program, what do you think are the most likely areas in which you can develop successful services and collaborations? If you are moving your program to the next level, what are the areas in which you believe you can have the most impact?
2. What are some of the major roadblocks that you face in developing your digital scholarship program and what are some steps you can take to overcome those roadblocks?
3. What kinds of communication strategies can you develop during the pandemic to promote your existing program and reach out to current and new partners at your institution?