

# Transformative Partnership: Digital Scholarship Services at University of Michigan

Summer 2022

CNI Project Updates

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<http://bit.do/cni2022>

Follow along with this link!



# Agenda

- Acknowledgements
- Context & Overview
- Recap
- Update
- Our Approach and Lessons Learned

# Land Acknowledgement

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We acknowledge that the historical origins and present location of the University were made possible by indigenous people's cession of lands under coercive treaties common in the colonization and expansion of the United States. In particular we note that the University's three campuses are located on lands of the Anishinaabeg and Wyandot, which were ceded in the Treaty of Detroit in 1807.

Additionally, we recognize that the University's endowment was originally funded in significant measure by sale of land granted under Article 16 of the 1817 Treaty of the Foot of the Rapids, also known as the Treaty of Ft. Meigs. This grant, for "the college at Detroit," was made by Anishinaabeg — including Odawa, Ojibwe, and Bodewadami — so that their children could be educated.

# Digital Acknowledgements

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“... consider the legacy of colonization embedded within the technologies, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day. We are using equipment and high speed internet not available in many indigenous communities. [This technology] leaves significant carbon footprints, contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous peoples worldwide. I invite you to join me in acknowledging all this as well as our shared responsibility: to make good of this time, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and allyship.”

- [Adrienne Wong of SpiderWebShow](#)

# Context: University of Michigan

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- Predominantly and Historically white institution
- Top tier R1 research institution
- Though resource rich, it's heavily siloed
- Expectations of our faculty don't align with material reality re: DS support
- 19 Schools and Colleges
  - + Library
  - + Hospital
- 36+ IT Shops
- Very decentralized, interdisciplinary culture

# Context: U-M Library

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4th largest research library in the U.S.

- Over 20 libraries across 12 buildings
- Over 500 staff
- Roughly 170 librarians

Holdings: Between 14 - 15.6 million volumes

# U-M Library Digital Scholarship Service Team (est. 2019)

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- **Core DS Hub** (4 core)
- **Digital Scholarship Advisory Group** (~20 members)
- **DS Practitioners** (70+ individual and group experts from across library and campus)

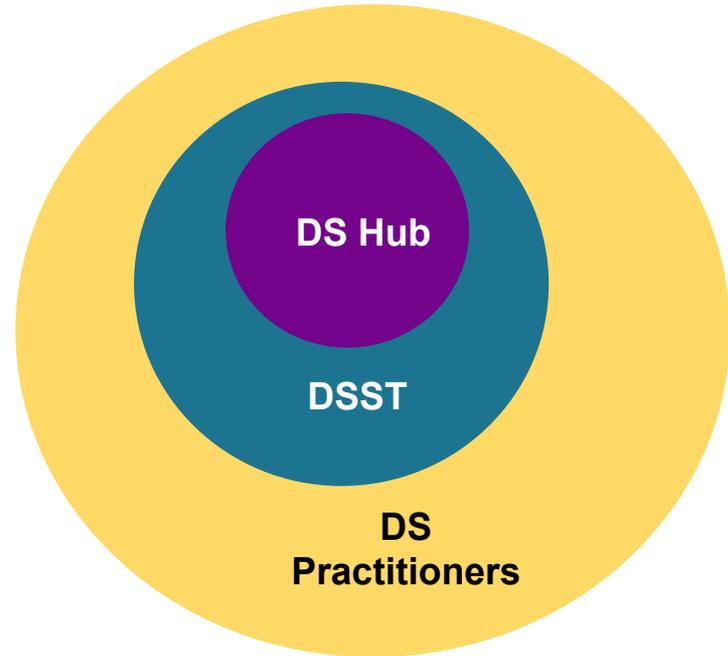


Image: Concentric circles representing the hub and spoke model of the U-M Library digital scholarship service

# Context: College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA)

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One of the 19 Schools and Colleges

- 17,150 Undergraduate Students
- 2,520 Graduate Students
- 41 Academic Departments

# Context: LSA Technology Services (LSA TS)

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- Academic Technology Services
- Research, Computing, and Infrastructure Services
  - Research Team (16 People)
    - High Performance Computing
    - GIS
    - Programming
    - Digital Scholarship Studio <--Joe is here
- Web and Application Development Services
- Operational Effectiveness
- Support Services

# Last time...

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Values

Matrix network structure

Capacity

(sides from 2019 presentation)

# Our Capacity

## Early Stage

- Grassroots
- Ad-hoc
- Catch-as-catch-can
- Siloed
- Focus is on individual project leads

## Established Stage

- Processes emerge
- Institutional champions emerge
- More collaboration
- Formal commitments of resources
- Attempts at forming advisory committees
- Recognition that decisions and priorities would benefit from coordination

## High-Capacity Stage

- Full support
- Grant application support
- Infrastructure in place
- Physical spaces available
- Highest-level administration support
- Institution holds events
- Formal support and governance for projects at institutional level

Last Update

Now

(Anne, et al., 2017)

# Goals in Developing Our DS Service Pilot

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- Be guided by our values and principles
- Meet the needs of our campus community
- Use existing infrastructure
- Care for our limited staff and their capacity

# Importance of Relationships

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Build relationships with staff and services elsewhere on campus (IT shops, research centers, etc.) in a model that centers

- Transparent communication,
- Equitable labor,
- Mutual respect,
- Collaboration and partnership.

# DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP @ UMIICH

DSST — Comms  
CRAFT Development  
Community Development

## DS STUDIO

Consultations  
Workshops

Tech access/Hosting  
+ Manifold  
+ Domain of Ones Own

## DS HUB

DS Consultations  
Tier 1 + triage  
Workshops

Digital Preservation  
Dig. Publishing  
(Cross-Platform)  
Consultations  
Workshops  
Project Support  
ITL

DS Tech Strategy

Physical Spaces

## LIT?

Rachman  
CSCAR  
Flint  
Dearborn

## PARTNERS

MRE-ITS

Durham

ITS

Event  
Project  
Workshop



# Core Services

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- consultations,
- workshops,
- public events,
- networking events,
- focused research support sprints,
- open office hours,
- a certificate program, and
- a pilot anti-racist grant initiative.

# Values

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- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
- Anti-racism
- Accessibility
- Openness
- Transparency
- Care and consent
- Connection and partnership

[\(source\)](#)

# Emergent Strategy Leaders

“All organizing is science fictional behavior.” - amb

## Emergent Strategy Leaders:

- are adaptive;
- they shape change;
- they ride change.



(brown, 2017)

# People first

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Focus on relationships, capacity,  
mission and goals



Image: Photograph of the Hatcher Library Reading Room, where our team has never met.

# Staffing

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## Library

- DS Strategist
- DS Specialist
- Digital Pedagogy Librarian
- Metadata Engagement Librarian

## LSA TS

- DS Strategist
- Research Consultants
- Designers
- Design Analysts
- Developers
- Systems Administrators

# Lessons Learned

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- Invest in PEOPLE!
- Pilot initiatives first
- Be willing to try things and adapt
- Don't get too attached to anything
- Be comfortable moving slowly (“move at the speed of trust”)
- Think creatively about the resources you do have access to



# Thank you!

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