An Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Funded Research Study

KNOWLEDGE & SKILL CAPACITY FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP: A GLOBAL BENCHMARKING STUDY

http://libraries.uc.edu/blogs/dsgrant/

Research Team

Lisa Spiro, Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services, Rice University

Xuemao Wang, Dean and University Librarian, University of Cincinnati

Jon Cawthorne, Dean of Libraries, West Virginia University

Vivian Lewis, University Librarian, McMaster
Objectives and Scope

- Identify “best in class” DS programs
  - Enterprise, university-wide, or academic departmental, not always located in a university library
  - Social sciences as well as the humanities
- Determine, through site visits and interviews, the key workforce related factors associated with these centers’ success
- Benchmarking on a global scale
  - Multiple countries (4 U.S., 1 Canada, 2 Europe, 3 BRICS)
- Identify where more research is needed
- Anticipated completion: March 2015
Site Selection Criteria

- Strong record of successful projects
- National / international recognition
- Clearly articulated vision
- Strengths in teaching/training as well as research
- Expressed willingness to share experiences and learn from others
Sites Visited

- US: George Mason & U of Virginia
- Canada: University of Victoria
- Europe: King’s College & Oxford University, UK
- Likely visits this summer:
  - European site, likely in Germany
  - China (may include Japan, Taiwan)
- Also on planning Brazil or Mexico and South Africa or India
Key Things We’ve Learned So Far...

• Organization structure varies: research center, service center attached to library and/or IT

• Multi-profile workforce: discipline/domain academics, software and application developers etc.

• Commons themes:
  – Largely focus on digital humanities or inter-disciplinary areas
  – Challenge in balancing teaching, research and service
  – Many skills acquired on the job rather than through formal education
  – Concerns about tenure and promotion for faculty
  – Culture is important in encouraging collaboration and skills growth