

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



Xuemao Wang,
Dean and
University
Librarian,
University of
Cincinnati

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



Vivian Lewis,
University
Librarian,
McMaster



Jon Cawthorne,
Dean of
Libraries, West
Virginia
University



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