Centers of Digital Scholarship and Library Leadership

Two Case Studies

Dr. Joan Giesecke
Dean of Libraries
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Harriette Hemmasi
Joukowsky Family University Librarian
Brown University

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Today’s Library Is

Supporting the changing patterns of teaching, learning & research by combining traditional & new knowledge resources & services with emerging information technology in inviting physical & online spaces
The Library is Vital in All Phases of Academic Life & Scholarly Communications

- **Phase 1**: Teaching, Learning, Research
- **Phase 2**: Content Access, Data Curation, Analysis, Re-Use
- **Phase 3**: Authoring, Publishing, Dissemination
- **Phase 4**: Storage, Archiving, Preservation

Collaboration & Discoverability
Library Leadership
Within
Centers of Digital Scholarship

One Critical Path to Keeping Libraries Vital
(Voss & Procter, 2009)

“Creating an integrated e-research experience fundamentally relies on the creation of communities of service providers, tool builders and researchers working together to develop specific support for research tasks as well as the creation of a technical and organizational platform for integrating these tools into an overall research process.”
Virtual Research Environments: Common Functionalities

(Voss & Procter, 2009)

Authenticate, communicate and collaborate, transfer data, configure a resource, invoke computation, re-use data, give credit, archive output, publish outputs (formally and informally), discover resources, monitor resources, maintain awareness, data provenance, authentication and authorization.
History
1995-2003

- E-text Center in the Libraries
- Humanities Faculty Planning Retreat
- Hiring Digital Humanities faculty member
- Proposal for a joint center to change the nature of humanities scholarship and to train the next generation of humanities scholars
Digital Initiatives in the Libraries

- Special Collections – Digital Librarian
- Image Databases – Campus Collections
- Institutional Repository – Digital Commons
- Electronic Journals – Open Access
- Media Services – Student Course Work
• Dean of Arts & Sciences and Dean of Libraries as champions of the program
• Each area contributed positions
• Identified Co-directors – English faculty member who does the Walt Whitman archive and Library department head from E-text and Special Collections
Proposal

• Space in the Libraries – reallocated space from technical services operations
• Funding from the University for equipment, faculty positions
• Both deans participated in planning
• Received Programs of Excellence funding → both deans ranked the proposal as a top priority
History (Tradition)
1967-2002

1967  Brown Corpus (Kucera & Francis)
1970  FRESS Hypertext System (van Dam)
1985  Intermedia Hypertext -- IRIS (Meyrowitz, Landow, et al)
1988  Women Writers Project (Renear, Woods, Flanders)
1989  Hypertext Fiction (Coover)
1994  Scholarly Technology Group (Renear, Bilder, Mylonas)
2001  1st digital librarian (Yott)
2001  Center for Digital Initiatives (Library)
2002  Cave writing (Coover)
Merging Synergies

2008

• Scholarly Technology Group and WWP staff transferred from central IT to Library
• STG and WWP merge with Center for Digital Initiatives
• Center for Digital Scholarship established
• Staff currently in separate physical locations
Personnel

- Director of Digital Technologies
- Associate Director, Digital Production
  (plus 3 FTE and students)
- Associate Director, Projects & Research
  (plus students; E-Humanities and E-Science Librarians to be added)
- Associate Director, Text-base Development
  (plus 2 FTE and students, all grant-funded)
- Developers, assigned ad hoc to projects
Mission Statement

The Center advances interdisciplinary research in the humanities by working with faculty to create unique digital content, developing tools to assist scholars in text analysis and visualization, and encouraging the use (and refinement) of international standards for humanities computing.
The Willa Cather Archive is an ambitious endeavor to create a rich, useful, and widely-accessible site for the study of Willa Cather's life and writings. To that end, we are providing digital editions of Cather texts and scholarship free to the public as well as creating a large amount of unique, born-digital scholarly content. The Archive is a product of a partnership between the Archives and Special Collections, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, The University of Nebraska Press, and the Cather Project at the University of Nebraska.

Quick Facts

• In 2008, the CDRH published "Promotion & Tenure Criteria for Assessing Digital Research in the Humanities."
• CDRH joined centerNet in 2007.
• CDRH was designated as a Center by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska in 2005.
• UNL has invested $3.4 million in Programs of Excellence funds for the Center from 2004-2015.

Research Faculty Fellowships
Postdoctoral Fellowships
Student Opportunities
Nebraska Digital Workshop
Mission for the Center

- Faculty research centered projects, with a faculty advisory board – over 56 faculty involved in projects in the Center
- Faculty seed grants to begin work on digital scholarship
- Interdisciplinary teams work on projects
- Creation of software tools
- Multi-institutional grants
- NEH, IMLS grants
Faculty Development

• Libraries and College provide travel support
• Nebraska Digital Workshop – early career faculty meet with experienced faculty
• Workshops on using analysis tools
Student Opportunities

• Graduate student research opportunities
• Undergraduate research opportunities
  – University UCARE funding
• Internships and Post Doc opportunities
Curriculum Opportunities

• Student class projects building humanities sites
• Dean of Arts & Sciences provides leadership for a graduate certificate program
• Both units include curriculum support in strategic plans
CDS Mission

- Build infrastructure, interfaces, tools & systems that support digital information and scholarly activities at Brown
- Develop new digital projects with and for Brown community members
- Engage in research and development on tools and technologies that contribute to broader understanding of digital scholarship and scholarly communication
- Serve as locus of expertise in digital scholarship
Develop & Maintain Shared Infrastructure: Brown Digital Repository

Sources of Content
- Student Portfolios
- Electronic Dissertations
- Bell Art Gallery
- U. Assessment Archive
- Joukowsky Institute
- PAUR Photo Archive
- Individual Faculty Members

Repository Services
- Ingest & Metadata Services
- Preservation Services
- Linking & External Referencing Services
- Authentication Services
- Retrieval Services

Foundational Services
- Management of digital assets
- Storage of digital content of all forms (e.g., images, audio, video, text, data, etc.)
Faculty Engagement

• Provide in-kind research “grants” to faculty
• Help faculty make effective use of digital medium to accomplish research goals
• Leverage digital work by individual faculty by sharing knowledge, methods & technologies and by fostering partnerships
• Provide design expertise (graphic, database, interface, information modeling, usability)
• Support faculty seeking external funding
Welcome

The Inscriptions of Israel/Palestine project seeks to collect and make accessible over the Web all of the previously published inscriptions (and their English translations) of Israel/Palestine from the Persian period through the Islamic conquest (ca. 500 BCE - 640 CE). There are about 15,000 of these inscriptions, written primarily in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin, by Jews, Christians, Greeks, and Romans. They range from imperial declarations on monumental architecture to notices of donations in synagogues to humble names scratched on ossuaries, and include everything in between.

There are approximately 1,500 inscriptions currently in the database, with more added regularly. These inscriptions can be accessed via the "Search" Button on the left.

Inscriptions of Israel/Palestine is an ongoing project at Brown University. It has been generously supported by the Center of Digital Scholarship and the Office of the Vice President of Research at Brown University. We welcome your feedback.

- Data modeling
- Standardize data formats
- Technical infrastructure & support
- Developing TEI data model for encoding digital inscriptions & similar objects
The goal of the U.S. Epigraphy Project is to gather and distribute information about ancient (mainly but not only) Greek and Latin inscriptions preserved in the United States of America.

2,300 inscriptions (720 Greek, 1,575 Latin) registered by the Project by the middle of 1997 and listed in *Greek and Latin Inscriptions in the USA. A Checklist*, by J. Bodel and S. Tracy formed the core of the original website of the U.S. Epigraphy Project founded at Rutgers University in 1995.

The Project moved to Brown University in 2003, where the present xml-based website was originated and has been developed in cooperation with the Scholarly Technology Group. It currently allows browsing of an enlarged database of some 2,500 Greek and Latin inscriptions in the USA by collection and publication and searching of nearly all of these according to various categories of metadata (language, date, origin, type, material) and bibliographic information. A growing digital edition of the collection currently registers some 400 transcriptions of Latin texts encoded according to EpiDoc conventions and provides some 1,000 photographs and images of the inscriptions in our corpus.

Each inscription catalogued by the U.S. Epigraphy Project is assigned a **U.S. Epigraphy number** based upon its current location in the United States, by which it is uniquely identified. The inscriptions can be browsed by publication, by collection, or, for the inscriptions with photographs, through keyword searches.

- Data modeling
- Standardize data formats
- Technical infrastructure & support
- Developing TEI data model for encoding digital inscriptions & similar objects
- Train & oversee students
• TEI encoding of monastery texts enabling them to interlink with images, site plans, and other evidence
• Trained and supported students
• Technical infrastructure and programming
• Used new metadata formats (MODS, METS) to create sustainable infrastructure and allow objects to be ingested into BDR
The Modernist Journals Project is a major resource for the study of modernism in the English-speaking world, with periodical literature as its central concern. Our primary mission is to produce digital editions of culturally significant magazines from around the early 20th century and make them freely available to the public on our website. (more about the MJP)

News & Updates

Crisis and Little Review Issues Now Online
We’ve uploaded the first two volumes of The Little Review and volumes 1, 10 and 11 of The Crisis. Over the next few months we expect to complete our editions of both journals.

The MJP Has Revamped Its Teaching Pages
We’ve expanded the teaching and research pages on the MJP website, so we can now offer more guidance to teachers and students about using the MJP archive and its resources. As part of this expansion, we’ve also introduced an instructional wiki, which should make it easier than ever for members of our community to share their insights and experiences using the MJP.

The MJP Receives NEH Grant to Digitize New Journals
The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded us a grant to create digital editions of the following periodicals: The Crisis from 1910 to 1922 (organ of the NAACP, W. E. B. Du Bois, editor), The Little Review from 1914 to 1922 (Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap, editors), The Freewoman/New Freewoman/Egoist (1911-1919, Dom Marsden and Harriet Weaver, editors), and Others: A Magazine of the New Verse (1915-1919, Alfred Kreymborg, editor). This work officially began at Brown and Tulsa on July 1st, 2010.

MJP Contents

Journals that have been digitized by the MJP

Search the MJP database

Teaching and Research with the MJP

Biographies of authors and artists whose work appears in the MJP journals

Books and Essays about MJP journals and topics

Scanning & metadata creation

Graphic design for user interface

1st digital humanities project served directly out of early version of BDR
• Framework for collaborative work and annotation
• TEI schema
• Transcription and markup
• Iterative development -- progression and growth of related projects
Student Engagement

• Train and oversee grad and UG student developers, designers and text encoders
• Enhance digital skills & discipline-based learning
• Engage in hands-on, “real” research experience
• Create meaningful (often publishable) outcomes
• Work as part of a team, collaborative effort
• Enable and inspire future career choices
Curricular Engagement

- Co-taught graduate course, “Digital Scholarship” (spring 2008, 2010) with Brown faculty member
- Teach same full course in spring 2011
- Participate in graduate and UG seminars, emphasizing digital methods
- Host informal lunch-time readings
- WWP workshops and seminars in scholarly text encoding
Partnerships

• Computing & Information Systems
• Center for Computation & Visualization
• Cogut Center for the Humanities
• Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology
• John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities & Cultural Heritage
• Individual faculty (~60, over the years)
• External partners
External Funding

• Grant Funding
  • NEH
  • Mellon
  • IMLS
  • Microsoft
  • Brown

• Private Donations
  • Digitize materials
  • Purchase equipment
  • Digital Scholarship Lab
  • Book preservation endowments
Fund Raising

• Both deans involved in seeking private donations
• Walt Whitman archive Challenge grant – half of funds from library efforts, half from the College
• Seeking an endowment – joint fund raising effort
• One of the projects in current capital campaign
Conclusion