CNI
Digital Scholarship Centers

Joan K. Lippincott
CNI Membership Meeting, Washington, DC
December 8, 2014
In April, 2014, CNI convened a workshop on Digital Scholarship Centers to:

- Share perspectives and exchange information
- Discover commonalities and differences
- Look at successes and roadblocks
- Provide a report to a broader community describing good practice and showcasing existing centers
Participants

- 35 participants from 24 institutions
- Research universities, liberal arts colleges
- Library staff with many titles, faculty/academic staff, graduate student
- Others
Participating Institutions

Research universities
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Columbia University
- Emory University
- Lafayette College
- McMaster University
- Occidental College
- University of Alabama
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kansas
- University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oregon
- University of Richmond
- University of Rochester River Campus
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Liberal arts colleges
What do they do?

- Support e-research and digital scholarship
- Bring together expensive technologies for use by all campus departments
- Bring together expertise to serve all campus departments
- Support graduate and undergraduate students who desire to create digital projects but do not have access to tools and expertise in their department
DSC vs. Digital Humanities Center
Is this distinction correct?

Digital Scholarship Center

- Administered by Library/IT or other non-departmental unit
- Open to all members of the academic community (or faculty and graduate students in any dept.)
- Multi-disciplinary in many cases
- Moves new ideas from edge to the center (DJW)

Digital Humanities Center

- Administered by faculty
- Limited to affiliated individuals
- Humanities oriented and sometimes more narrow disciplinary focus
- Bring in new ideas (DJW)
What are the distinctions?

DCS

ScholComm

Visualization
How to characterize a DSC

- Is it a service?
- Is it a place to find expertise with e-research?
- How selectively can they serve the institution?
- Do they have to have a physical presence?
- Is a disparate set of services and spaces a center?
How standard is the name?

Google search yields 13,900 results for “digital scholarship center”!

Variations

Digital Scholarship Center
Center for Digital Scholarship
Center for Digital Learning & Research
Center for Digital Research & Scholarship
Digital Scholarship Lab
Center for Scholarly Communication & Digital Curation
Digital Scholarship Commons
...and others
Sessions at CNI have featured Digital Scholarship Centers

U. Virginia

Brown/U. Nebraska

Digital Scholarship In An Academic Research Library: UVa’s Scholars’ Lab

Bethany Nowviskie
Director, Digital Research & Scholarship
University of Virginia

Michael Furough
Assistant Dean for Scholarly Communications
Pennsylvania State University

Anne Houston
Director, Humanities and Social Science Services
University of Virginia

The presenters represent the ghost of facilities past, present, and future in this discussion of the Scholars’ Lab at the University of Virginia (UVA) Library. The Scholars’ Lab was created through a partnership between UVA’s library and central information technologies division in 2007.

Centers For Digital Scholarship & Library Leadership: Two Case Studies

Joan Glasgow
Dean of Libraries
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Hamidreza Harnacki
Zukowski Family University Librarian
Brown University

The Brown University Library Center for Digital Scholarship and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Digital Research in the Humanities provide two examples of how libraries participate in and provide leadership to the campus helping faculty develop digital projects. The Brown University Center was formed in 2006 with the reorganization of campus units, while the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center, a joint initiative...
Sessions at CNI have featured Digital Scholarship Centers

Columbia U.

Discipline-based Digital Centers At Columbia: Assessing Needs And Outcomes

Robert Caro
Director, Library Information Technology Office
Columbia University

Columbia University Libraries is building three Information Commons facilities, focusing on the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Called "Digital Centers," these facilities will provide support for research and learning in the sciences and humanities in high-end, collaborative, technology-rich environments. The Digital Social Science Center was completed in January 2009, the Digital Science Center was completed in January 2011, and the Digital Humanities Center is slated for completion in Fall 2011. This project briefing will provide an overview of the Digital Centers.

Laboratory For Digital Cultural Heritage In The Research Commons At UCLA

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian
University of California, Los Angeles
Todt Greppone
Associate University Librarian for Digital Initiatives & Information Technology
University of California, Los Angeles

A major feature of this new space in the renovation of the Research Library will be a Research Commons for digital scholarship. Partnering with the Center for Digital Humanities, the Library will be installing a laboratory for digital cultural heritage with high-end technology to
Programs at liberal arts colleges

Digital Humanities At Small Liberal Arts College: Innovation And Intergration

Rebecca Frost Davis
Program Officer for the Humanities
National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE)

The digital humanities first flourished at doctoral research universities, but as the field has developed, its methodologies, topics of research, and disciplinary approaches have emerged more widely, even at small liberal arts colleges, whose primary mission is teaching undergraduates. For them, digital humanities helps scholars think how the digital revolution affects and changes the disciplines, and liberal arts education in general. They also help students develop and practice important liberal arts skills, such as critical thinking and effective communication within the changed information environment of the digital age. While early engagement in the digital humanities at these colleges often took the form of isolated grant-created faculty projects, more recently, several small liberal arts colleges, including Hamilton College, Occidental College, and Wheaton College, have taken steps to engage with the digital humanities at the institutional level. These institutions face significant challenges in sustaining large-scale, collaborative digital projects typical of the field.

This briefing will present findings of ongoing research into how digital humanities fits into the culture and structure of small liberal arts colleges.

Experiments In Twenty-First Century Research And Teaching

Andrew J. Torget
Director, Digital Scholarship Lab
University of Richmond

Robert E. Nelson
Associate Director
University of Richmond

Two new projects will be discussed: "Voting America" and the "History Engine." Both projects experiment with what the future of teaching and research might be in the digital age. "Voting America" employs visualizations and cinematic techniques to make a massive amount of data—the 1.8 billion votes that have been cast in presidential elections during the last 164 years—more accessible to students of history and politics. The "History Engine" captures the research of undergraduate students and aggregates their work to produce a very detailed, very large resource about the American past, one that is valuable both to students within the classroom and to a larger public. Both projects are designed to model how colleges and universities might seize new opportunities and meet the challenges presented by digital resources and digital techniques.

http://americanpast.richmond.edu/voting/
http://historyengine.richmond.edu/
Data from participants:
What services are offered?  N=21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consult on digital technologies</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult on digital preservation/curation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult digital project management</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult on intellectual property</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data from participants:
What services are offered?  N=21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makerspace</td>
<td>9 + 2 3-D printers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media production studio</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visualization studio</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit course</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate program</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data from participants:
Services offered

- Number of services per center ranged from 3-10
- Average number of services per center = 7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services offered - other</th>
<th>Services offered - other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant writing assistance</td>
<td>Internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository development/mgt</td>
<td>Grad student fellowships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project development</td>
<td>Consult pedagogy/instr tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data services</td>
<td>Usability lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td>Seed grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text analysis</td>
<td>Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository management</td>
<td>Community building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Digital scholarship center staff

U. Nebraska

Co-Directors
- Kenneth M. Price
- Katherine U. Walter

Faculty
- Brett Barney
- James Conlain
- Amanda Galley
- Carrie Heimann
- Andrew Iwassch
- Matthew Jacobson
- Elizabeth Lanctot
- Stephen Mccarthy
- Philip Sepinwall

Columbia U.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES LIBRARIAN
- Bob Scott

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR
- Alex Gil

STEERING COMMITTEE
- Barbara Rooker
- Nancy Friedland
- Anice Mills
- Nick Patterson

GRADUATE CONSULTANTS
- Michele de Caro
- Min Ding
- Rachel Israel
- Zane Mackin
**Data from participants:**
What type of staff is involved in the center?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Staff</th>
<th>Number of Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Librarians</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology Professionals</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Students</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimedia Professionals</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data from participants:
What type of staff is involved in the center?

- Typically 4-6 types of staff are involved
- Problems with survey question
  - Instructional technologists not specified in original template
Digital scholarship center facilities: UCLA
Digital scholarship center facilities:
Grad fellow lounge – U. Virginia
Digital scholarship center facilities: Hunt Library - NCSU
Instruction + Research

envisions lively, interactive exchanges of information in an environment where students, faculty, and staff collaboratively seek, analyze, and create knowledge. These exchanges leverage digital and physical tools and resources in order to augment face-to-face discussion, deepen critical analysis, expand a reflective understanding of audience and context, and extend student engagement with learning across and beyond classroom walls.

Instruction + Research strengthens and activates...
# How Can I Work With CDS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Curation</th>
<th>Visualization</th>
<th>Visualization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perform Spatial Analysis, make maps</td>
<td>Describe your data</td>
<td>Start a Digital Humanities Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Analysis</td>
<td>Metadata Creation</td>
<td>Digital Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the Brown Digital Repository</td>
<td>Write a grant proposal for a digital project</td>
<td>Digitize objects for research and publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Curation</td>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Digitization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn new skills or teach them to your class</td>
<td>Conferences and Lectures</td>
<td>Learn about Digital Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expert Assistance

- [Profile Image 1]
- [Profile Image 2]
- [Profile Image 3]
- [Profile Image 4]
We discussed:

- What helped launch your Center?
- What leads to successful collaborations and working relations with faculty and others?
- What has been most important for your center regarding staffing?
- What services are most in demand?
- What services do you wish you could offer?
We discussed:

- How are partnerships with faculty developed to include digital projects in the curriculum?
- Are centers working directly with undergraduates on capstone or other projects?
Top Successes

- Building community and partnerships
- Training (staff and campus), workshops, institutes
- Projects
- Outreach, awareness
Top Successes

- Developing tools
- Great, diverse staff
- Integration of Digital Scholarship Center with the library and librarian services and research
Top Challenges

- STAFF – recruitment, retention, training, vacant positions
- Managing priorities, scaling, prioritizing
- Buy-in, support from library administration & other parts of the library
- Articulating and developing shared vision
Top Challenges

- Managing relationships with other campus units
- Outreach within the institution
- Space needs
- Many others!
Institutional challenge

- Recognition for digital scholarship in promotion & tenure reviews
- Is this just a humanities problem?
- MLA Guidelines – are they being adopted?

HTTP://WWW.MLA.ORG/GUIDELINES_EVALUATION_DIGITAL
Some additional questions (for next time)

- Are centers doing formal assessment; if so, of what and how?
- In what way is your institutional repository related to the program of your center?
- Do you have dedicated space(s)?
- What kinds of equipment?
- What is your funding model?
Web resource

- Workshop agenda and PPTs
- Workshop report
- Profiles of participating centers
Next steps

- Small workshop to discuss definitional issues

- Larger workshop (for a fee) for institutions beginning digital scholarship programs or in early stages
  - Spring, 2015
  - Co-sponsored by ARL
Thank you!

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