Libraries + DH

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My Background

• English and Digital Humanities Librarian and Associate Professor, University Library

• Research interests in usability of digital humanities resources, digital pedagogy, humanities data curation, and digital publishing

• Projects funded by IMLS on e-literature, NEH-funded project on Emblematica Online digital library, IMLS project on text mining workshops for librarians

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What is the role of the library in DH?

“[The] Digital Humanities revolution promotes a fundamental reshaping of the research and teaching landscape. It recasts the scholar as curator and the curator as scholar, and, in so doing, sets out both to reinvigorate scholarly practice by means of an expanded set of possibilities and demands, and to renew the scholarly mission of museums, libraries, and archives.”

Digital Humanities Manifesto 2.0 (2009)
Libraries and DH: A History

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DH Projects @ Illinois

Legacy Projects:

Internal Projects:

Grant Funded Projects:

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Digital humanities + the library

- Library as support service?
- Library as a humanities laboratory?
- Library as research partner?

Different models in different places....
But at the heart are users.
DH + Library = Community of Connections

Connections → Community of Practice

Teaching Collaborations

Research Collaborations

DH centers

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Building Capacity: Libraries and Digital Scholarship Services
Bringing Together the People

Personnel for digital scholarship support

- Digital Humanities Specialist
- Data Curators
- GIS Specialist
- English and Digital Humanities Librarian
- Digital Publishing Specialist
- And more!

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My Work in Digital Scholarship

My Research

Acquiring Tools and Resources

Consultations and DH Center Support

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Challenges for DH in Libraries

“The research library will survive because of the introduction of ever more and newer digital technologies, not in spite of them.” –Bernard Frischer

- Davis and Dombrowski, *Divided and Conquered* (2010, NITLE report)
- ARL SPEC #326 kit: Digital Humanities
  - 8% of respondents had digital humanities centers
  - 25% had digital scholarship centers
  - 48% provided ad hoc services
  - 35% had any dedicated staff for digital humanities support
Will They Come?
HathiTrust Research Center

http://hathitrust.org/htrc

• Research arm of the Hathi Trust Digital Library: Collaboration between University of Illinois and Indiana University

• Goal: provide researchers access to large-scale digitized text corpora ("big data") for text mining → "non-consumptive" research on copyrighted works

• 2015-2018 IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant to develop LIS training for text mining methods and tools
Scholarly Commons

• Librarian expertise in areas such as digital humanities, GIS, copyright, scholarly communications, research data services

• Campus Partners:
  • Technology Services
  • Survey Research Lab
  • Graduate College
  • Office of Undergraduate Research
  • Research centers: Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (I-CHASS)

http://www.library.illinois.edu/sc

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DH + Library: Collaborative research
Research Collaborations

- Individual Research Consults
- Publishing Without Walls
- Emblematica Online
- My own research

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Emblematica Online

- Provides single point of access to digitized emblem books from libraries in U.S., Germany, Netherlands, UK
- Funded by a NEH/DFG Bilateral Digital Humanities grant (2008) and NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant (2013)

http://emblematica.library.illinois.edu
Publishing Without Walls

http://publishingwithoutwalls.illinois.edu

- Mellon Foundation $1 million grant to develop publishing services in the library
- Facilitate digital publications by scholars
- Partners:
  - Graduate School of Library and Information Science
  - Department of African-American Studies
  - Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, “Humanities Without Walls” initiative
  - University presses
Librarians in Digital Scholarship Research

“Research collaborations between faculty and librarians continue to benefit both partners. Faculty benefit from library resources and librarian expertise. . . . librarians benefit from the opportunity to ‘secure the library’s future as a significant partner in research and scholarship.’”

ACRL, Value of Academic Libraries

“Regardless of the location of the digital humanities group(s) within the campus setting, the library has roles to play in helping these initiatives to produce and to manage sustainable resources for present and future generations.”

Tyler and Skinner, New Roles for New Times: Digital Curation for Preservation
Librarians’ Advantages to DH

- Strong Faculty Relationships
- Institutional Prominence
- Information professional skills
Not Just A Service...

Librarian

Scholar + Programmer = Innovative DH Project!

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Librarians in the DH Collaboratory
How To Get Involved

• ACRL:
  • Digital Humanities Interest Group
  • Digital Scholarship Centers Interest Group
  • Digital Curation Interest Group
• Digital Library Federation (DLF) Forum
• Code 4 Lib
• Libraries and Digital Humanities SIG, Association of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO)
• Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Libraries Working Group
DH Needs Us

“One of the hallmarks of digital humanities practice has been the desire to experiment, to make things, to dig into our data – to see how humanities ‘things’ are ‘made.’ There is nothing contrary to the library spirit in that desire either…. What is all this traditional library work if not an engagement with how knowledge is ‘made’? And what are we, if not co-makers of that knowledge?”

Glen Worthey

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Discussion Questions

• What are challenges of doing digital humanities at IWU?
• What are the needs for scholars that you’ve identified?
Questions?

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