

Session title: The Landscape of Digital Humanities Librarianship

Presenter(s): Trevor Muñoz, University of Maryland

Harriett Green, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Angela Courtney, Indiana University Bloomington Libraries

Jean Bauer, Brown University Library

Glen Worthey, Stanford University Libraries

Time of session: Sunday, November 4, 10:15am-noon

Room: Continental A

Notes on session

Glen Worthey, Stanford University Libraries

preaching to the choir

DH in the library has been around longer than you might realize

showing examples of DHC collaboration

Orbis: <http://orbis.stanford.edu/>

Mapping Republic of Letters: <https://republicofletters.stanford.edu/>

Literary Lab, which used some Chadwyck-Healey data to write their first pamphlet, that data was purchased not licensed

Science Mag Jan 2011 - Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Google Books

“Digital humanities depends on the library. Always has, always will”

Forefathers of modern DH practice: Vannevar Bush, Roberto Busa

Busa: started working on Thomas Aquinas’ concordance in 1946

Bush: famous Atlantic Monthly article about the Memex in 1945

Cites example of professor in 2002 referring to DH librarians as plumbers

Supporting DH = doing DH

(can quibble about the depth of this)

Whenever possible, need to own rather than license

Go to bat for our researchers

Be bold for our users

Angela Courtney: Indiana University Bloomington Libraries

comes to this from subject librarian perspective, reference and public service as strengths

liaison activities as basis for her DH work

not labeled a DH librarian, no one is at Indiana
Work has been a bottom-up effort for many years

Class in English dept, her, Digital Library Program staff re-invigorated Victorian Women Writer's Project <http://t.co/zF0zto1E>

Last 18 mos as transitional period

- starting to see ideas become institutionalized
- held miniconference (2 days) w/ faculty, subject librarians, digital library, library admin, campus admin
- to learn about projects they were working on and what the gaps were

Reference librarians will be key in new "Scholarly Commons" opening in August. Digital Library colleagues will be present there too

Harriett Green: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Knew what it was like to be a subject specialist, but not a digital humanities librarians
It was great to have mentors and peers to learn
Approx 50% or more is being liaison, in first year was learning what that all meant
First year was spent shutting down the English libe

Takes time to really connect with the institutes and depts
First connections came with working with colleagues on digital library projects
Determined the constituency of who to work with on campus, who really needed her services

Worked with people who came to the digital scholarship center in the library

'scholarly commons' - digital scholarship center elements
digital scholarship center in library
consultants for data services, GIS, digital humanities, copyright, scholarly comm
partner with tech and research centers
institutional repo

Use and usability of DH Resources/tools
both users of collections as well as tools themselves

Jean Bauer, Brown University Library

Been doing DH 4-5 years as a grad student
New to her Brown position, also has subject liaison experience with English dept

Brown is not new to DH, but the title is new

Consultant on tools, projects (part of broader 'data curation group', no members of this group have MLS/MLIS degrees)

coming from DB background

moving to info design - how do you make sense and tell the story of data

data viz projects great in the library, SO much data to pull from

Importance of data sharing

data viz project started w/ researching 'looking for help with [dataset/database]'

starting w/csv file, researcher may not know what to do, DB/tech perspective can see path forward

uses viz for cleaning, searching, birds eye view

Showing pictures of the DH project, as well as mentioning the people involved

being a subject librarian was good - helped set up a new 'info bartering' situation

some of most traditional librarians in group were best at collection development

set up group dynamic of inclusivity, cooperation

Trevor Muñoz, University of Maryland

No digital humanities librarian on campus

Do have MITH, Maryland Institute for the Humanities...???

(technology in humanities <http://mith.umd.edu>)

Why were DH and libraries not working more closely?

created first joint position - Assistant Dean for Digital Humanities Research (libraries), Associate Director (MITH)

not part of traditional library roles (ex. no reference desk shifts)

position goal - help both learn to work more closely together, create real change,

empower all librarians to be DH librarians

Doing DH in the library should be recentered on the research questions and intellectual agendas of librarians - enter DH Incubator

- Curriculum in form of workshops

- Intro to DH -> developing research ideas -> acquiring, preparing & working with data -> project development Best Practices (take ideas and move them to the next level, apply for funding, etc)

- Build relationships - office hours, getting to know each other, pitch round

- Needed space and time support from administration

Make all librarians become DH liaison librarians: "empower them!"

Questions: No one defined DH. (yay, thank you for not doing that) What techniques do you use to scope the huge DH thing down so you can work and teach it to others? [thanks! missed the 2nd part of the question]

- Whatever I like to do.
- Try not to define it because everyone's definition is different.
- Make, share and help- that's what makes a DHumanist.
- Helping with the tools and methods that DH researchers want to apply to their work.

Question from Patricia Hswe - how did you know your libraries were ready for change?

Trevor - They didn't really know, but lots of interest in personal conversations w/Trevor when new position started. 'wouldn't it be nice to get you all in the same room'. Incubator has become a focal point for digital research (inc. engineering, etc). Incubator was a way to 'get more bang for buck' on existing programs.

Glen - Stanford's Concierge program - don't need to assign people to learn DH, more venues for conversation coming up.

Harriett - interest on (UIUC) campus growing, more requests coming in

Jean - existing projects and groups spread out across org (ex. Renear's project in CS). Org reshuffling to bring DH projects and people together. If DH fellows create amazing projects, demand will grow ('jealousy is a powerful motivator'). Need to express yourself and the work you are doing will grow interest.

Thanks other note takers! :)