At the Intersection of Technology and Special Collections: A Program Approach to Collaborative Teaching and Student Engagement

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SC & A and the CC Tech Fellows Program
CC Tech Fellows Program

- Initiated by Dean of Faculty and Chief Information Officer / Librarian of the College

- “...novel and innovative applications of digital technology to curricula for the purpose of enhancing pedagogy and improving classroom experience...”
CC Tech Fellows and SC&A: A Program Approach

- Collaboration with IT librarians and affiliated library staff to develop and implement new digital curricula in courses

- Case study of Cornelius B. Gold: a digital exhibit project that featured the personal documents of a Connecticut man who traveled by sea to Asia in the early 1860s

- Series of scaffolded student assignments, planned and evaluated through a joint collaboration between the faculty fellow, IT librarians, reference librarians, and SC&A staff
The Project: Cornelius Gold Journal
Project: Gold Journal

EAS202: Empire and Expansion in East Asia, 1840-1950
- Ann Marie Davis, Assistant Professor of History

Virtual exhibition of the Cornelius Gold journal, planned and executed over two semesters

Annotation, transcription, exhibition, research, and evaluation
Gold Journal: Project Objectives

- Use technology to enhance learning and fulfill course pedagogical goals

- Impart new knowledge about the history of Modern Imperialism in East Asia from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries

- Introduce different facets of the research process, including evaluating raw data from primary source material

- Teach students to synthesize knowledge gained from primary sources with knowledge gleaned from course lectures, textbooks, and other assignments

- Develop and improve students’ rhetorical skills
Student Exhibits

Exhibit overview

Cornellius B. Gold was born in 1839 to Catharine B. and Job Swift Gold in the small town of Washington in western Connecticut. He attended the Gunnery, an academy operated by the staunch abolitionist Frederick Gunn. Like so many of his classmates at the Gunnery, he volunteered for the Union cause in 1861, but was turned away due to his weak condition.

In December 1861, Gold sailed for Hong Kong aboard the ship Oriental with a cargo of coal. In Hong Kong, he found passage on the Jabez Snow to Liverpool with a load of hemp and sugar. From Liverpool he made his way to Cork and then sailed home on the City of Manchester, arriving in March, 1863. Gold chronicled his experiences throughout each leg of his journey in a 62 page journal.

Upon his return to the United States, Gold made a second - this time, successful - attempt at joining the Union Army, and in August 1863, mustered into Company B of the 6th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

Gold joined his regiment in Hilton Head, S.C. in October 1863 and was soon assigned to be secretary in court martial proceedings. In the spring of 1864, the Connecticut 6th Infantry moved to Bermuda Hundred, Va. and then participated in the Petersburg Campaign. During this time he spent some time in Balfour Hospital in Portsmouth, Va. and was considered for a medical discharge due to his frailty, but was ultimately returned to his company.

In November, 1864 Gold received a transfer to the U.S. Navy where he served as a paymaster. He signed letters through the spring and summer of 1865 from the USS Vincennes, Stockdale, Circassian, and Anderson in Mobile Bay, and from Mobile, Ala. and Pensacola, Fla. By the beginning of 1866 he was back home in Connecticut.

After the war, Gold married Margaret Shedd and served as treasurer for the executive committee of the New York State Prison Association. Gold died in Litchfield, Conn. in 1921.
Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges
- Project management is key to buy-in
- Defining roles, expectations, workflows

Opportunities
- Programmatic approach offers time, space, and support to think consciously and intentionally about projects
- Mechanism in place to bring together diverse groups of faculty and staff
- Evaluation built into the TFP Program - offers opportunity to revise and recalibrate
- Tangible products of scholarship
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Questions?