Spectrum of Support

Planning Services for Digital Humanities Scholars

Jennie Burroughs
Arts & Humanities Director
University of Minnesota Libraries
How are humanities scholars working now?

What new skills are needed?

How are campuses supporting this research?

What’s the library’s role?
A note from the past

This is a piece of text discovered in Egypt, written over 1000 years ago.

We'd like you to help us to read it.

Images may not be copied or offloaded, and the images and their texts may not be published. All digital images of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri are © Imaging Papyri Project, University of Oxford. The papyri themselves are owned by the Egypt Exploration Society, London. All rights reserved.
Modernist Journals Project
http://dev.stg.brown.edu/projects/mjplab/
How do we view classic humanities scholars?

How do digital humanities scholars work?

Stanford Literature Lab
http://humanexperience.stanford.edu/digitaltexts
New Skills

• Project planning—multi-institutional, with technology partners
• Large-scale grants
• Data management
• Data analysis
• Large-scale content selection & development (digitization)
• Using new tools: GIS, text mining, network analysis, data visualization [and what tool?]
• Metadata & encoding
• New research outputs
• New preservation & sharing options
How do campuses support DH?
How are libraries supporting DH?

Common Library Services

Community engagement
- Education & training
- Salons & events
- Lab space

Project Planning
- Grant development
- Tool selection
- Data management planning
- Metadata & encoding support

Technology support
- Software support
- Tool development
- Interface design
- Usability
- Hardware
- Digitization services

Output
- Web hosting
- Preservation & curation
Remember that it’s collaborative.

Libraries don’t need to provide sole support.
Remember your referral network.
Tackling this at UMN

- Reviewed Digital Humanities Centers, projects, tools
- Local interviews and surveys
- Reviewed available infrastructure (locally, nationally)
- Discussed researcher needs & our strengths
What do scholars need for research?

If you need help with digital humanities or digital arts scholarship, what kind of support do you need?

- Technology support: 87.5%
- Funding support: 62.5%
- Tools and Equipment: 50.0%
- Staff: 50.0%
- Departmental support: 37.5%
- Networking: 25.0%
Local interests

- Digital writing and digital storytelling issues
- Machine learning and computational linguistics
- Social media and narrative production
- Data mining of digital print
- GIS and digital humanities
- Digital music and ethnography
- 3D visualization
- Crowdsourcing
- Image tagging and discovery
- Digital publishing
UMN Next Steps

Simplify Support
- Building partnerships
- Support summit
- DH branding
- Website with guidance

Kick Start Research
- DH symposium
- Education series

Infrastructure Prep
- Consultative services model
- Data curation
- Content acquisition
What are you doing to support digital humanities?