Stories from the Digital Humanities and Libraries THATCamp

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Spring 2013 Digital Library Brown Bag Series
#dlbbspring2013, #dhlib2012
It was a dark and stormy night, amidst an electrical storm that the Digital Humanities and Libraries THATCamp came to be ...

November 2, 2012, 9 am to 5 pm
Digital Library Federation Forum Pre-Conference
Denver, Colorado
http://dhlib2012.thatcamp.org
ACRL Digital Humanities Discussion Group, @DHandLib
“How can libraries and librarians support digital humanities scholarship?” posted by Kate Brooks in Feb. 2012
http://lists.ala.org/sympa/arc/acrldigitalhumanitiesdg/2012-02/

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http://dhlib2012.thatchamp.org

ONCE UPON A TIME
Digital Humanities is the critical study of how the technologies and techniques associated with the digital medium intersect with and alter humanities scholarship and scholarly communication.

—Julia Flanders

http://dayofdh2012.artsrn.ualberta.ca/dh/

DIGITAL HUMANITIES (DH) noun
a [space] building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution: a university library

[as modifier]: a library book

a collection of books and periodicals held in a library: the Institute houses an outstanding library of 35,000 volumes on the fine arts

http://oxforddictionaries.com/

LIBRARY noun (plural libraries)
THATCamp, The Humanities and Technology Camp, is an open, inexpensive meeting where humanists and technologists of all skill levels learn and build together in sessions proposed on the spot.

http://thatcamp.org

THATCamp noun
The digital humanities arena is gaining a more formal presence in libraries especially in the way of services, but also, the role of librarians in fostering digital humanities initiatives stem beyond “support” roles to “partner” roles.

- How do we establish a model in which librarians contribute to DH as experts, scholars and peers?
- How can we attain administrative and organizational support in achieving the library professional-as-scholar model?
- How do we engage with graduate students and faculty, both rookies and veterans, within this model?
• A Skunk in the Library by Bethany Nowviskie: http://nowviskie.org/2011/a-skunk-in-the-library/
  • 20% time for self-directed digital research projects (=> Blacklight)
• What is Digital Humanities and What’s It Doing in Libraries? by Micah Vangegrift: http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2012/dhandthelib/
  • Emory Libraries Digital Scholarship Commons (DiSC)
• Digital Humanities in the Library Isn’t Service by Trevor Muñoz: http://trevormunoz.com/notebook/2012/08/19/doing-dh-in-the-library.html
  • University of Maryland’s MITH-University Libraries Digital Humanities Incubator

MOTIVATIONS
DIGITAL HUMANITIES & LIBRARIES
THATCAMP
http://dhlib2012.thatcamp.org/
#thatcamp  #dhlib2012
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<td>Alliance of DH Organizations</td>
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72 PARTICIPANTS

http://dhlib2012.thatcamp.org/participants/
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http://dhlib2012.thatcamp.org/participants/
SESSION PROPOSALS
• Building Sustainable DH Projects
• “Re-skilling” / Cross-Training Librarians
• DH Training for LIS / Grad Students
• Starting a Digital Humanities Program
• Bibliographies
• Open-Access, Open-Source, Digital Literary Archives
• Collaboration with Faculty on DH Projects
• Dumping the Crayons: Hands-on Session on “Liberating” Data
• Evaluating Six Mass Content Publishers on Reusability
• Geo-Spatial Tools in Digital Humanities

SESSION PROPOSALS
SCHEDULING

http://dhlib2012.thatcamp.org/schedule/
• A handful of us partner with faculty despite limited resources and no institutional support, and boy does that suck.
• Grassroots initiatives are percolating and are most infectious for inspiring cultural changes across the libraries.
• Administrative and organizational support is ultimately needed to garner the resources often needed when effecting change.
• All library colleagues, no matter where they sit in the hierarchy, should support each other’s research pursuits.

Stay tuned for a special issue on DH and Libraries in Journal of Library Administration, v 53 (2013), n1

THEMES: TOP-DOWN V. BOTTOM-UP SUPPORT
• Project-based learning (Praxis program; Columbia University)
• Intensive and/or Series Workshops (DHSI/DHWI; UIUC’s Savvy Researcher)
• Training sessions
• Roadshow model (ACRL; SAA)

*Instructional scaffolding or “trial and error” are probably the two most commons methods for learning the ins and outs of technology + libraries*

**THEMES:** EXPOSURE TO ONGOING, MEANINGFUL LEARNING
• Multi-situational learning; mix up the perspectives
• Partake in true collaborative learning and building (not just “group work”)
• Combat culture clashes so that faculty and librarian professionals acknowledge one another in a research capacity
• Understand methodologies v. mastering technical skills

THEMES: LEARNING ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES
• Library professionals should assume the role of PI and should shed some of the service-ethic that permeates culture
• Recruit graduate students as interns. They are eager to learn and become DH conduits for peers and faculty advisors
• Cultivate direct relationships with faculty (beyond the subject librarian); embed

Incentivize
The broader the partnerships, the more successful the project

THEMES: ENGAGEMENT
• Allow for experimentation in library-led research pursuits (successes and failures); 80/20 (UVa Scholar’s Lab)
• Transform scholarship by permitting faculty and grad students unfettered access to technical infrastructure at the level necessary (Tufts)
• Technical infrastructure should support R & D in such a way that fruitful R & D can be integrated into “core” operations

To stay relevant, libraries need to take risks

THEMES: EXPERIMENTATION
• Librarians need to be able to implement new ideas, pursue projects without n\textsuperscript{th} degrees of barriers; Trust us trustee librarians!
• See Bethany Nowviskie’s keynote for code4lib on “lazy consensus” (http://nowviskie.org/2012/lazy-consensus/)

THEMES: THE TIME IS NOW
• Create shareable (meta)data to allow scholars to re-use, re-mix data by providing easy-access to the data (APIs, batch downloads); be bold about data-sharing
• Champion open-access in open-ways; disclose human understandable guidelines and policies
• Fearlessly and ferociously negotiate with vendors (Reveal initiative)
• Limit embargo periods (max 2 years)
• Outreach: the virtues of open access without undermining the fear of negatively impacting scholarly societies
• Research drives content v. content drives research
• What’s the humanities corollary to the “data management” plan in the sciences?
• Alt-metrics

THEMES: LIBRARIES ARE DATA GOLDFINIES; LET THAT DATA LIGHT UP THE WORLD
But do not continue to pile on the tasks!

Digital Scholarship v. Digital Humanities

THEMES: BROADEN THE SCOPE
• Charters
• Project plans
• Contracts and Agreements (data, sustaining the project, etc).
• Assessment plans

Don’t just formalize partnerships in the context of grant-funding; library professionals work with partners whether grant-funded or not

THEMES: FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIPS
• GIS and Geo-spatial and temporal visualizations increasingly common on DH projects
• Need GIS competencies in the library
• Lightweight GIS solutions need a bit of technical “umph” to offset deficit in tools (or crappy tools)
• Interactive maps are captivating!

THEMES: GEO-SPATIAL SAVVY IN HIGH DEMAND
THEMES: BIBLIOGRAPHIES ARE STILL SEXY
THE END