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New trends in academic library partnerships: academic libraries and digital humanities

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Digital humanities: one definition

• Digital humanities is an umbrella term to include different practices, methodologies, technologies, and research strategies for humanists.

• They are the result of a dynamic dialogue between diverse and emerging technologies and the humanities <http://www.whatisdigitalhumanities.com/>.
Academic libraries: old and new partnerships

- Researchers
- ICT directions
- Research directions
- Public Libraries
- Professional associations
- Publishers
- Vendors
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Research centres
- Start-up
- Museums
- Archives
“Libraries have always been about the digital and about the humanities (Kim, 2016).”
AC and DH: 3 levels of interaction

- the spatial level, i.e. the **physical sharing** of spaces, staff and equipment (Research Commons);
- the service-oriented level, i.e. the **services and tools** developed by academic libraries to support research in digital humanities;
- the professional level, i.e. the **skills and expertise** gained by academic librarians in partnering in digital humanities projects.
Scholars’Lab

Collaborate → Iterate → Discuss

At the University of Virginia Library Scholars’ Lab, advanced students and researchers across the disciplines partner on digital projects and benefit from expert consultation and teaching. Our highly-trained faculty and staff focus on the digital humanities, geospatial information, and scholarly making and building at the intersection of the digital and physical worlds.

Project Incubation

We develop open source software and open access content, in collaboration with UVA faculty and grads, and fellow librarians. We’re committed to collaborative work, publicly shared.

See some of our R&D projects.

Experimental Humanities

Desktop fabrication, physical computing, and augmented reality; we cultivate spaces for tinkering, experimentation, and scholarly engagement with new technologies.

Graduate Training

We support emerging scholar-practitioners through Graduate Fellowships in Digital Humanities and UVA Library’s Innovative Praxis Program.

Learn more about our fellowships.

Geospatial Scholarship

We specialize in spatial analysis across the disciplines, providing University-wide training, classroom and software support, and consultation on GIS and the creation and use of maps.
Center for digital research in the humanities
According to a survey sponsored by the Association for Research Libraries (ARL), in 2011 48% of the ARL libraries provided services to support digital humanities (ARL, 2011)
Services to support DH

- Digital infrastructure
- Digitization activities
- Data curation and visualization
- Text and data mining
- 3D Printing
- Consultancy on IPRs
The Shelley-Godwin Archive

About the Archive

The Shelley-Godwin Archive will provide the digitized manuscripts of Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, William Godwin, and Mary Wollstonecraft, bringing together online for the first time ever the widely dispersed handwritten legacy of this uniquely gifted family of writers. The result of a partnership between the New York Public Library and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, in cooperation with Oxford's Bodleian Library, the 5-GA also includes key contributions from the Huntington Library, the British Library, and the Houghton Library. In total...
Victorian Women Writers Project

The Victorian Women Writers Project (VWWP) began in 1995 at Indiana University and is primarily concerned with the exposure of lesser-known British women writers of the nineteenth century. The collection represents an array of genres: poetry, novels, children’s books, political pamphlets, religious tracts, histories, and more. VWWP contains scores of authors, both prolific and rare.

Quiet since 2003, the VWWP is pleased to be back with an expanded purview that includes women writing in the nineteenth century in English. As before, the project will devote time and attention to the accuracy and completeness of the texts, as well as to their bibliographical descriptions. New texts, encoded according to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Guidelines, will adopt principles of scholarly encoding, facilitating more sophisticated retrieval and analysis.
These kinds of research involve not just the knowledge of relevant computer applications but also often skills and knowledge in collecting and organizing data, in which librarians have unique training and background (Kamada, 2010).”
New skills ... ?

• Knowledge organization
• Use of set of metadata
• Use of markup languages
• Use of 3D technologies and of data visualization tools
• Experience in training and teaching the use of DH tools
... For new roles and positions!

- Metadata librarian
- Markup language expert librarian
- Subject librarian
- Collection specialist librarian
- Expert of intellectual property rights issues and of copyright in the digital environment

- Repository managers
- Content management system experts
- Data visualization experts
- Data curators
Librarians’ competencies for E-research and scholarly communication

The aim of this task force is to produce a number of competency profiles that will help to build capacity in libraries for supporting new roles in the area of scholarly communication and e-research. The profiles will enable library managers to identify skill gaps in their institution, form the basis of job descriptions, enable professionals to carry out self-assessments, and act as a foundation for the development of training programs for librarians and library professionals. In addition, the toolkit will provide an outline of new organizational models that are evolving in this dynamic environment.

We are pleased to announce the publication of several profiles in June 2016:

**Time to Adopt: Librarians’ New Skills and Competency Profiles**

On the one hand, libraries are at the forefront of the digital transformation and digital information infrastructures, on the other, they manage and curate cultural heritage collections. This brings about new ways of engagement with information and knowledge and the need to rethink skills and competency profiles – which enable librarians to support e-research all along the research cycle. This paper presents findings of the joint Task Force on Librarians’ Competencies in Support of E-Research and Scholarly Communication.