The Local Digital Humanities Landscape

Understanding and Building Community, Capacity, and Infrastructure

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Context

- DH in libraries
- Moving beyond grassroots
- Sharing our experiences
The study
Scope

- Faculty, researchers, graduate students
- Humanities and social sciences
- Penn State University, Oregon State, additional universities to come
Survey

Have you created or contributed to/used ______ in the course of your research and teaching?
- Digital Collections
- Digital Editions and Digital Publishing
- Geospatial Analysis and Mapping
- Data Analysis and Visualization
Survey, cont.

Support and Training

- In which digital scholarship tools and methods are you most interested?
- What types of support would you consider most useful for digital scholarship?
- Does your department currently support digital scholarship projects or initiatives?
- Where do you currently go for digital scholarship support?
Interviews & focus groups

- Interviews
  - More detail about digital projects
  - Role of DH in their own research and challenges
  - What they value most in projects
  - Current issues, practices, trends

- Focus groups
  - Why digital scholarship?
  - What is most important in digital scholarship right now?
  - Methods skilling up
  - Implications for graduate training
Environmental scan

- What community, capacity, infrastructure currently exists?
- What services do we have in place that we can leverage?
- Which resources can be repurposed, added to?
What we’ve learned (so far)
According to the survey…

- there’s a demand for geospatial and network analysis
- most projects are in the classroom, for now…
- graduate students are integrating digital or data more than faculty
- scholars want to learn new tech skills to do the work
- scholars are looking for partners, but may not be thinking collaboratively
Many scholars...  

- are interested because graduate students will need it to find jobs  
- like the idea, but unsure yet of usefulness/payoff  
- want more good examples  
- value learning something new over sustainability  
- see need for integration with graduate training
In our current landscape...

- there are data visualization and mapping experts around!
- groups from other disciplines (sciences, z.B.) are forming around the digital
- there are other skill-focused workshop series around campus
- IT units are interested in working together
What we’re doing...
...to build community

- DH Interest Group meet-ups with Open Mic
- Local DH listserv
- Online community forum
- Speaker series
...to build capacity

- DH Design Consultant position
- Developer positions
- Training of librarians and faculty that will support DH
...to build infrastructure

- Host and support virtual server for experimentation
- Support and host databases and web apps (like Omeka)
- Explore new uses for institutional repository
Big questions
On balancing priorities

- Sustainability vs. Experimentation
- Scalability vs. Use specific
- Scholarship vs. "screwmeneutics"
Questions?
Fin!

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