DIGITAL HUMANITIES: A WINDOW INTO LEARNING
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What is DH?
Definition:
Digital Humanities is the discipline born from the intersection between humanities scholarship and computational technologies. It aims at investigating how digital methodologies can be used to enhance research in disciplines such as History, Literature, Languages, Art History, Music, Cultural Studies and many others. Digital Humanities holds a very strong practical component as it includes the concrete creation of digital resources for the study of specific disciplines.

Elena Pierazzo, Research Associate, Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King’s College, London (2011)

Role of the Academic Library:
• creating digital versions of scholarly publications and primary resources
• partnering with faculty and students to digitize collections for active use in learning and research
• collaborating with faculty to support digital humanities curricular initiatives and to promote DH career pathways
• providing or re-purposing information resources in ways which support digital humanities analysis and use
• providing or hosting computational media for analyzing information for humanities research
• contributing equipment and staffing resources to DH projects
• providing physical space for humanities scholars to use for DH projects, research and teaching, and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and skills
• providing expertise in areas unique to librarianship:
  ✓ collecting and organizing data
  ✓ preserving knowledge (even as formats change)
  ✓ making resources discoverable and accessible
  ✓ being aware of emerging information technologies, and how to implement them
  ✓ training others in information (and other) literacies
  ✓ assessing, responding to and advocating for diverse user needs, communities and preferences

Our solution?
Digital Humanities in action: enhance our own learning by launching several DH digitization projects in partnership with faculty and students

Internet Archive Collection

- digitization of student-generated content for the Internet Archive
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How have we supported DH?
Tools:
• IT infrastructure, software and equipment
• locally developed “best practices”
• standards, training and knowledge-sharing within the cultural heritage community
• platforms which make digital content discoverable and usable

Academic Partners:
• faculty integrating digital humanities activities and resources into the formal curriculum
• students engaging in DH activities and projects as employees and learners
• librarians participating actively in the campus Digital Humanities/Guelph interest group
• campus partnerships to create open access “spaces” (virtual and physical) and toolkits
• College of Arts partnership to sponsor the Michael Ridley Postdoctoral Fellowship in Digital Humanities (2013-15)
• partnerships with Alumni Affairs & Development staff and academic colleges to promote and use digitized collections

Funding Partners:
• library funding through ongoing budgets
• academic departments fund student placements
• faculty design DH curriculum and research projects for students
• the University funds staffing for library digitization projects
• donors fund DH staffing, space and equipment needs
• the Scottish Studies Foundation funds the digitization of unique or rare Scottish books

The question?
How do we explore the potential value of engaging students in the creation and use of locally digitized content?

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