Digital Initiatives Symposium

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After the literature review and before the manuscript - supporting the middle of the research lifecycle with data, GIS, and digital scholarship services

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After the literature review and before the manuscript - supporting the middle of the research lifecycle with data, GIS, and digital scholarship services

Presenter 1 Title
Interim Program Director, Research Advisory Services

Presenter 2 Title
Data Science Librarian

Session Type
45-minute concurrent session

Abstract
Traditional library advisory services focus on the beginning and end of the research lifecycle, but what about students and researchers who need help with the steps in the middle? This talk will highlight UC San Diego's public service support for data collection, management, analysis, and visualization. In particular, we will highlight our Data & GIS Lab; Digital Media Lab; Digital Scholarship services, including KNIT, our digital commons; Software/Data Carpentry and other workshops; and consultation services for students and researchers.

Location
KIPJ Room D

Keywords
Digital scholarship, Data, GIS, Library computer labs, Consultation services, Workshops, Software, Carpentries, Collaboration

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April 30, 2019
Annelise Sklar & Stephanie Labou
UC San Diego
1985 - started data collections

2004 - founded GIS Lab

2008 - launched DML
- hired 0.5 FTE DH position
- Carpentries workshops

2015 - data curation/data management plans

2017 - recruitments: GIS, Data, Digital Scholarship Librarians + APD

2019-2020 - Geisel Library Revitalization Initiative
Currently we provide...a lot!

- Consultations
- Course-integrated instruction
- Stand-alone workshops (both teaching and hosting), including the Carpentries
- Coordinating (with) research groups/communities of practice
- Events
- Acquisition/management of all formats of data and software for analysis
- Curation of data created by researchers, including students
- Specialized technology and software including KNIT, the digital research commons
- Technical support for the specialized technology and software
- Access to tutorials, guides, and manuals
- Libguides
Digital Media Lab

- Space for media creation and editing open to all students, faculty, staff
- Free 3D printing, video editing, image manipulation, sound editing, media-rich website creation.

**Equipment**
- 3D printers
- VR Headsets
- 5k iMacs and VR-ready Windows PCs
- High-end scanners

**Projects**
- 3D printed sea turtle shell brace
- VR reconstruction of archeological sites
Data & GIS Lab

- Is your laptop not sufficient? Come use the lab!
- 5 fixed computers + 10 laptops
- Statistical and geospatial software, such as ArcGIS, R, Python, Stata, SPSS, SAS, and more.
- Datasets with tighter restrictions + all geospatial datasets
- Student assistants - first line of technical support + referrals
Geospatial information systems (GIS) support

- Tool recommendations for data collection or finding, analysis, visualization
- Troubleshooting technical issues
- Hardware and software infrastructure
  - ArcGIS campus license + software distribution
  - Exploring open source options
- Data finding and access
  - Transitioning from a central GIS data storage structure (Data & GIS Lab) to one where data is accessible from anywhere
  - Collaborating with UC partners - managing IT backend
Broader data services

- Focusing on student consultations
- Scenario 1: Finding data
  - “I’m looking for data about X and Y”
  - Navigate library databases, open datasets, purchasing data
  - How we help
    - LibGuide for finding data & statistics
    - Consultations
Data services

- Scenario 2: Questions about using data in compute-heavy ways
  - Opening high dimension data formats in domain-specific software
  - Reading in and formatting data in R/Python
  - Natural language process (Twitter)
  - Access to additional resources for large (TB) datasets

Much of this can be addressed through ongoing training!
Training initiatives

- Focused on **Software and Data Carpentry** workshops
- Run by Research Data Curation Program
- Joint funding from campus partners to become an affiliate member to increase instructor capacity
- Community is key!
- Potential for expanding to the greater regional area including international partnerships
Digital scholarship

- Support for implementing digital scholarship methods and tools in research and teaching
  - digital publishing, digital exhibitions, networked writing, website building, and the public humanities.

- Sample projects and activities:
  - Graduate student digital humanities research group
  - Digital workshops (text mining the student newspapers, machine learning + text generation)
  - KNIT, a digital commons
  - Digital scholarship/ethics/literacy lectures in classes across disciplines
Partners: subject librarians

- Disciplinary liaisons typically take the lead on outreach and promotion
- Joint ventures
  - Workshops for grad students (Psychology, Linguistics)
  - Course-integrated workshops (Health, Political Science, Economics, Urban Studies, Oceanography, History, Communication, Ethnic Studies)
  - Building collections of data (numeric, geospatial, textual, etc.)
- Pain points
  - Service around high touch digital projects/digital exhibits – one faculty research project touched seven different subject and functional librarians!
  - Referrals/handoffs
- Joint annual goal – how to work together better, especially through referrals
Control funding for equipment and software, including web-based tools
  ○ Anything that we need to propose to Admin needs buy-in from ITS first

Computer, software, and infrastructure maintenance
  ○ If they don’t want to support the tool, it dies the first time it breaks

Desire from both teams shifting us towards a collaborative model, where IT can provide insight into the technical components of research projects.
  ○ These insights are deeper than functional capacity.
Even more partners!

- Scholarly Communications Librarian
  - Birds of a feather, especially around non-traditional publishing, author rights + ethical reuse
- Digital Library Development Program
  - Collections as data
  - Preservation of user created digital projects
Admin is supportive, funding is finite

- Generally supportive of initiatives with an ARL push or other national-level institutional support
- Funding requests approved based on evidence of need – requests for budget call, priorities from Program Directors and campus partners
  - Positions, equipment, continuing costs, space
  - In the process of planning remodel that will include new digital scholarship space
- High level conversations with campus partners & campus planning
  - Still trying to figure out how we fit with campus ITS (ETS, RIT), SDSC, HDSI, IAH
  - Who does what and when do we partner?
Campus context

- Librarians are academics but not faculty, and we can't be instructors of record.
- The Geisel Library building is already constantly full of students studying.
- The campus has other computer labs, makerspaces, storage solutions, etc., but only we have the mission to support everyone.
- The Library is seen as disciplinarily agnostic.
Ongoing questions

● What should we call our “Digital Scholarship” team and space? (Especially as we also have a Digital Scholarship Librarian.)

● How do we provide an inviting “hub” space but only for people doing the work this space was intended for?
  ○ We're currently trying to figure out how to make our current Data & GIS Lab less appealing to study groups who like our empty tables and whiteboards.

● How do we brand our services and our space without overshadowing the larger Library brand?

● How do we present our services on the web without it being a huge, overwhelming list of links and email addresses?

● What events are worth our time and effort?
Thank you!

Questions?