Apr 30th, 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Embedded Instruction Collaboration: The Case of the Ball State Digital History Portal

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Embedded Instruction Collaboration: The Case of the Ball State Digital History Portal

Presenter 1 Title
Associate Professor, Department of History

Presenter 2 Title
Instruction Archivist, Special Collections and University Archives

Presenter 3 Title
Head of Metadata and Digital Initiatives, University Libraries

Session Type
45-minute concurrent session

Abstract
This interdisciplinary panel will discuss a long-term project, "The Ball State Digital History Portal," as a case study in digital initiatives in instruction and undergraduate research that features a collaboration between disciplinary faculty, an archivist, and a digital librarian. In this course, "History in the Digital Age," undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of majors research, create, and build digital thematic research collection projects on topics in university history that aim to answer scholarly inquiries by conducting primary source research, selecting and digitizing archival materials, and creating metadata to accompany their curated items. An important part of the collaboration is the way it serves both as outreach to the campus and as a pedagogical tool. By fostering creative, in-depth use of archival collections through these partnerships, archivists can bring new life to existing collections and both inspire and educate budding researchers.

Location
KIPJ Room EF

Keywords
digital humanities; digital history; archives and special collections; university history; archival literacy; instruction; undergraduate research; institutional repository; collaboration; metadata.

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Description:

Through collaboration with academic departments at colleges and universities, archivists can teach information and archival literacy skills to students in unique and engaging ways while also providing for creative uses of archival collection materials in innovative embedded instruction opportunities. This panel will feature a faculty member (Seefeldt), an archivist (Beem), and a digital librarian (Bradley) discussing their experiences planning and participating in such an embedded instruction course at Ball State University since 2013.

In this course, "History in the Digital Age," undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of majors research, create, and build digital thematic research collection projects on topics in university history that aim to answer scholarly inquiries by conducting primary source research, selecting and digitizing archival materials, and creating metadata to accompany their curated items. Through repeat engagement and instruction with an archivist and a digital librarian, students master archival literacy concepts, including developing search strategies to identify relevant materials in an archive and using these materials to support a scholarly argument. By scanning and describing materials themselves to build collections and organizing and managing electronic files, students also sharpen skills that will prepare them for careers as digital scholars and cultural heritage professionals.

An important part of the collaboration is the way it serves both as outreach to the campus and as a pedagogical tool. By fostering creative, in-depth use of archival collections through

these partnerships, archivists can bring new life to existing collections and both inspire and educate budding researchers. Drawing on six years of experience collaborating on this project working with 75 students, the panelists will present this model of instruction as scalable and relevant for archives of many sizes and types, from college archives to historical societies and other specialized archives, using accessible and functional digital tools that students, staff, or volunteers at varied educational levels can master. As of this date, the Ball State Digital History Portal contains 56 student projects (with another 18 in development) on topics in Ball state University history ranging from the Vietnam War, WWII, table-top gaming clubs, Title IX, Burris Laboratory School, greek life, the iconic "Frog Baby" and "Beneficence" statues, the marching band, and the development of several departments and programs. Additionally, the project assists the Archives in its mission to more fully understand the depth and nuance of its collections, as the students' research uncovers a wide variety of materials and generates a digital surrogate that can aid access to researchers worldwide.

https://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/DigHisPrt (Note: This URL to be retired in early 2019, as the Digital History Portal migrates to a new system. We would wish to update or delete this information prior to the conference if accepted.)

Learning Outcomes: 1) match archival materials with student interests in order to explore the mutual benefits of the archives-classroom collaboration, and particularly how digital technologies create distinctive opportunities for such collaborations; 2) engage students in digital humanities objectives of both presentating the original archival materials online and developing a contextual framework based on relevant historical scholarship; 3) teach students aspects of archival work, copyright and donor requirements, as well as the development of born-digital, public-facing projects.

Keywords: digital humanities; digital history; archives and special collections; university history; archival literacy; instruction; undergraduate research; institutional repository; collaboration; metadata.

Specific Technology or Other Presentation Requirements:

Presentation Screen/Projector
Computer (or HDMI, or other suitable laptop input option)
Internet Connectivity

Presenters:

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