Digital Initiatives Symposium

Apr 30th, 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Centering Humanity in Digital Scholarship (Featured Speaker)

Yasmeen Shorish
James Madison University

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Shorish, Yasmeen, "Centering Humanity in Digital Scholarship (Featured Speaker)" (2019). Digital Initiatives Symposium. 2.

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Centering Humanity in Digital Scholarship (Featured Speaker)

Presenter 1 Title
Associate Professor and Data Services Coordinator

Session Type
60-minute panel session

Abstract
Advances in technology have brought computational power to our collections and expanded the ways that scholarship is researched and made available. Yet while library and information professionals continue to grapple with standards, storage, accessibility, and workflows to keep pace with existing digital scholarship demands, new innovations are waiting in the wings. Promises of linked data, machine learning, and AI have some of us eager for the new adventure and others concerned about capacity and expertise.

Entangled in all this technology are people. The people who do the foundational work, the people who produce the collections in an archive, the people who produce the data, and the people who produce the scholarship. Moreover, these groups of people are not mutually exclusive to one another. How do we center humanity in the work of digital scholarship while advancing new methods and technologies? How do we exhibit care for privacy, community values, and research while engaging fully in the scholarly communication landscape?

This talk will pose these questions and offer some possible courses of action, as we work to be stewards of cultural heritage in a just and ethical manner.

Location
KIPJ Room EF

Comments
Yasmeen Shorish is an Associate Professor and the Data Services Coordinator at James Madison University. She seeks to enhance the knowledge and awareness of data information literacy on campus, which includes the discovery, management, and ethical use of data. Research interests are in data management education, changes in scholarly communication, data ethics, and issues related to representation and social justice in librarianship. She serves on the Digital Library Federation Advisory Committee and is the Chair of the Association for College and Research Libraries' Research and Scholarly Environment Committee. Please see http://www.lib.jmu.edu/yasmeen for additional details.

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Centering Humanity in Digital Scholarship

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James Madison University
2019 Digital Initiatives Symposium
Topics of Discussion

- Technology
- People
- Scholarship
- Values
- The Future
Technology

- Digitized collections help reveal a computationally-ready corpus
- AI > Machine Learning
- Linked Data
An AI Lab in a Library

Why artificial intelligence matters

By George M. Eberhart | June 26, 2018

Exploring AI

How libraries are starting to apply artificial intelligence in their work

By Loida Garcia-Febo | March 1, 2019
I am not really confident, but I think it's a man in a suit and tie talking on a cell phone and he seems 😐.
Collections as Data

- IMLS-funded Collections as Data project “Santa Barbara Statement” includes 10 principles to guide working with collections-as-data.

- “Ethical concerns are integral to collections as data. Collections as data should make a commitment to openness. At the same time, care must be taken to comply with legal requirements, cultural norms, and the values of vulnerable groups.”
People

- ...who are the subject or generator of the artifact/collection
- ...who manage the collections in an archive/library/museum
- ...who produce the data/digital object
- ...who produce the scholarship

These are not necessarily exclusive populations!
People

● Community-based initiatives
  ○ Documenting the Now
  ○ Open call for Mellon funding
  ○ Culture Lab Cooperative
People

- Labor issues
  - DLF Working Group on Labor in Digital Libraries:
    - Research Agenda
Scholarship

- Rife with complexities
  - What counts
  - Who counts
- What questions are asked, by whom, and why?
- Can it be strengthened through “generous thinking?”
The Digital Humanities Wars

[Image]

Annie Swafford @annieswafford · Apr 1

Dr. Dorothy Kim @dorothyk98 · Apr 1

Replying to @heatherfro @RichardJeanSo

The responses never asked for one BIPOC to respond. So.....

1 2 20

Cynicism in your heart, and also contemplate the possibility that a writer might sometimes define a list of opponents narrowly... because they're actively seeking favorable optics.

6:21 PM · 1 Apr 2019
Scholarship

- Ethical Framework for Library Publishing
- ACRL’s forthcoming research agenda “Open and Equitable Scholarly Communications: Creating a More Inclusive Future”
- Architecting Sustainable Futures Recommendations
Values

- Privacy
- Agency
- Access

Care
Values

- The Maintainers
- Carol Gilligan
- Bethany Nowviskie
The Future

- The environments in which we work (and live) are governed by systems
- The agency that we have in those systems varies
- To produce sustainable and productive change, intervention points within the system must be identified
A **few** people that I have learned from...

- Andromeda Yelton
- Angela Galvan
- April Hathcock
- Bergis Jules
- Bethany Nowviskie
- Carolyn Schubert
- Charlotte Roh
- Chris Bourg
- Dorothea Salo
- Emily Drabinski
- Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- Paige Morgan
- Patricia Hswe
- Safiya Noble
- Stacie Williams
- Steven Van Tuyl
- Thomas Padilla
- Zeynep Tufekci
- Family
Referenced & Interesting Work

- Santa Barbara Statement [https://collections.asdata.github.io/statement/](https://collections.asdata.github.io/statement/)
- *American Libraries* [https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ai-lab-library/](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ai-lab-library/)
- *American Libraries* [https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/03/01/exploring-ai/](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/03/01/exploring-ai/)
- DLF WG on Labor in Digital Libraries: [https://wiki.diglib.org/Labor](https://wiki.diglib.org/Labor)
- Community Cultivation – A Field Guide: [https://educopia.org/cultivation/](https://educopia.org/cultivation/)
Referenced & Interesting Work

- Architecting Sustainable Futures: [https://www.architectingsustainablefutures.net/](https://www.architectingsustainablefutures.net/)
- *Generous Thinking*, Kathleen Fitzpatrick: [https://generousthinking.hcommons.org/](https://generousthinking.hcommons.org/)
Thank you!

Questions *and* Comments welcome!