THATCamp Un-conference Proposal

San Jose State University

INFO 220

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**Introduction**

Libraries stand at the intersection of technology and the liberal arts. Does this place libraries in a unique position to make positive contributions to Digital Humanities or DH scholarship? Charles William Eliot, the president of Harvard university in the late 19th century, stated that the library is the heart of the university. Is the academic library at the heart of DH? What is the current position of academic libraries to DH scholarship? Academic libraries and their staff bring unique multi-disciplinary skill sets to the DH table. What are the things that libraries and their staff are doing well to positively contribute to the DH research? What are libraries and their staff lacking that hinder their position at the table of DH scholarship? This that-camp proposal is for an un-conference to explore topics related to an academic library's role in DH research.

Libraries and their staff are traditionally strong in subject expertise and project management. They also have background in metadata creation, information literacy instruction, and long-term archiving techniques. How do these skill sets translate to the world of DH and DH scholarship? How can library instruction help DH scholars looking to collect, find, and share their research and analysis? What opportunities exist for libraries and their staff to "expand their knowledge about the relationship between technology and pedagogy" (Bell, 2015, p. 216)? The first session of the conference aims to explore how learning and teaching and in a library setting contributes towards DH scholarship.

Data is a crucial part of DH research and publishing. The success of a DH project hinges on collecting, analyzing, curating, and discovering good data. Libraries and their archives can have unique access to a variety of datasets relative to DH research. What can libraries and their

staff do to help DH scholars become aware of the existing data at their disposal? Do libraries and their staff know about datasets external to the library that they could help maintain, share, analyze, preserve, or curate? The second session in this un-conference explores the role of the library to provide data services and data management support to DH scholarship.

Collaboration is essential to successful long-term DH scholarship. Libraries are multi-disciplinary in nature and have the potential to collaborate and make connections with other campus or outside scholars that can benefit DH research. How aware are libraries and their staff about research by faculty and students on campus? What specific things can libraries and their staff do to reach out to other scholars within and without their local academic communities so they are connected to existing DH scholarship? The third session explores ways for libraries and their staff to become better collaborators within the DH community. Through this un-conference, library staff and DH scholars will come to understand the role libraries can play to positively contribute to DH scholarship.

**Keynote**

Libraries stand at the intersection of technology and the liberal arts. Charles William Eliot, the president of Harvard university in the late 19th century, stated that the library is the heart of the university. Is the academic library at the heart of DH? Academic libraries and their staff bring unique multi-disciplinary skill sets to the DH table. How are these libraries well positioned currently to positively contribute to DH scholarship? How can libraries improve to improve their position and contribution to DH? The keynote talk will explore these topics to better understand the role the library is having and can aim to have within DH scholarship.

**Sessions**

**Working session 1: Learning and teaching**

Libraries and their staff need to gain the expertise relevant to DH scholarship if they want to make a positive contribution. For example, library staff would benefit from a better understanding of statistical and data analysis techniques. They also stand in a position of being able to share their expertise related to librarianship and information science that can benefit DH scholars an other library staff. This hands-on session would explore the idea of learning through teaching. It would include discussing and sharing resources helpful to libraries and their staff seeking to sharpen their own expertise and skills as well as provide a forum for discussing ways the library can provide valuable instruction for DH scholars as well as instructing other fellow library colleagues.

**Working session 2: Data services**

If the library is at the heart of a university data is at the heart of DH scholarship. Is the library and its staff aware of the data created and maintained across campus or in the local

academic community? Is the library and its staff prepared to support steps along the data management lifecycle including collection, discovery, mining, analysis, metadata creation, and curation? What kinds of data is already being created and stored by the library and its staff? Are there existing datasets that would be useful to share with DH scholars for research and publication? This hands-on session would explore answers to these types of questions. It would also include identifying useful technologies and resources for the library and its staff to better support data management processes for DH scholarship.

**Working session 3: Collaboration**

DH scholarship is multi-disciplinary in nature and requires collaboration. In long-term DH projects there is a need for expertise over subject matter, analytics, data management, and project management. For successful participation libraries and their staff need to be good at making connections with other scholars within and without their local academic community. Do library staff know what other scholars are teaching and working on across campus? Are other campus scholars aware of the library staff and services available to them? This hands-on session would explore ways for librarians to be better collaborators with scholars within and without their local academic community.

## Presentation

The presentation for this proposal can be found at the following link: https://vimeo.com/164640038.

## Advertisement

# THATCamp Un-conference

## Libraries and Digital Humanities 4/28/16

**Come participate in this un-conference to explore the intersection of academic libraries and digital humanities.**

**8am-5pm**

THATCamp Un-conference
BYU Library
HBLL, Provo, Utah 84602
thatcamp.hbll.com

# References

Adams, J. L., & Gunn, K. B. (2016). *Keeing up with...digital humanities*. Retrieved from http://
www.ala.org/acrl/publications/keeping_up_with/digital_humanities

Bell, C. (2015). In practice and pedagogy. In Hartsell-Gundy, A., Braunstein, L., & Golomb, L.
(Eds.), *Digital humanities in the library: Challenges and opportunities for subject
specialists*. Chicago, IL: ACRL.