A Digital Scholarship Centre? What is that!?
Dale Askey
AUL Library & Learning Technologies

Origins and Motivations

- gift from Lewis and Ruth Sherman Foundation
- ideal faculty collaborator
- creating a "McMaster model"
- supporting research through direct collaboration
• utilizing all of the expertise in the organization

Current state of affairs

• opening in mere weeks (mid-February?)
• student competition to design entryway multimedia gallery
• creating policy, scope, guiding documents
• several projects already running
• opening in mere weeks (mid-February?)

• student competition to design entryway multimedia gallery

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Photo Tour

(please insert your own people and furniture)
Who are we?

- Administrative Director
- Digital Scholarship Librarian - John Fink
- Digital Preservation Librarian, etc, etc - Nick Ruest
- Programmer - Matt McCollow
Governance

Original idea

- two directors - academic & administrative
- academic director = faculty member
- not easy to replace
Governance

Current iteration

- administrative director
- advisory board with multiple faculty members + others

Audience

- faculty, graduate students
• occasional advanced undergraduate w/ specific research needs
• the broader DH/DS community

Relationship building
• library staff - welcome and included
• outreach to faculty and graduate students
• grad students key - get them, and rest follow
Relationship building

- tap into existing DH/DS networks - centerNet, ADHO, etc.
- Canadian/provincial/regional partners
- symposia, training, lectures - lots of events
Challenges

- why DS, not DH? - defining the scope
- knowing what people want
- not aiming too high, not aiming too low

All our ideas
You chose Training and workshops over Application programming help, but not the whole.
View all the results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What should a library-based digital scholarship centre offer?</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>storage for digital objects</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and workshops</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database management consulting or services</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events, lectures, symposia</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data archiving assistance</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitization</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management consulting</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data visualization services</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital publishing support</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application programming</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See more...
Opportunities

- get serious about substantive research support
- coordinate many new library initiatives
- research popularization
- project management education
John Fink
Digital Scholarship Librarian

Computing Infrastructure
Heavy reliance on VMs
Keep administration agile
Right now this means

KVM for VMs

.deb based Linux distributions

sysadmin through cherry-pick or clusterssh
This is not terribly scalable

Puppet/Chef for VM admin

Maybe other OSs

grad and faculty relationship
(initially) Concentrate on underserved populations

At Mac this means humanities grad students, humanities in general

sla writing

Documentation, documentation, documentation
services

Physical services

Virtual services
where do we stop or start with a project?

...
Visibility!

**version control evangelism**

*Anything* iterative and text based...

... and everything *should* be iterative and text based

provides portability, flexibility, history tracking

Surprisingly, this is a new concept to many academic tech types.
many academic tech types

project management

Sort of like a reference interview

Redmine as project management software
Contact info

- email: john.fink@gmail.com
- twitter: adr
- github: http://github.com/jbfink

Nick Ruest
Digital Preservation Librarian, Repository Architect, and Digitization Coordinator
Architect, and Digitization Coordinator

I am odd.
I don't really fit in anywhere, but I fit in everywhere?

INFRASTRUCTURE
Digitization

- Digital Repository
- Digital Preservation

Digitization

- Local projects
  - Jewish Underground Resistance collection
  - World War, 1939-1945, German Concentration Camps and Prisons collection
  - Peace and War in the 20th Century
  - Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing
• Masters and PhD theses
• Book scanning

Digitization

• Partnerships
  • Adam Matthews
    • World War I collections (~20k objects)
  • Gale
    • Holocaust and Jewish Resistance materials (~26k objects)
    • Pamphlet collections (starts in February 2012)
Digitization

- Challenges
  - Growing fast
  - Infrastructure
  - Public
  - Repository
  - Digital Preservation
  - Staffing
Digital Repository
Digital Preservation

- DOCUMENTATION
  - DOCUMENTATION
  - DOCUMENTATION

- POLICY POLICY POLICY

- Technical stuff
  - Infrastructure
  - Code

- THE COMMUNITY IS YOUR BEST FRIEND!
Support

What can the repo and/or
I do or provide?

- APIs
- Text and data to analyze

Education & Knowledge Sharing
Ingest
Preservation

Harvesting
Harvesting Metadata
Project management

Version control
STEALTH
SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
Contact info

- email: ruestn@gmail.com
- twitter: ruebot
- github: http://github.com/ruebot
QUESTIONS?