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

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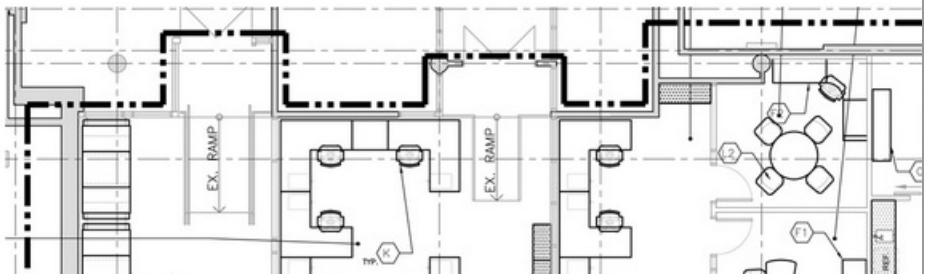
Photo Tour

Photo Tour

(please insert your own people and furniture)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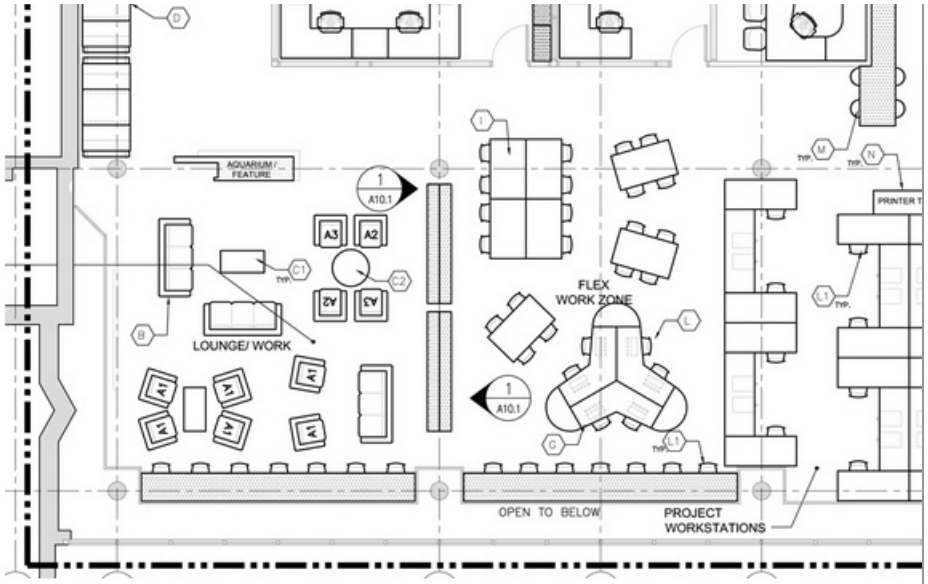


Who are we?

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

(second position open)

- Postdoc - Jason Brodeur

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

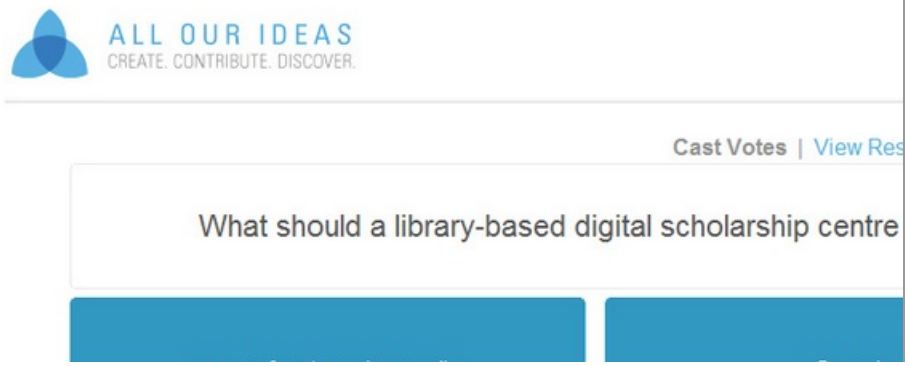
Relationship building

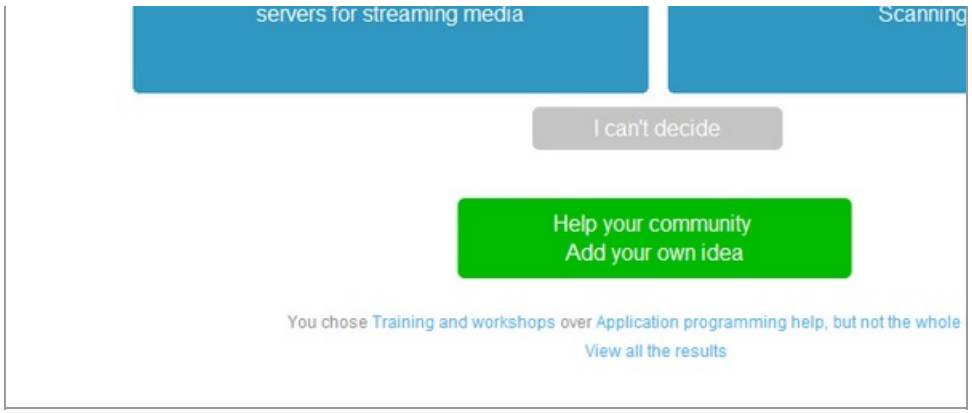
- tap into existing DH/DS networks - centerNet, ADHO, etc.
- Canadian/provincial/regional partners
- symposia, training, lectures - lots of events

Challenges

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

All our ideas





What should a library-based digital scholarship centre offer?	Score
storage for digital objects	82 [?]
Training and workshops	69 [?]
Database management consulting or services	67 [?]
Events, lectures, symposia	67 [?]
Data archiving assistance	63 [?]
Digitization	61 [?]
Project management consulting	58 [?]
Data visualization services	57 [?]
Digital publishing support	53 [?]
Application programming	51 [?]
See more...	

allourideas.org/libraryds/

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

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?

...

github

Already a site for a lot of DH development

Scholarslab, CHNM

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

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- twitter: adr
- github: http://github.com/jbfink

Nick Ruest

Digital Preservation Librarian, Repository Architect, and Digitization Coordinator

I am odd.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Digitization
- Digital Respository
- 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

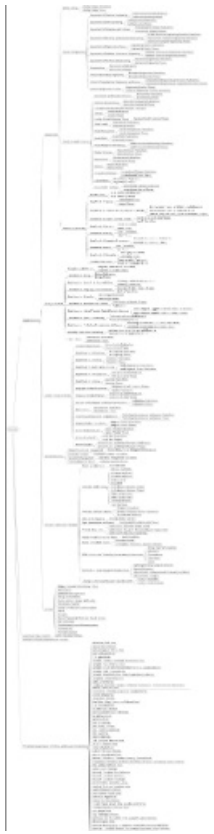
Digitization

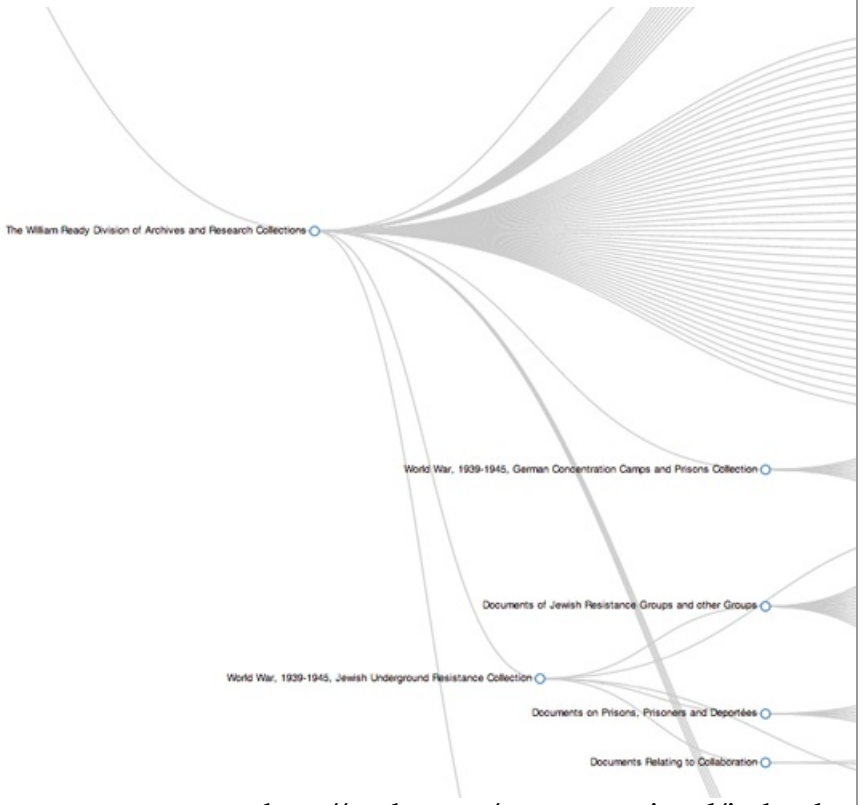
- Partnerships
  - Adam Matthews
    - World War I collections (~20k objects)
  - Gale
    - Holocaust and Jewish Resistance materials (~26k objects)
    - Pamphlet collections (starts in Febuary 2012

Digitization

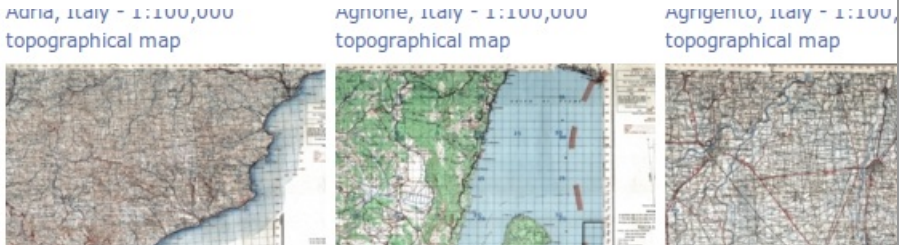
- Challenges
  - Growing fast
  - Infrastructure
  - Public
  - Repository
  - Digital Preservation
  - Staffing

Digital Repository





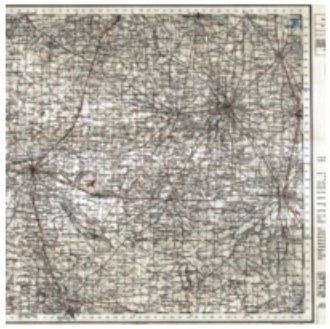
http://ruebot.net/macrepo-visual/index.htm



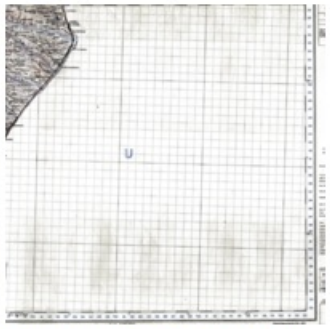
Albenga Savona, Italy - 1:100,000 topographical map

Albona, Italy - 1:100,000 topographical map

Alessandria, Italy - 1:10 topographical map



Altamura, Italy - 1:100,000 topographical map

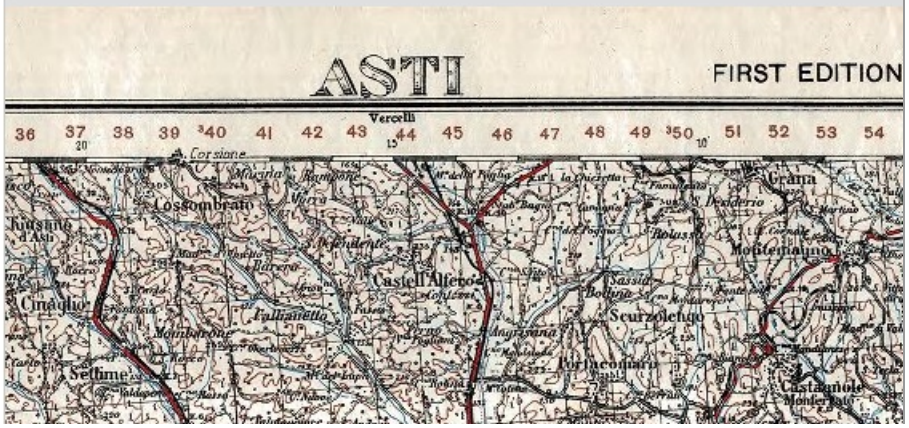


Amendolara, Italy - 1:100,000 topographical map

Ampezzo, Italy - 1:100,(topographical map

Asti, Italy - 1:100,000 topographical map

Full-size | View | Object Details



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

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- github: http://github.com/ruebot

QUESTIONS?