



Lewis and Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship

Fall 2021 Advisory Committee Report

Lewis & Ruth
Sherman Centre
for Digital Scholarship

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The period between July 2020 and November 2021 has been transformative for the Sherman Centre. The challenges presented by COVID-19 with the move to remote work presented many obstacles, but also new opportunities for the Centre's staff. We re-envisioned how we support core SCDS programming and successfully coordinated a wide variety of virtual activities including five workshop series, three graduate residencies, two intersession courses, one undergraduate course, several professionalization opportunities for the Postdoctoral Fellow and graduate students, and more.

We were also thrilled to welcome six new Sherman Centre staff members and two new SCDS Affiliates. Jeffrey Demaine joins us as Bibliometrics and Research Impact Librarian, Christine Homuth as Spatial Information Specialist, Vivek Jadon as Data Specialist, Veronica Litt as Digital Scholarship Coordinator, Isaac Pratt as Research Data Management Specialist, and Subhanya Sivajothy as Data Analysis and Visualization Librarian. We are also pleased to formalize our relationships with two new SCDS Affiliates: Katie Harding, Learning Support Librarian, Engineering and Devon Mordell, Educational Developer, MacPherson Institute.

Over this past 16 months, we also expanded our workshop offerings by successfully launching two new series on [Relevant Research](#) and [Research Data Management](#), and hosting 16 workshops under our [Do More with Digital Scholarship](#) (DMDS) Series. We also continued to support the [Data Analysis Support Hub](#)'s multi-faceted programming and to facilitate the [Software Freedom Series](#), a collection of skill-building workshops by and for undergraduate students.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome 24 graduate students across three cohorts of our Graduate Residency in Digital Scholarship.

This report outlines the Centre's notable achievements over the past 16 months. Though it is not an exhaustive list of our activities, we hope that it demonstrates the breadth and nature of the Sherman Centre's impact—both at McMaster and beyond.

2. STAFFING, GOVERNANCE, and MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

2.1 SCDS Staff

† indicates incoming and * indicates outgoing for July 2020-November 2021

- Dr. Andrea Zeffiro, Academic Director
- Dr. Jay Brodeur, Administrative Director
- † Jeffrey Demaine, Bibliometrics and Research Impact Librarian
- * Melissa Elliot, Administrative Support (exited September 12, 2021)
- John Fink, Digital Scholarship Librarian (*on leave Sept 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2021*)
- † Christine Homuth, Spatial Information Specialist
- † Vivek Jadon, Data Specialist
- † Veronica Litt, Digital Scholarship Coordinator
- Dr. Amanda Montague, Post-Doctoral Fellow
- † Dr. Isaac Pratt, Research Data Management Specialist
- † Subhanya Sivajothy, Data Analysis and Visualization Librarian

2.2 Revisioning and Reformulating the Sherman Centre

Parallel to addressing the clear and present challenges of COVID-19, we invested considerable time over the past 16 months reflecting on the evolution of the Sherman Centre since its inception, evaluating its current strengths and weaknesses, and envisioning its future activities and composition.

While the Centre has shown remarkable flexibility over the years to adapt to the changing and growing needs of its community, we concluded that SCDS' biggest constraining factor was its capacity to expand services, programming, and initiatives. With a staffing complement of less than 4 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (Figure 1), which included a limited-term Postdoctoral Fellow, there were simply too few people to expand offerings to support all areas of need.

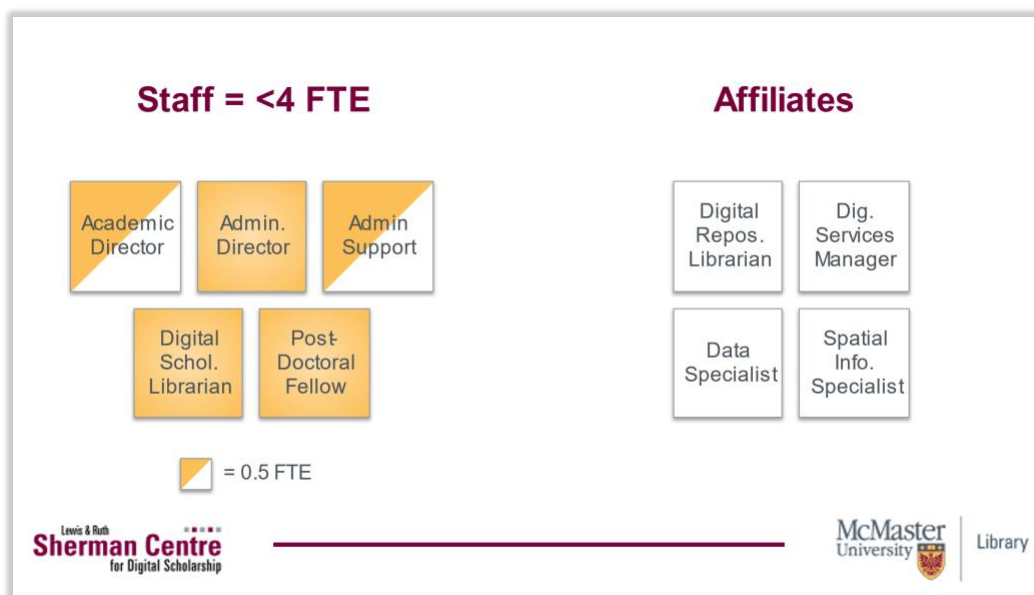


Figure 1: SCDS composition as of January 2021

An environmental scan of digital scholarship and digital humanities centres across North America confirmed a trend toward larger staffing complements that included expertise in the areas where the Sherman Centre (and the University Library, in general) was seeing emerging interest. These fields include research data management (RDM), geospatial and statistical data, data visualization, and bibliometrics and research impact analysis. Many such centres also employ a Coordinator to maintain day-to-day operational activities and support long-term strategic initiatives.

With clarity on the Centre's current staffing needs, we worked with Vivian Lewis and the University Library's Leadership Group to devise a strategy to bring this expertise into the Sherman Centre. The resulting plan achieved this goal by reassigning select McMaster staff to the Sherman Centre, as well as hiring two new positions. By early Fall 2021, the augmented Sherman Centre consisted of the positions shown in Figure 2, which include:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| • Academic Director (0.5 FTE) | Existing position |
| • Administrative Director (~0.75 FTE) | Existing position |
| • Digital Scholarship Librarian | Existing position |
| • Post-Doctoral Fellow | Existing position |
| • Data Analysis and Visualization Librarian | New continuing position |
| • Digital Scholarship Coordinator | New 2-year contract position |
| • Data Specialist | Reassigned position |
| • Spatial Information Specialist | Reassigned position |
| • Research Data Management Specialist (0.5 FTE) | Reassigned position |
| • Bibliometrics & Research Impact Librarian | Reassigned position |

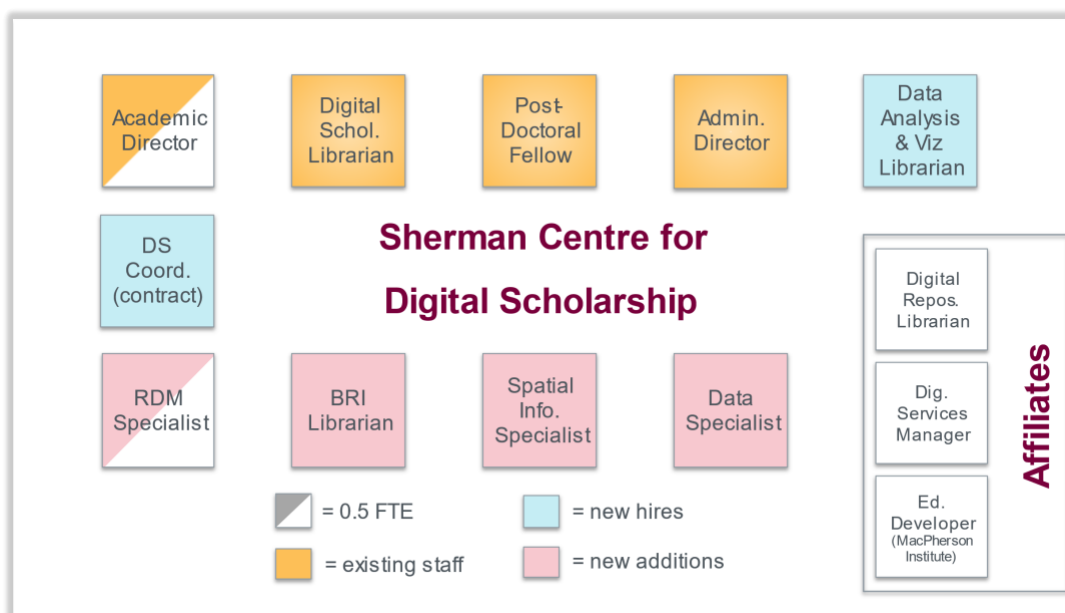


Figure 2: SCDS composition as of September 2021

Within only a few months, we have already seen that this reimagined staffing complement allows the Sherman Centre to better meet the needs of McMaster's researchers, instructors, students, and community members. We also hope that this shift will provide opportunities for new and innovative

programming, services, and projects that anticipate and catalyze scholarship at the institution. Among these opportunities are better and increased programming and services, more internal collaboration on projects, easier and better coordination within and beyond the Centre, increased communication and outreach, and new academic offerings such as micro-credentialing and formal certificate programs. Many of these future directions will be formalized throughout 2022, as we engage Sherman Centre members and our stakeholder communities in a visioning and goal-setting process.

2.3 New Staff Members

With expertise in bibliometrics, communications, data management, geospatial and numerical data, and data visualization, our new co-workers have already enhanced the Sherman Centre's consultation capacity, expanded our suite of training offerings, and amplified our event outreach. Learn more about SCDS' new team members below:

Jeffrey Demaine, Bibliometrics and Research Impact Librarian – Jeffrey worked for a dozen years at the National Research Council, as a researcher in a German think-tank, and as the Bibliometrics Librarian at the University of Waterloo. His recent publications reveal forgotten “Sleeping Beauty” articles, the changing gender distribution of Canadian researchers, and the effect of increased collaborations on the research impact of universities around the world. Beyond simply counting citations, Jeffrey parses the metadata of academic publications, examines the changing structure of science, and reveals the patterns that underly the work of McMaster's researchers. He also co-organizes a [Canadian conference on bibliometrics](#).

Christine Homuth, Spatial Information Specialist – Christine draws on her wide range of experiences to provide support for teaching and research to students, researchers, and faculty members working with geographic information systems (GIS) and geospatial data. Some of her more recent work includes georeferencing historical maps and developing web map indexes as finding aids to make the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection's resources more readily accessible.

Vivek Jadon, Data Specialist – Vivek provides research support in the use of numeric research data. As part of his role, Vivek is McMaster University's official representative for Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) program and Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Both programs provide researchers with vast archives of research data from various disciplines for high quality research and instruction. Vivek is also involved in building awareness and promoting RDM activities/services at McMaster.

Veronica Litt, Digital Scholarship Coordinator – A literary scholar by training, Veronica's professional background includes academic and corporate work in editing, writing, event planning, social media, and podcasting. Across all her appointments, she strives to make scholarship accessible and interesting to anyone who wants to learn. As the SCDS Coordinator, she handles communications including social media and the website, provides administrative support, and organizes and promotes a diverse slate of programs including public lectures, the graduate residency, community partnerships, and 30+ workshops.

Isaac Pratt, Research Data Management Specialist – Isaac is a research scientist by training and has a PhD in Anatomy & Cell Biology. He leverages nearly a decade of interdisciplinary research experience to help support students, staff, and faculty. His expertise lies in questions surrounding data storage, security, planning, archival, and sharing. Isaac also provides support and curation services for [McMaster Dataverse](#). His other interests include reproducible research methods, open science, and data science.

Subhanya Sivajothy, Data Analysis and Visualization Librarian – Subhanya brings a background of research in data justice, science and technology studies, and environmental humanities. She is currently thinking through participatory data design which allow for visualizations that are empowering for the end user. She also has experience in research data management—particularly data cleaning and curation. She is pleased to consult on data analysis and visualization as they evolve throughout the research process.

2.4 Postdoctoral Fellow

In the time covered by this report, Amanda Montague entered her third year as the Sherman Centre's Postdoctoral Fellow and undertook a variety of research, teaching, and resource-building activities. In Winter 2021, Amanda adapted her second session of the "HUMAN 2DH3: Introduction to Digital Humanities" undergraduate course for the remote learning environment by centering the question of place and urging students to consider how digital storytelling can forge connections between local and global communities. In course feedback, students praised Amanda's creative and enjoyable assignments, which saw them create a podcast and a digital exhibit.

Amanda also led an Intersession course on digital storytelling and public spaces during COVID-19. This multidisciplinary module introduced McMaster undergraduates to "virtual fieldwork" (examining public spaces with digital tools) and prompted students to imagine how public space design may change post-pandemic (for more on Amanda's teaching activities, see section [3.2](#)).

In addition to teaching, Amanda was invited to deliver several talks for both the McMaster campus community and other institutions. She presented her research to PhD cohorts in the Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts, and English and Cultural Studies, participated in a roundtable organized by the MacPherson Institute on adapting experiential learning for remote teaching, and organized a roundtable on the recent launch of Omeka S at McMaster. Amanda also spoke at the University of Guelph's Digital Scholars Lecture Series and co-facilitated a digital pedagogy workshop for the prestigious Association of Research Libraries Digital Scholarship Institute (ACRL DSI).

Amanda enhanced her scholarly profile by becoming a member of the ACRL DSI board and continuing her tenure as a HASTAC scholar (see [3.6](#)). As part of the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory, Amanda contributes to an interdisciplinary community of scholars and engages in vibrant discussions about how the digital age is changing and challenging all aspects of the university.

Amanda also continues to better the McMaster campus' digital skills through her involvement with the DASH program. As one of the DASH program leads, Amanda consults with students and researchers who work on all aspects of data analysis, assists with the professional development of DASH Support Assistants, and facilitates a wide range of workshops, which are made publicly available online.

Last but certainly not least, Amanda also brought a valuable resource to the McMaster community in the form of Omeka S, an open-source digital exhibit platform (see section [3.6](#)).

2.5 SCDS Affiliates

† indicates incoming for July 2020-November 2021

- **Krista Jamieson**, Digitization Services Manager, McMaster University Library
- **Gabriela Mircea**, Digital Repositories Librarian, McMaster University Library
- † **Devon Mordell**, Educational Developer, Paul R. MacPherson Institute
- † **Katie Harding**, Learning Support Librarian, Faculty of Engineering

The SCDS Affiliates program was piloted in 2019 as a means of formally recognizing the substantial contributions of Sherman Centre collaborators (both within and beyond the University Library) to its operational and programming success. Affiliates contribute to the Sherman Centre by consulting with patrons on research and teaching projects and facilitating workshops in the Data Analysis Support Hub (DASH), Do More with Digital Scholarship (DMDS), and Research Data Management (RDM) workshop series. Affiliate positions are revisited annually to review the proposed contributions of each member. The 2020-2021 SCDS Affiliates and their contributions are profiled below.

Katie Harding is a Learning Support Librarian in the University Library, who works with the Faculty of Engineering to help students learn how to understand, find, read, interpret, and create different types of information sources. She has spent the last decade teaching and providing research support to students in science and engineering. In the time covered by this report, Katie facilitated two fully registered workshops on LaTeX software in the 2021-2022 DASH series and co-facilitated a fully registered workshop on the Open Science Framework in the 2021-2022 RDM series.

Krista Jamieson is the University Library's Digitization Manager. Serving as an SCDS Affiliate, Krista consults on projects related to digitization and access to digital materials. Krista facilitated a workshop in the 2020-2021 DMDS series focused on principles and best practices in digitization, with two follow-up drop-in sessions.

Gabriela Mircea is the University Library's Digital Repositories Librarian. As an SCDS Affiliate, Gabriela consults on projects related to digital access and preservation, knowledge mobilization, and journal publishing systems. Gabriela facilitated a workshop in the 2020-2021 DMDS series on the topic of journal publishing.

Devon Mordell is an Educational Developer at the MacPherson Institute. She draws on her experience in media art, hobbyist programming and instructional design to teach workshops on data visualization, computational analyses of texts, sonification and critical digital humanities. Devon facilitated three workshops entitled "Data Visualization with Tableau," "Network Analysis with Gephi," and "Textual Analysis with Voyant" for the 2020-2021 DMDS series.

2.6 Advisory Committee

The SCDS Advisory Committee was established in 2015 to provide advice to the Co-Directors on the scholarly priorities and directions for the Centre. We hold two Advisory Committee meetings each year. The membership of the committee evolves with the Centre as new pathways and partnerships are established on campus and beyond. In 2021, four committee members completed their terms and we welcomed seven new representatives (Appendix 3).

2020 – 2021 SCDS Advisory Committee

* indicates outgoing members in 2020-2021

- Dr. Karen Balcom, Associate Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
- John Bell, Director, Humanities Media Computing, Faculty of Humanities
- * Dr. Michelle Dion, Associate Professor, Political Science, Senator Wm. McMaster Chair in Gender & Methodology, and Academic Director, Spark: A Centre for Social Research Innovation
- Dr. Antoine Deza, Professor, Department of Computing and Software and Associate Director of the MacDATA Institute
- * Dr. Elzbieta Grodek, Assistant Professor, Department of French, Faculty of Humanities
- * Dr. Victor Kuperman, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages, Faculty of Humanities and Canada Research Chair in Psycholinguistics
- Dr. Ian Milligan, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Waterloo
- Dr. Ranil Sonnadara, Executive Director, Research and High-Performance Computing Support, Special Advisor to the Vice-President (Research), and Director, Education Science & Associate Professor, Department of Surgery
- * Dr. Netina Tan, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences
- * Dr. Netina Tan, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

2021 – 2022 SCDS Advisory Committee

† indicates new additions for 2021-2022

- Dr. Karen Balcom, Associate Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities
- John Bell, Director, Humanities Media Computing, Faculty of Humanities
- Dr. Antoine Deza, Professor, Department of Computing and Software; Associate Director of the MacDATA Institute; Fellow of the Fields Institute
- † Dr. Stephen Kelly, NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate at the BEACON Centre for the Study of Evolution in Action, Michigan State University
- † Dr. Ayesha Khan, Associate Professor, Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour; Associate Chair, Interdisciplinary Science
- † Dr. Kim Martin, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Associate Director, THINC Lab, University of Guelph
- Dr. Ian Milligan, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Waterloo
- † Devon Mordell, Educational Developer, Paul R. MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching
- † Chris Myhr, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts
- Dr. Ranil Sonnadara, Special Advisor to the Vice-President (Research); Director, Education Science and Associate Professor, Department of Surgery; CEO, Compute Ontario
- † Allison Van, Executive Director, Spark: A Centre for Social Research Innovation
- † Dr. Manaf Zargoush, Assistant Professor, Health and Policy Management, DeGroote School of Business

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 Research Support

Grants

Awarded

July 2020, SSHRC Connection Grant (\$28,483), “Tools of Translation: Expanding the Relevance of Research to Policy and Practice.” This grant enabled the Sherman Centre and Spark (a centre for social research innovation at McMaster) to collaborate on delivering a series of transdisciplinary, skill-building workshops on data storytelling, visualization and audience research. The resulting workshop series, entitled Relevant Research, brought together international experts and made knowledge mobilization training accessible to wider audiences by offering sessions entirely online with a blend of asynchronous and synchronous components (see section 3.3). Whether a workshop was held synchronously or asynchronously, recordings were produced, and the Sherman Centre and Spark now have indispensable training resources. The impressive roster of [Relevant Research videos and modules](#) are available for self-guided learning and for instructors to integrate into courses. (A. Zeffiro, M. Dion, J. Brodeur, A. Van)

July 2021, SSHRC IDG Grant (\$42,245), “Breaching Data Breaches: Toward a Critical Understanding of Data Breaches as Security Crises.” This summer, Andrea Zeffiro received SSHRC funding for her interdisciplinary research on data breaches. While data breaches are often understood as a purely technological phenomenon, Andrea will reframe them as social, political and cultural processes. By combining critical discourse analysis of primary sources with digital humanities approaches like network analysis, data visualization, and digital storytelling, her project will illuminate how data breaches are shaped by a range of temporal security crises like foreign invasion (e.g. illegal immigration, infectious diseases), the penetration of borders (e.g. national, biological, environmental), and calls for desecuritization (e.g. defunding law enforcement, the open web). (A. Zeffiro)

Submitted

February 2021, eCampusOntario (\$59,324), “Digital Humanities Pedagogy Toolkit.” If successful, this grant will support the applicants in creating a “Digital Humanities Pedagogy Toolkit”—a set of modules that will introduce educators to DH and DH pedagogy. These flexible resources will teach educators fundamental DH skills and show them how to incorporate DH and DH projects into their teaching. The Toolkit will describe the benefits of DH-based assignments, which allow students to build technical skills, collaborate within groups, and are uniquely suited to online and hybrid classrooms. These modules will also be usable by students who would like to learn DH on their own. Through project-based lessons, the Toolkit will help readers gain fluency in the vibrant and interdisciplinary field of digital humanities. (D. Mordell, A. Montague, J. Brodeur)

In-Kind Support

HCCI Community-Based Hate Reporting Platform

Since 2020, the Sherman Centre has been consulting with the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion and Ameil Joseph (Associate Professor of Social Work, McMaster University) and offering guidance and support as they create an independent and user-friendly platform for reporting hate crimes in Hamilton. The Sherman Centre has recently brought in RHPCS (Research and High-Performance Computing) to collaboratively create a job posting for a developer who will create the platform. Once the posting is online, SCDS will continue to support the project by sitting on the hiring committee and offering consultations as the platform moves forward.

SCDS Research Consultations

As part of its core mission, the Sherman Centre consults regularly with faculty, research staff, and graduate and undergraduate students on a wide range of topics related to (and beyond) digital scholarship. From July 2020–November 2021, Sherman Centre staff contributed a total of 195 hours in support of 263 unique research consultations on aspects of scholarship that included project ideation, data collection and management, research methodologies, analytical approaches, and research software.

Data Analysis Support Hub Consultation Services

When the Sherman Centre welcomed Christine Homuth and Vivek Jadon as staff members, SCDS began to co-administer the DASH consultation services. The Data Analysis Support Hub encompasses many workshops (see section [3.3](#)), consolidates user-friendly online tutorials on software including Python, Excel, R, SAS, and SPSS, and runs a weekly consultation service. DASH's ability to consult with researchers at any phase of their project's development has become a mainstay for data analysts on campus, who are eager to connect with the DASH program co-leads—Christine, Vivek, and Amanda Montague—and receive instruction and advice on all aspects of data analysis.

DASH Support Assistants are also integral to the high standard associated with DASH programming. Hired from the McMaster student body, DASH Support Assistants provide consultation and guidance to DASH clients. As an example of the valuable skills that Support Assistants build during their tenures with DASH, the program's 2020–2021 assistant Allison Leanage recently joined the Canadian Government as an Economic Policy Analyst. After gaining this position, Allison learned that the hiring committee felt her experiences with DASH gave her a significant lead on other applicants. Through DASH, Allison honed skills in preparing and delivering workshops, creating instructional materials on statistical software programs, and supporting and consulting on a wide variety of research projects.

Omeka S Launch

In Fall 2021, after months of hard work by our postdoctoral fellow Dr. Amanda Montague, Affiliates Krista Jamieson and Gabriela Mircea, Jay Brodeur, and our colleagues at McMaster Archives and Research Collections, the Sherman Centre was delighted to launch an [Omeka S instance](#) at McMaster University. Omeka S is a user-friendly, open-source platform that allows scholars to create polished and engaging digital exhibits. These exhibits often display archival treasures and, because the front-end of the exhibit is available regardless of a viewer's McMaster credentials, share academic research with the public.

As part of the launch, SCDS and McMaster Archives and Research Collections coordinated a variety of outreach activities. Myron Groover (Archives and Rare Books Librarian) helped History undergraduates create an Omeka display of [posters from the 1848 French Revolution](#), the McMaster University Library News ran [an article](#) announcing the new resource (which was then picked up by [McMaster Daily News](#)), and the Sherman Centre organized a virtual roundtable titled [“Building Digital Exhibits: A Roundtable Celebrating the Launch of Omeka S.”](#)

3.2 Curriculum Development & Instructional Support

In addition to offering courses and workshops that introduce students to Digital Humanities, Sherman Centre staff consult regularly with instructors seeking to integrate Digital Scholarship concepts and activities into their graduate courses. In the last 16 months, the Sherman Centre invested a total of 38 hours developing and facilitating nine in-class sessions, in the form of demonstrations, presentations, and discussions.

Course Offered

HUMAN 2DH3: Introduction to Digital Humanities (Winter 2021)

In Amanda's second session of 2DH3, McMaster University undergraduates developed their skills as digital storytellers. After introducing students to digital storytelling through class discussions, foundational digital humanities scholarship, and practical workshops, the class put their new skills to the test by creating two digital stories. First, they used Audacity software to create podcasts about life during COVID-19 and then, as the final assignment, they authored a digital story with the tool of their choice. Students built digital exhibits with Omeka, created interactive maps with Arc GIS Story Maps, assembled virtual tours with ThingLink, and more. Across these projects, students returned to the course's central theme of place in a remote learning environment. Amanda urged students to consider their personal ties to local and global communities, as well as the differences between their connections and the connections of their classmates. In Amanda's words, "rather than having students engage with one community together, they [were] able to share and learn from the diverse communities where they are each located."

In line with these principles, 2DH3 also saw Amanda centre rubric design and course expectations on the student experience. Instead of a top-down model, Amanda worked in collaboration with her students to collectively define authentic learning during COVID-19 and give students the opportunity to help determine the course's grading criteria.

Intersession Courses Offered

"Patterns in the Pandemic: Understanding COVID through Data Analysis and Visualization" (May 2021)

In May 2021, Jay Brodeur ran an intersession course titled, "Patterns in the Pandemic: Understanding COVID through Data Analysis and Visualization." By examining open-access datasets from Google, the Government of Ontario, Statistics Canada, and more, undergraduate students honed foundational data analysis skills. After collecting and examining the data, students pivoted towards data visualization and knowledge dissemination. They worked with digital tools including GitHub, Google Sheets, QGIS, and Tableau to build graphs, maps, and tables that visualize vaccination rates, hospitalizations, and testing over the pandemic. Students also built websites to house their projects—see work by McMaster students [Aleena](#), [Anastasia](#), [Arianne](#), [Harjot](#), [Holden](#), [Nilay](#), and [Sarah](#).

"You Are(n't) Here: Engaging Public Spaces Through Digital Storytelling During Covid-19" (May 2021)

In Amanda Montague's May 2021 Intersession, McMaster undergraduates examined how COVID-19 has changed their relationship to public spaces. Once available to anyone, lockdowns and social distancing have vastly constrained the way we use and understand our physical surroundings. Amanda's course takes this constraint as an opportunity that allowed students to re-examine public space from a digital humanities lens. Amanda introduced her class to virtual fieldwork and digital storytelling, then encouraged them to use their new skills to imagine the future of public space in a post-COVID world.

Graduate Instruction Collaboration

Increasingly, the Sherman Centre is being called on to facilitate sessions with graduate classes in the humanities and social sciences. In the time covered by this report, we collaborated with faculty and graduate students in the classroom and through organized events. During July 2020-November 2021, Sherman Centre staff contributed a total of 38 hours in support of graduate teaching.

Instructor (Course)	Description of Collaboration
Fall 2020: CMSTMM 720 (A. Zeffiro)	Presentation and discussion on the politics of data work, maintenance, and care (A. Zeffiro and J. Brodeur)
Winter 2021: CNMCS 700 A/B (L. Platt & S. Brophy)	Presentation on digital scholarship to the Communication, New Media and Cultural Studies Program first year cohort (A. Montague)
Fall 2021: CMSTMM 700 (F. Hirji)	Presentation and discussion on social media research ethics (J. Fink, I. Pratt, S. Sivajothy, A. Zeffiro)
Fall 2021: DDSA Lunch and Learn	“Lunch and Learn” session for the DeGroote Doctoral Student Association (V. Jadon)
Fall 2021: English 702 (P. Walmsley)	Presentation on digital scholarship, professionalization, and research dissemination (A. Montague)
Fall 2021: Library Top Tips	Short presentations on data analysis, GIS, and RDM for graduate students (C. Homuth, V. Jadon, and I. Pratt)
Fall 2021: Master of Public Health and Health, Aging, and Society	Workshop about mapping and geospatial information for graduate students in both the MPH and HAS programs (C. Homuth)
Fall 2021: MBA D700 (M. Head)	Presentation on data analysis for students in the Master of Business program (V. Jadon)
Fall 2021: POL SCI 775A (T. Porter)	Presentation on library resources for graduate researchers (V. Jadon)

Graduate Student Support

The Sherman Centre hosted 24 Graduate and Summer Residents in the time covered by this report. Andrea Zeffiro meets with cohorts on a bi-weekly basis, as well as hosting additional meetings to plan events and consult with students on an individual basis. Cumulatively, Andrea has committed 172 hours to supporting the three SCDS cohorts from July 2020-November 2021. Sherman Centre staff also contribute to the residency by sharing their expertise at cohort meetings and event planning sessions. Staff also consult with individual residents and assist their digital scholarship projects.

Andrea also acts as a supervisor and committee member for students working on digital scholarship projects in the Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts. In September of 2020, her supervisee Hannah Collinson successfully defended her Masters research creation thesis, “Target Acquired, Collision Detected: Exploring the Potential of Using Augmented Reality Technology to Enhance Science Community.” In September of 2021, Andrea acted as second reader for two major research projects by Masters students in Communication and Media Arts. Alexis-Carlota Cochrane (who was a Sherman Centre Graduate Resident from 2020-2021) submitted [“You Can’t Define a Community, It’s Not a Monolith’: How Latinx University Students are Using Hybrid Counterpublics to Challenge ‘Latinidad’”](#) and Erica Rzepecki submitted “Social Media and the Flashbacked Self: How Memory Features on Social Media Impact Users During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. We also support graduate students by providing valuable opportunities for training, collaboration, and publishing. For more information on how we supported Emily Goodwin, a McMaster doctoral candidate in English and Cultural Studies, see section [3.3](#).

3.3 Workshops and Training

Do More with Digital Scholarship Workshop Series

Full descriptions on the [2020-2021](#) and [2021-2022](#) DMDS webpages.

The Do More with Digital Scholarship (DMDS) workshop series introduces McMaster students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the public, to the vibrant and multifaceted domain of digital scholarship. The series helps registrants develop professional skills, explore digital approaches to research and knowledge mobilization, and discover opportunities for collaborative projects.

Building on the successes of previous years and inspired by increasing demand, the 2020-2021 and Fall 2021 [DMDS workshop series](#) included 16 unique workshops and 20 total events (two events hosted a total of four drop-in sessions). In total, 921 people registered for the 20 DMDS events, with an additional 74 placed on the waitlist. Each event averaged 46 registrants. The slate of workshops covered the following topics:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Introduction to Digitization | (Pre-recorded + Drop-ins) |
| • Roundtable: Digital Scholarship | (Live virtual session) |
| • Textual Analysis with Voyant | (Live virtual session) |
| • Data Visualization with Tableau | (Live virtual session) |
| • Social Media Research Ethics - Preliminary Considerations | (Pre-recorded module) |
| • Network Analysis with Gephi | (Live virtual session) |
| • Journal Publishing | (Live virtual session) |
| • Data Wrangling with OpenRefine | (Pre-recorded module) |
| • Introduction to Digital Exhibits with Omeka S | (Pre-recorded + Drop-ins) |
| • Social Media Research Ethics - Project Design | (Pre-recorded module) |
| • Social Media Research Ethics - Power and Provocations | (Live virtual session) |
| • × Best Practices for Managing Data in your Research | (Live virtual session) |
| • × Version Control with Git | (Live virtual session) |
| • × Organizing Research with the Open Science Framework (OSF) | (Live virtual session) |
| • Predatory Publishing: Reducing the Risk of Falling Prey | (Live virtual session) |
| • Omeka S Roundtable | (Live virtual session) |

× indicates a cross-listed event

Relevant Research Series

More information on the [Relevant Research webpage](#).

Generously funded through a SSHRC Connection Grant, the Sherman Centre partnered with Spark on the Relevant Research Series. Presented by leading thinkers, this series of intensive workshops provided knowledge and skills to make academic research more relevant to the public and policy. This five-part workshop series was facilitated by Mihaela Gruin (Research Retold), Brian Southwell (Senior Director, Science in the Public Sphere), Roberto Rocha (Data Journalist, CBC), Juan Velasco (5W Infographics), and Caroline Sindors (Independent Researcher and Artist).

The 2020-21 Relevant Research series included five workshops and 10 events. In total, 533 people registered for the workshops, with an additional 59 placed on the waitlist. Each event averaged 53 registrants. This series was comprised of the following workshops:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Communicating Research Beyond Academia | (2-part live virtual sessions) |
| • Transcending Mental Models | (2-part live virtual sessions) |
| • Telling data-driven stories: Lessons from data Journalism | (Online module + live session) |
| • Design Principles for Data Visualization | (2-part live virtual sessions) |
| • Creative Research and Building Feminist Data | (2-part live virtual sessions) |

Data Analysis Support Hub (DASH) Workshop Series

Full descriptions on the [2021-2022 DASH workshops](#) webpage.

United by the shared goal of developing software and analytical fluency in McMaster's undergraduate and graduate student populations, the McMaster University Library and the Sherman Centre continued to partner on the successful Data Analysis Support Hub (DASH) workshop series from July 2020 to November 2021. Library staff, Sherman Centre staff, and affiliated individuals facilitated a total of 13 interdisciplinary DASH workshops during this period. The workshops attracted 587 total registrants (with an additional 121 on the waitlist) and averaged approximately 45 registrants per session. The 2020-2021 DASH series covered the following topics:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Introduction to Python Programming | (Live virtual session) |
| • Introduction to SPSS | (Live virtual session) |
| • Creating High-Impact Figures with Adobe Illustrator | (Live virtual session) |
| • Introduction to R Programming | (Live virtual session) |
| • Introduction to SAS | (Live virtual session) |
| • GitHub and GitHub Pages | (Live virtual session) |
| • Intermediate Python Programming | (Live virtual session) |
| • Intro to Latex | (Live virtual session) |
| • Intro to Latex II | (Live virtual session) |
| • × Version Control with Git | (Live virtual session) |
| • Intro to R | (Live virtual session) |
| • Intro to Python | (Live virtual session) |

× indicates a cross-listed event

Research Data Management Workshop Series

Full descriptions on the [RDM Series webpage](#).

The new Research Data Management (RDM) workshops are the brainchild of Isaac Pratt, the Sherman Centre's Research Data Management Specialist. While Isaac began running RDM workshops in 2020, Fall 2021 marked the beginning of a formal collaboration between the RDM series and Sherman Centre, which now offers infrastructural support to the events. RDM workshops concern the active organization and maintenance of data throughout its lifecycle—from collection to interpretation, dissemination, long-term preservation, and reuse—and are quickly becoming a mainstay on the McMaster campus.

In total, 254 people registered for the five RDM events, with an additional four on the waitlist. Each event averaged 51 registrants. The slate of workshops covered the following topics:

- Set Yourself Up for Research Success (3 live virtual sessions)
- × Best Practices for Managing Data in your Research (Live virtual session)
- × Organizing Research with the Open Science Framework (OSF) (Live virtual session)

× indicates a cross-listed event

SOFTWARE FREEDOM SERIES

Full descriptions on the SFS [2020-2021](#) and [2021-2022](#) Series pages.

The Software Freedom Series is a student-led workshop series that was developed and delivered by undergraduate students Sil Hamilton (Media Arts and English and Cultural Studies) and S.M Mukarram Nainar (Mathematics and History). Currently led by Mukarram and his new co-lead Alexander Schaap (Software Engineering) with guidance and assistance from the Sherman Centre, the SFS series provides attendees with a hands-on introduction to a variety of topics relating to free and open-source software and privacy on the internet.

In total, 101 people registered for the six SFS events that took place in the last 16 months with an additional eight placed on the waitlist. Each event averaged 17 registrants. SFS workshops covered the following topics:

- LaTeX
- FOSS Video
- Data Privacy
- Cryptography
- Maintaining Your Digital Privacy
- Digital Networking and You

Online Learning: Workshop Recordings, Modules, and Webinars

A full list and links to online modules can be found on the [SCDS Online Learning](#) webpage.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sherman Centre shifted to a virtual learning environment and ran all workshops online—a pivot that resulted in the creation of invaluable virtual resources. SCDS began to record sessions in our workshop series and upload these recordings to the internet for perpetual viewing, along with PowerPoint slides, instruction sheets. Some workshops were further developed into completely self-contained online learning modules. In line with this transfer to online learning, the

Sherman Centre designed some workshops as asynchronous webinars, then hosted drop-in sessions for viewers.

As students, faculty, and staff return to campus, SCDS plans to balance in-person and virtual workshop offerings. Online workshops make academic content available to the public in perpetuity and expands the scope of learning beyond those who were able to attend the synchronous workshop. Viewership statistics confirm significant interest in workshop recordings: between July 2020 and November 2021, the Sherman Centre's repository of webinars and workshop recordings have achieved 4,023 views from 871 users.



Figure 3: Image used on social media to promote the new "Online Learning" repository

Workshops at a Glance

In total, SCDS ran 42 workshops and 51 events. 2,237 people registered for the slate of events, which occupied a cumulative 69 hours in presentations. Considering the substantial time investment required to prepare these workshops, this work represents a significant area of focus for SCDS staff and affiliates. On average, 60% of registrants attended events, meaning that SCDS workshops welcomed approximately 1,350 attendees from July 2020 to November 2021.

84 attendees completed feedback forms on the workshops. 78% of respondents described the workshops as highly useful (i.e. the highest or second highest ratings on the survey), 17% selected moderately useful, and just 5% described the workshops as not very useful. Respondents praised the clarity and practical nature of the workshops, appreciated the facilitators' patience and focus on hands-on instruction, and highlighted the series' smooth organization.

With registration rates increasing and our banner of workshop series growing, SCDS looks forward to continuing to promote digital fluency on the McMaster campus.

Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Training Opportunities

Over the last 16 months, two members of the SCDS community received grants that allowed them to develop skill sets, create digital resources, and organize events. Andrea Zeffiro, in particular, mentored and guided these students as they enhanced their skills and supported the Sherman Centre's scholarly activities.

Emily Goodwin, a doctoral candidate in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, worked with Andrea, Jay, and Isaac to co-develop two workshops and one roundtable on social media research ethics. Emily's work resulted in a co-authored [project design assistant](#) (a questionnaire that guides researchers in the early phases of work on social media) and a citable [transcript](#) of the series' finale: a roundtable entitled "Power and Provocations." These efforts were made possible by an RA-ship funded through Dr. Zeffiro's grant.

Dr. Sarah Whitwell, an educational developer with the MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation, & Excellence in Teaching, worked with Andrea Zeffiro to co-develop eight [learning modules](#) on feminist data. Whitwell and Zeffiro also co-authored a working paper on data-literacy competencies skills-training. This work occurred during Whitwell's tenure as a research assistant; this position was funded through a SSHRC Connection Grant.

SCDS has worked with McMaster undergraduate Sil Hamilton for most of his time at the university. Already the driving force behind the Software Freedom Series, in Sil's fourth year, he became a research assistant at SCDS and designed GitHub pages to adapt the Relevant Research Series into online modules. Sil's position was funded through a SSHRC Connection Grant.

3.4 SCDS Graduate Residency

In the time covered by this report, the Sherman Centre held three remote graduate residencies. Despite the challenges of conducting research remotely, students made excellent progress on their projects and sought out opportunities for collaboration with SCDS staff. Six students from the 2020-21 cohort formed a [roundtable](#) at the Open/Social/Digital Humanities Pedagogy, Training, and Mentorship conference as part of the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in early June. In July 2021, we welcomed a new cohort of 11 graduate students. This cohort and the six students from the 2020-2021 cohort mentioned above are currently planning a series of events for 2022.

2020-2021 Graduate and Summer Residents

2020 Summer Residents

[Read about the 2020 Summer residents and their digital scholarship projects](#)

- Marley Beach (fourth-year undergraduate student, Department of History)
- Raquel Burgess (PhD Student, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Yale School of Public Health)
- Emily Goodwin (PhD Candidate, English and Cultural Studies)
- Adrianna Michell (MA Student, English and Cultural Studies)

2020-2021 Graduate Residents

[Read about the 2020-2021 graduate residents and their digital scholarship projects](#)

- Maddie Brockbank (PhD Student, Social Work)
- Alexis-Carlota Cochrane (MA Student, Communication and New Media)
- Linzey Corridon (PhD Student, English and Cultural Studies)
- Emily Goodwin (PhD Candidate, English and Cultural Studies)
- Shaila Jamal (PhD Candidate, School of Earth, Environment, and Society)
- Theresa N. Kenney (PhD Candidate, English and Cultural Studies)
- Luis Navarro (PhD Student, New Media and Cultural Studies)
- Sarah Paust (MA Student, Anthropology)
- Shalen Prado (PhD Student, Anthropology)

2021 Graduate Residents

[Read about the 2021 Summer graduate residents and their digital scholarship projects](#)

- Cameron Anderson (MSc Student, Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour)
- Emma Croll-Baehre (PhD Candidate, English and Cultural Studies)
- Duygu Ertemin (PhD Student, Anthropology)
- Shaila Jamal (PhD Candidate, School of Earth, Environment, and Society)
- Angelo Mateo (MA Student, Public Policy in Digital Society)
- Marrissa Mathew (PhD Candidate, Political Science)
- Adrianna Michell (MA Student, Cultural Studies and Critical Theory)
- Brianne Morgan (PhD Candidate, Anthropology)
- Gloria Park (MA Student, Public Policy in Digital Society)
- Akacia Propst (PhD Student, Anthropology)
- Jess Rauchberg (PhD Candidate, Communication and Media Arts)



Figure 4: The Sherman Centre's current graduate residents

Residency Workshops

Members and affiliates of the Sherman Centre and broader University Library community visited the 2020-2021 and 2021 Graduate Residents and gave presentations on their areas of expertise. These workshops are as follows:

- “How to Develop a Research Profile and Manage your Data” – Isaac Pratt & Jeffrey Demaine
- “Science Communication” - Abeer Siddiqui
- “Digital Scholarship, Hardware & Infrastructure” - John Fink
- “Data Visualization & Storytelling – Subhanya Sivajothy
- “Digital Pedagogy” – Amanda Montague
- “Geographic Information Systems and Geospatial Data” - Christine Homuth
- “Digital Archives & Exhibits” - Devon Mordell

3.5 Supported Events

Over the past 16 months SCDS supported and co-sponsored three major digital scholarship events. Through a panel and discussion, lecture series, and marquee lecture, the Sherman Centre facilitated a wide-ranging, critical discussion of data collection and racial justice, amplified the work of the Postdoctoral Fellow, and brought a major digital scholar to the McMaster community.

Data & Sovereignty: Resisting Colonial Logics for Racial Justice

Panel & Discussion | Thursday, December 3, 2020 | [Watch a Recording](#)

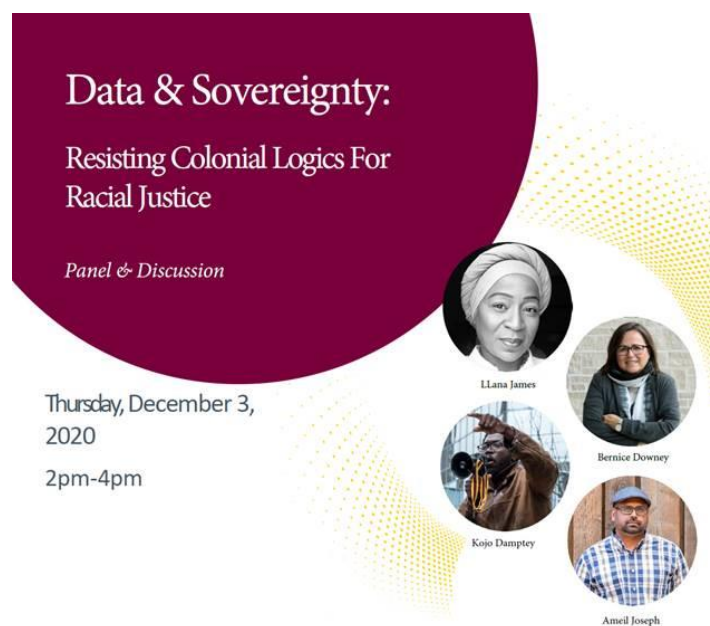


Figure 5: Poster for “Data & Sovereignty: Resisting Colonial Logics for Racial Justice”

Recent attentions to the collection, use, dissemination, ownership, and impacts of demographic data have convened several historical contradictions, resurfacing the contours of the false promise of equity from quantitative data collection. COVID-19 has positioned a number of initiatives that claim to address injustice and inequities in health or elsewhere though data collection often without the needs of those

mined for data at the centre of these conversations. Regularly, these data are on or about Black, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Latinx, Asian, South Asian, Caribbean, and other non-white groups, people living with mental health issues, disabilities, those who are houseless or underhoused, low-income, people living with substance use needs, and 2SLGBTQ+ populations while also collecting information on gender. These initiatives that collect and do not deliver have not gone uncontested.

Keynote: “Data, deception and dispossession: Breaking the cycle of colonization and racial capitalism in Canada’s public health & health care systems” - LLana James, Ph.D.(Cand), Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, rede4blacklives.com

Presentations: “Gikendamaawin e-aabadak – use of information: an Indigenous perspective on data sovereignty” - Bernice Downey, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, School of Nursing/Department of Psychiatry and Neuro-Behavioural Sciences, Director, McMaster Indigenous Research Institute

“Addressing hate/hate Crimes/hate incidents through communal frameworks” - Kojo Dampitey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (Executive Director)

“Data colonialism and plantation logics in social services, and public health” - Ameil Joseph, Ph.D. Associate Professor, School of Social Work McMaster University

298 people registered for this event.

Digital Scholars Lecture Series

A Four-Part Lecture Series featuring Emerging Digital Scholars | November-December 2020



Figure 6: Poster for the Digital Scholars Lecture Series A lecture series featuring emerging digital scholars from McMaster University (including the Sherman Centre's Amanda Montague), the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo.

Presentations:

- “Advancing Collaboration in Digital Project-Based Learning” – Amanda Montague (McMaster University)
- “Texts, Minds, & Contexts: Exploring Culture, Meaning, and Practice across Approaches & Domains” – Asen Ivanov (University of Guelph)
- “It’s Queerly Identifiable: Transgender Narrative Reclamation in *Overwatch*” – Lillian Black (University of Waterloo)
- “Communities of Care in Platform Construction: Understanding Video Game Preservation in 2020” – Alexander Fleck (University of Waterloo)

25 people attended the events.

Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice

A Lecture by Dr. Charlton McIlwain | November 5, 2021

**Black Software:
The Internet and
Racial Justice**

Dr. Charlton McIlwain

Public Lecture – Open to All

Friday 05 November 2021
11:30 – 12:20 – [Zoom](#)

Sponsored by: Centre for Networked Media &
Performance + Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship
+ Global Peace & Social Justice

<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/93652014246?pwd=d0lrNmtPbWVRck5ocy9SbzJmcVFxQT09>

Questions/Info: Christine Quail quailc@mcmaster.ca

McMaster University HUMANITIES

Dr. Charlton McIlwain, Professor of Media, Culture & Communication at NYU, will discuss his research into the histories of race and technologies from a digital racial justice lens. His recent book, *Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice*, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter (Oxford University Press) examines histories of racial injustice, anti-racist activism, and Black labour and leadership in tech and media industries, politics, and digital culture.



Figure 7: Poster for “Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice”

In 2021, the Software Studies Reading Group (a collaboration with the [Centre for Networked Media and Performance](#)) selected *Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice*, from *AfroNet to Black Lives Matter* (Oxford University Press, 2019) as its text, and the group invited its author, Dr. Charlton McIlwain, Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU, to discuss his research into the histories of race and technologies from a digital racial justice lens. The resulting lecture attracted 60 members of the McMaster community.

3.6 Involvement in Digital Scholarship Community

Beyond our workshop series, graduate residency, undergraduate course, and events, the Sherman Centre also supports the digital scholarship community through a variety of memberships, services, resources, and presentations. Between July 2020 and November 2021, SCDS staff brought a valuable platform to the McMaster community, discussed their work at multiple conferences, and contributed to an impressive number of committees, boards, and working groups. These activities are outlined below:

ARL Digital Scholarship Initiative Advisory Group

Along with five major North American Digital Scholarship Centres, the Sherman Centre is pleased to form the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) [Digital Scholarship Institute](#) (DSI) Advisory Group. As part of this Advisory Group, the Sherman Centre helps determine and administer the pedagogical direction, admissions, and instructional programming of the Institute's annual, week-long [digital scholarship training event](#). As part of this major scholarly event, our Postdoctoral Fellow Amanda co-developed a session on [digital scholarship pedagogy](#) and Jay Brodeur co-created a standalone asynchronous module on [text preparation and analysis](#). During SCDS' membership term, the Centre is represented by Amanda Montague, Jay Brodeur, and Vivian Lewis (McMaster University Librarian); Amanda and Jay also participate annually in the DSI Curriculum Committee as it plans, develops, and facilitates the Institute's programming.

Digital Humanities Library Guides

From 2013-2015, Andrea Zeffiro and Mél Hogan (University of Calgary) collaborated on Techno Trash, an online participatory storytelling project featuring personal written reflections on the consumption and disposal of media technologies. The project is now archived in McMaster University's institutional repository and serves as a base for scholars at other institutions, many of whom reached out with the intention of adapting the project. Techno Trash is listed in digital humanities library reference guides at Loyola University (2020), Northwestern University (2021), and Virginia Tech (2021).

HASTAC Scholars

Two SCDS community members continued their tenure as 2019-2021 HASTAC Scholars. Katherine Eaton (Sherman Centre Graduate Resident, 2017-18 and 2018-19) and Dr. Amanda Montague (Postdoctoral Fellow) joined the HASTAC cohort and became part of a dynamic scholarly community. As HASTAC scholars, Katherine and Amanda participate in critical conversations about the university in the digital age, network with their cohort and established digital scholars, and are invited to contribute blog posts, interviews, and book reviews to the HASTAC site.

National Digital Research Infrastructure and Research Data Management

Throughout 2020-2021, members of the Sherman Centre contributed to the evolving national digital research infrastructure (DRI) and RDM landscapes. Since summer of 2021, Dr. Isaac Pratt has participated in the Digital Research Alliance of Canada's Data Management Planning Expert Group (DMPEG), while also originating, organizing, and chairing regular meetings of a national institutional RDM strategy interest group. Jay Brodeur continues to serve on numerous Alliance Steering Committees, Expert and Working Groups, with which he co-authored a [Dataverse Curation Guide](#), as well as NDRIO white papers that articulated [Canada's data curation gap](#) and requirements for [broad reuse of Canada's geospatial data and digitized cartographic materials](#). With the addition of Subhanya Sivajothy, whose past employment includes curation officer with the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR), the Sherman Centre is well-positioned for further contributions to national DRI efforts. [broad reuse of Canada's geospatial data and](#)

[digitized cartographic materials](#). With the addition of Subhanya Sivajothy, whose past employment includes curation officer with the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR), the Sherman Centre is well-positioned for further contributions to national DRI efforts.

Talks and Presentations

In the Fall of 2020, Andrea Zeffiro and Jay Brodeur were invited to discuss the Sherman Centre's organization, activities, and guiding principles at the International Virtual Symposium on Digital Scholarship. This event was hosted by Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai, India on 14-15 October, 2020. Slides used in the talk are [available on MacSphere](#).

The Sherman Centre's Bibliometrics expert Jeffrey Demaine gave two external presentations this year. Jeff continued his longstanding organization of the Bibliometrics and Research Community (BRIC) conference. In April 2021, he worked with colleagues to coordinate three full days of presentations and also participated in the event via his paper, "Fractionalization of research impact reveals global trends in university collaboration." The next month, Jeff participated in the "Hear From Your Peers" series run by Clarivate, a global data analysis company. During his talk, entitled "Demonstrating the Research Impact with Web of Science and InCites," Jeff showed attendees the basics of bibliometrics and research impact analysis by providing demos of InCites, VosViewer, and Web of Science.

June 2021 saw Dr. Jay Brodeur, Christine Homuth, and their McMaster University colleague Leora Sas van der Linden, present at the 54th annual CARTO conference. Run by the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA), this established conference highlights current work in geospatial information and mapping. Jay, Christine, and Leora's paper, "[Mapping at scale: Putting McMaster's community-engaged research on the map with collaboration and shared infrastructure](#)," discussed a major partnership between the Faculty of Social Sciences and McMaster University Library. Begun in late 2019, the resulting 2021 digital project connected [McMaster Experts](#)—a Library-supported profile system of McMaster scholars and their scholarly works—to an ArcGIS Story Map to chart the community-engaged research activities within the Faculty.

In October 2021, four Sherman Centre staff members presented at ACCESS 2021, Canada's premiere library technology conference. Christine Homuth, Vivek Jadon, and Amanda Montague discussed their experiences running the Data Analysis Support Hub remotely in 2020-2021 in a paper entitled, "Reimagining Data Analysis Support Services Virtually: Success and Surprises." Homuth, Jadon, and Montague explained how shifting to virtual consultations and workshops helped them become better collaborators and sparked a new interest in creating online resources.

John Fink also gave an ACCESS 2021 presentation about his research leave, where he refined his software skills and developed "The Archivist's Friend," a unique gadget that senses the amount of vinegar in the atmosphere and sends an alert to the eponymous archivist (high vinegar levels can corrode paper). Fink's paper had a characteristically quirky title: "Making a Friend: Why Going on a Research Leave During a Pandemic was a Problematic Decision At Best, and How to Copy By Building a Useful Device for Archives."

Most recently, Andrea and Jay were invited to present at the Association of College & Research Libraries, Digital Scholarship Centres Discussion Group session. On November 11, 2021, they spoke on the panel "Partnering for Digital Scholarship Centers: A Discussion with Library Collaborators" with Dr. Trevor James

Bond (Associate Dean for Digital Initiatives and Special Collections, Washington State University Libraries), Dr. Kimberly Christen (Professor in and Director of the Digital Technology and Culture program and the Director of the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University), Kristen Mapes (Assistant Director of Digital Humanities, College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University) and Terence O'Neill (Head of the Digital Scholarship Lab, Michigan State University Libraries). At this presentation, Andrea and Jay described SCDS' organizing principles, activities, and governance documentation through the lens of collaboration with McMaster University Library.

Committees, Working Groups, and Boards

SCDS staff are involved in a wide variety of working groups, steering committees, and boards. Many staff members participate in internal groups such as SCDS' Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative and Community Engagement Working Group, as well as various committees run through the McMaster University Library. SCDS staff also sit on influential external boards and advise on provincial and national steering committees. See how we support digital scholarship within the Centre, McMaster University Library, and beyond:

Jay Brodeur

External: Member of the Federated Research Data Repository Steering Committee, Canadian Persistent Identifier Advisory Committee, Digital Research Alliance of Canada Dataverse Curation Guide Working Group, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Digital Scholarship Institute (DSI) Advisory and Curriculum Committees, and the Advisory Committee for the "Building a Longitudinal Dataset of Canadian Topographical Information" project. Co-chair of the Digital Research Alliance of Canada Curation Expert Group

McMaster University and McMaster University Library: Chair of the Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Working Group, Member of the McMaster Experts Advisory Committee, the Infrastructure and Information Security Committee, the Research Information Technology Committee, and the University Library Strategic Planning Committee

SCDS: Member of the Community Engagement Working Group and the Data Justice Group

Jeffrey Demaine

McMaster University and McMaster University Library: Chair of the Bibliometrics Approaches and Resources Working Group

External: Member of the Organizing Committee of the Bibliometrics and Research Impact Conference

John Fink

McMaster University Library: Member of the Documentation Group, IT Confab, and Library and Managers Group

SCDS: Member of the Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative, the Community Engagement Working Group, and the Data Justice Group

Christine Homuth

External: Member of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) Geo Community, as well as its Air Photo Working Group

McMaster University Library: Member of the Digital Archive Advisory Board, Strategic Planning Committee, and the Enhancing Indigenous Collections Strategic Initiative

SCDS: Co-lead of the Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative, member of the Community Engagement Working Group and the Data Justice Group

Vivek Jadon

External: Member of the Ontario Data Community Group, the Metadata Markup Program at Scholars Portal, and the Professional Development Committee at Statistics Canada

SCDS: Co-lead of the Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative

Veronica Litt

McMaster University Library: Member of the Library Display Committee and the Web and Public Interfaces Committee

SCDS: Member of the Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative, the Community Engagement Working Group, and the Data Justice Group

Amanda Montague

External: Member of the Digital Curation Group and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Digital Scholarship Institute (DSI) Advisory and Curriculum Committees

SCDS: Chair of the Community Engagement Working Group, co-lead of the Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative, and member of the Data Justice Group

Isaac Pratt

External: Organizer of the CANLIB-DATA Institutional Strategy Community Calls, member of the Portage Network Data Management Planning Expert Group, and member of the Scholars Portal Dataverse Institutional Contacts Group

McMaster University and McMaster University Library: Member of the Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Working Group, Technology Roundtable Community of Practice (TRT), IT Confab, and MacREM Implementation Group

SCDS: Organizer of the Data Justice Group and member of the Community Engagement Working Group

Subhanya Sivajothy

SCDS: Member of the Data Analysis Support Hub Strategic Initiative, the Community Engagement Working Group, and the Data Justice Group

Andrea Zeffiro

External: Advisory Board Member of Sound Walk September and the University of Calgary's Environmental Media Lab, member of the Board of Directors and Member-at-Large of the Canadian Journal of Communication (2020-) and secretary of the Canadian Journal of Communication (2017-2020)

McMaster University and McMaster University Library: Chair of the Working Group on Inclusive Culture and Member of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, advisory committee member of MacDATA, member of the Research Data Management Institutional Strategy Working Group and the Global Nexus: Surveillance, Preparedness, and Vaccines Taskforce

SCDS: Member of the Community Engagement Working Group and the Data Justice Group