Lewis and Ruth Sherman
Centre for Digital Scholarship
2021-2022 Annual Report

Prepared for the Sherman Foundation | May 2022

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A Message from the Directors

As the Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship approaches its 10th anniversary[1], we find ourselves reflecting on the past decade, while also considering the possible trajectories of the Centre over the next 10 years. It is an opportunity to revisit the original mission and goals of the Centre, think about how our approaches and priorities have evolved over time, and apply lessons learned as we shape its future.

Outlined in its initial planning document[2], the Centre aspired at its inception to "be a campus-wide resource that fosters library/faculty collaboration in interdisciplinary digital research and scholarship. By providing infrastructure, expertise, and opportunities for collaboration … [the Centre will] increase the capacity of McMaster researchers to engage in world-class innovative digital scholarship." The choice to be a centre for "digital scholarship" rather than "digital humanities" was significant and intentional: In contrast to many Digital Humanities centres that were being established around the specific interests of individual researchers or departments, the Sherman Centre was conceptualized as a catalyst of research across and between disciplines that would bring together researchers, librarians, archivists, technicians, collections, technologies, and services. The Centre had mandates to a) facilitate "research networks through events, physical and virtual tools, and spaces that enable collaborative interdisciplinary research", and b) provide "support for research that incorporates or studies the technologies, products, and implications of digital culture." As explained in the 2014 Educause review[3] that featured it, the Sherman Centre was conceived as "something that traditional researchers might not fully embrace the day the ribbon was cut, but who would come to recognize the value proposition for in the future". The objectives articulated to realize this value included optimizing resource sharing, provisioning scalable IT infrastructure to support faculty and graduate student research projects in digital humanities/digital scholarship, technical support and consulting services for digital scholarship projects, promoting interdisciplinarity through shared physical spaces, projects, and events, and promoting and disseminating research.

And while our activities have evolved over time, the Centre's inaugural vision and goals are still incredibly relevant to our present and future. Throughout 2021-2022, we continued to expand our offerings in response to the needs expressed within our communities, while exploring ways to engage and collaborate with new groups within and beyond the university. Our notable activities include welcoming new staff members and affiliates, expanding our training and development offerings, revitalizing and expanding our outreach and communication activities, and a variety of collaborations that support digital and data justice initiatives in our communities. In this report, we document the activities of the Sherman Centre from May 2021 to May 2022 and attempt to connect them to meaningful outcomes for researchers, learners, instructors, and external community members. To crystallize the Sherman Centre's impact, testimonials from our collaborators have been distributed throughout this report. The long-term significance of our work is perhaps most clearly expressed in the words of our colleagues and community members.

Over the next year, we look forward to working closely with our new and expanded Sherman Centre team to revisit our Vision, Mission, and activities to better meet the ever-evolving needs of our communities and continue to be a catalyst of digital scholarship at McMaster, in Canada, and beyond.

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[1] Hemsworth, W. (2012). Digital scholarship centre will revolutionize research. McMaster Daily News.
https://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/articles/digital-scholarship-centre-will-revolutionize-data-processing/
[2] McMaster University (n.d.). The Lewis and Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship. McMaster University.
http://hdl.handle.net/11375/27457
[3] Lippincott, J.K., Hemmasi, H., & Lewis, V. (2014). Trends in Digital Scholarship Centers. *EDUCAUSE Review*.
https://er.educause.edu/articles/2014/6/trends-in-digital-scholarship-centers

Summary of Activities

The period between May 2021 and May 2022 has been transformative for the Sherman Centre. While COVID-19 continued to present unique and unprecedented challenges, the Centre also found new opportunities and successes in newly remote and hybrid environments. We re-envisioned how we support core SCDS programming and successfully coordinated a wide variety of virtual activities including four workshop series, three undergraduate courses, two graduate residencies, two intersession courses, several professionalization opportunities for the Postdoctoral Fellow and graduate students, and more.

We were thrilled to welcome seven new Sherman Centre staff members and four new SCDS Affiliates. Jeffrey Demaine joins us as Bibliometrics and Research Impact Librarian, Danica Evering as one of two Research Data Management Specialists, Christine Homuth as Spatial Information Specialist, Vivek Jadon as Data Specialist, Veronica Litt as Digital Scholarship Coordinator, Isaac Pratt as our second Research Data Management Specialist, and Subhanya Sivajothy as Data Analysis and Visualization Librarian. We are also pleased to formalize our relationships with four new SCDS Affiliates: Myron Groover (Archives and Rare Books Librarian, McMaster University Library), Katie Harding (Learning Support Librarian, Engineering), Abeer Siddiqui (Learning Support Librarian, School of Interdisciplinary Science), and Elaine Westenhoefer (Digital Media Specialist, Lyons New Media Centre).

Over this past year, we also expanded our workshop offerings by successfully launching a new series on Research Data Management and hosting 11 workshops under our Do More with Digital Scholarship (DMDS) Series. We continued to support the Data Analysis Support Hub's popular and 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 11 graduate students to our Graduate Residency in Digital Scholarship—to date, our largest cohort. Four residents stayed on in the Sherman Centre's first-ever Self-Directed Graduate Residency.

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

2021–2022 SCDS HIGHLIGHTS

WORKSHOPS
- 30 workshops across 4 series
- 48 hours of presentations
- 1,970 registrants
- 600% increase in registrants since 2019

WEBINARS
- 30 new online modules
- 6,400 views from 1,600 users
- Views and users doubled since 2021
- 675+ visits to new "Online Learning" webpage

COMMUNICATIONS
- 800+ mailing list audience
- Audience doubled since 2021
- New monthly newsletter, The SCDS Snapshot, regularly read by audience of 400+

RESEARCH & TEACHING
- 480 hours supporting 675 unique research consultations
- 16 in-class teaching sessions
- 3 undergraduate courses
- 2 intersession courses
- New resource: Omeka S

SCDS COMMUNITY
- 11 new Graduate Residents
- 9 Research Assistants
- 7 new SCDS staff members
- 4 new SCDS Affiliates

Learn more
SCDS.CA

Testimonials

As the Sherman Centre approaches its ten-year anniversary, we reached out to our community to learn more about how SCDS has impacted their professional and intellectual lives.

When anyone asks me about what moments during my graduate studies most impact where I am today, I always point to my time working with the Sherman Centre.
- Sarah Whitwell, Educational Developer, MacPherson Institute & 2017-19 Graduate Resident

SCDS supported me as I pursued a project that I developed into a postdoc funded by SSHRC and the Azrieli Foundation. I was able to lay the groundwork and provide proofs of concept for my project, which I'm convinced helped me secure the funding. In July I will take up a second postdoc at Tel Aviv University that is only possible because of my record of reconstructing manuscripts at SCDS and the Hebrew University.
- Michael Johnson, Postdoctoral Researcher, Hebrew University of Jerusalem & 2017-19 Graduate Resident

SCDS is a unique and precious resource — a repository of expertise and technical capacity that permits me to try new things & build new things.
- Myron Groover, Archives and Rare Book Librarian, McMaster University & SCDS Affiliate

The support of GIS and programming professionals within the Centre were huge assets for me when I came up against barriers in my work. Not only was the work enjoyable, but it was also incredibly useful - bringing an unexpected avenue into my PhD research and materially helping my post-academic career search. My work at SCDS, especially with GIS, opened up career paths I would not otherwise have been eligible for.
- Mica Jorgenson, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Stavanger & 2018-19 SCDS Postdoctoral Fellow

SCDS has given me opportunities to grow my networks, practice public speaking and writing…[and] holistically consider the digital in my scholarship in ways that can only really be fostered within such a supportive, flexible, and collaborative Centre.
- Theresa Kenney, English & Cultural Studies PhD Candidate & 2020-21 SCDS Graduate Resident

The Sherman Centre's friendly, welcoming environment allowed me to connect with graduate students in different disciplines and really broadened my understanding of digital scholarship. Getting support for developing my own tech skills (i.e. Python, for example) was really helpful and the emphasis on data ethics and the limits of machinic analysis was critical and has guided my continued work in the digital humanities
- Adan Jerreat-Poole, Postdoctoral Fellow, Toronto Metropolitan University & 2017-18 SCDS Graduate Resident

2. STAFFING, GOVERNANCE, and MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

2.1 SCDS Staff

† indicates incoming and * indicates outgoing for May 2021-May 2022

- Dr. Andrea Zeffiro, Academic Director *(on leave Jan 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022)*
- Dr. Jay Brodeur, Administrative Director
- † Jeffrey Demaine, Bibliometrics and Research Impact Librarian
- * Melissa Elliot, Administrative Support (exited September 12, 2021)
- † Danica Evering, Research Data Management Specialist
- John Fink, Digital Scholarship Librarian *(on leave Sept 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2021)*
- † Christine Homuth, Spatial Information Specialist
- † Vivek Jadon, Data Specialist
- † Dr. Veronica Litt, Digital Scholarship Coordinator
- Dr. Amanda Montague, Postdoctoral 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 to 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.
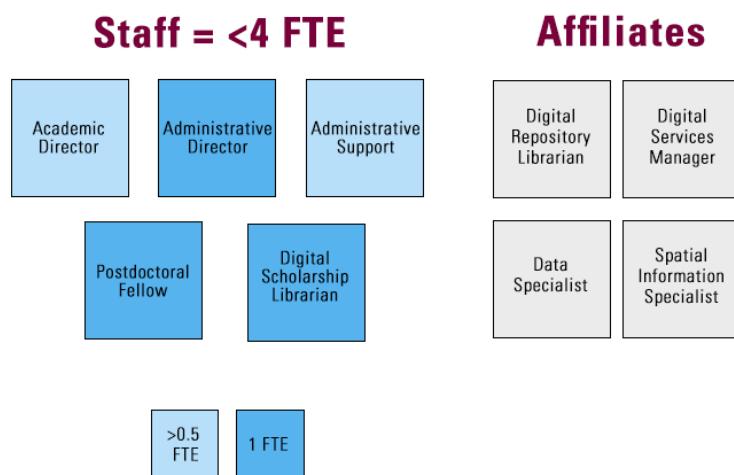

Figure 1: SCDS composition as of January 2021

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

In May 2022, we also welcomed a new SCDS staff member in Danica Evering, the Centre's second Research Data Management Specialist.
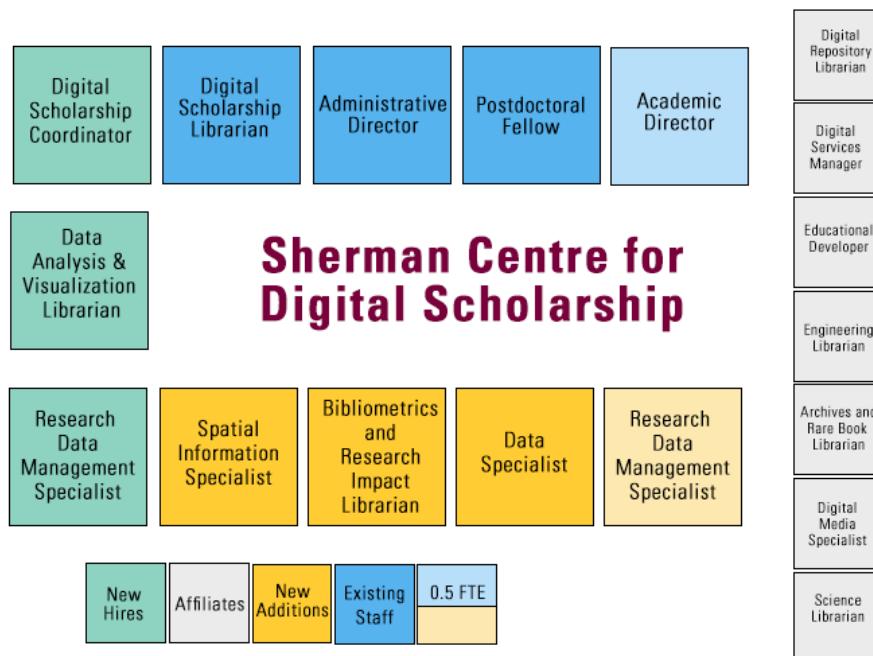

Figure 2: SCDS composition as of May 2022

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 are currently being formalized (or already underway in the case of increased and better programming—see 3.3), 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 major Canadian conference on bibliometrics.

Danica Evering, Research Data Management Specialist – Trained as an artist and media scholar, Danica's professional background includes significant experience supporting and communicating research and academic work. For the last three years, she managed projects and spearheaded knowledge translation activities for the Medical Laboratory Professionals Association of Ontario. As McMaster's new Research Data Management Specialist, she will draw on her diverse experiences to expand and support the university's RDM services.

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, provides administrative support, and organizes and promotes a diverse slate of programs including public lectures, the graduate residency, community partnerships, and 30+ workshops. She also delivers workshops on podcasting.

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 2022, Amanda adapted her third 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 communities. In course feedback, students praised Amanda's creative and enjoyable assignments, which saw them create podcasts on their experiences during the pandemic and digital exhibits on topics of their own choice.

Figure 3. Amanda Montague.

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 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.

She also brought a valuable and increasingly used resource to the McMaster community in the form of Omeka S, an open-source digital exhibit platform (see section 3.6). Omeka has already been used to great effect by McMaster teachers and researchers, especially two History classes taught by Professor Karen Balcom and Rare Book Librarian Myron Groover.

Browse one of the Omeka exhibits (another is highlighted in section 3.1). In this project, undergraduate students analyze diaries by Mary Josephine McDonald, a wife and mother in Cornwall, Ontario. Written between 1917 and 1919, the diaries engage with global events including WWI and, linking to our current moment, a major pandemic: the influenza outbreak that eventually kills both Mary Josephine and her husband. Omeka allowed this group of students to create a high-quality digital exhibit, gain skills in web design, and share their research with the public.

Figure 4. An image of McDonald's diary from an Omeka exhibit.

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).

Last but not least, Amanda enhanced her scholarly profile by becoming a member of the ACRL DSI board and continuing her tenure as a HASTAC scholar (see section 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.

2.5 SCDS Affiliates

† indicates incoming for May 2021-May 2022
- † **Myron Groover**, Archives and Rare Books Librarian, McMaster University Library
- † **Katie Harding**, Learning Support Librarian, Faculty of Engineering
- **Krista Jamieson**, Digitization Services Manager, McMaster University Library
- **Gabriela Mircea**, Digital Repositories Librarian, McMaster University Library
- **Devon Mordell**, Educational Developer, Paul R. MacPherson Institute
- † **Abeer Siddiqui**, Learning Support Librarian, School of Interdisciplinary Science
- † **Elaine Westenhoefer**, Digital Media Specialist, Lyons New Media Centre

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.

Myron Groover is the Library's Archives and Rare Books Librarian. He currently focuses on collection development and teaching in archives and book history. Myron's teaching practise seeks to facilitate direct student engagement with special collections materials as interstices of memory, labour, material culture, and shared meaning-making. In the time covered by this report, Myron supported undergraduate students using Omeka and Omeka S in two History classes.

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 for the DASH workshop series and co-facilitated a fully registered workshop on the Open Science Framework for the RDM workshop 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. She has also created asynchronous resources on digitization that the McMaster community can access at any time and played a valuable role in bringing Omeka S to the university this year.

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 was also part of the team that brought Omeka S to McMaster in the last year.

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 two workshops on "Network Analysis with Gephi" and "Textual Analysis with Voyant" for the DMDS workshop series and created three asynchronous modules on textual analysis: "Pre-Processing Digitized Texts," "Named Entity Recognition," and "Exploring Themes with Topic Modelling."

Abeer Siddiqui is a Learning Support Librarian and Adjunct Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Science. She advocates for effective science communication through storytelling as a way of building trust and creating conversations within our communities about topics science and health. This year, Abeer was the Respondent and Guest Lecturer at a two-part event organized by Graduate Residents; she also gave a presentation on Science Communication to the cohort.

Elaine Westenhoefer is a Digital Media Specialist at Lyons New Media Centre. In the time covered by this report, she co-led two sessions of a presentation titled "Podcasting in Six Steps" for Communication and New Media Studies students and co-led one workshop titled "Podcasts: A New Way to Mobilize Your Knowledge" for the MacPherson Institute's Teaching and Learning Month.

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).

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 2021, SSHRC IDG Grant ($42,245), "Breaching Data Breaches: Toward a Critical Understanding of Data Breaches as Security Crises."

Last 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 2022, eCampus Ontario Virtual Learning Strategy ($69,680), "Digital Scholarship: Creative, Critical, and Collaborative Approaches"

This winter, several SCDS staff collaborated to propose a comprehensive Digital Scholarship methods course. The goal is to introduce learners to the wide range of new and emerging approaches, tools, applications, ethical considerations, and critical theoretical foundations of Digital Scholarship (DS), in a manner that is adaptable to a variety of instructional modalities and contexts. Connected by the overarching themes of data justice, reproducible scholarship, and knowledge mobilization, we proposed 10 content modules that would integrate theoretical and methodological frameworks with hands-on skill-building exercises in a variety of digital approaches—including digital storytelling, text analysis, podcasting, spatial analysis and digital mapping, programming, web development, and data ethics. Each module would include instructor guides and an assessment activity. eCampus Ontario received a record number of applications and this proposal did not receive funding. However, the application cycle will reopen in a few months and we will re-submit. (J. Brodeur, D. Mordell, A. Montague, H.L.M. Jacobs, A. Zeffiro, J. McCutcheon, V. Litt, S. Sivajothy).

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. After the posting went live, John Fink sat on the hiring committee, which recruited web developer Attaf Ahtisham; John and Subhanya will provide ongoing consultation as the platform moves forward.

Figure 5. HCCI Logo

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 May 2021-May 2022, Sherman Centre staff contributed a total of **480 hours in support of 675 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. In the spring term alone, DASH held 53 distinct consultations with researchers from a wide variety of fields including Kinesiology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Civil Engineering, and Life Sciences.

Figure 6. DASH Logo

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.

Figure 7. Image used for Simran and Isaac's Twitter takeover

After gaining her 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.

This year's Support Assistants, Simran Kaur and Isaac Kinley, gained similarly valuable experiences. They created YouTube videos, ran two workshops each, hosted regular consultations, and participated in #LoveDataWeek22 on the SCDS Twitter account.

Vivek Jadon is also working towards a major project in the form of the Hamilton Community Data Portal. This resource will bring hard-to-find data on Hamilton to the public. Researchers and community members will be able to access downloadable tables of historical and up-to-date data on topics including Population & Demographics, Society & Community, and Environment. As the prototype website says, the data will be "Curated and catalogued to suit YOUR needs." The project will launch in September 2022.

Figure 8. Prototype of the Hamilton Community Data Portal website.

Omeka S Launch

In Fall 2021, after months of hard work by our postdoctoral fellow Dr. Amanda Montague, Jay Brodeur, SCDS Affiliates Krista Jamieson, Gabriela Mircea, and Myron Groover, and our colleagues at McMaster Archives and Research Collections, the Sherman Centre was delighted to launch an Omeka S instance at McMaster University.
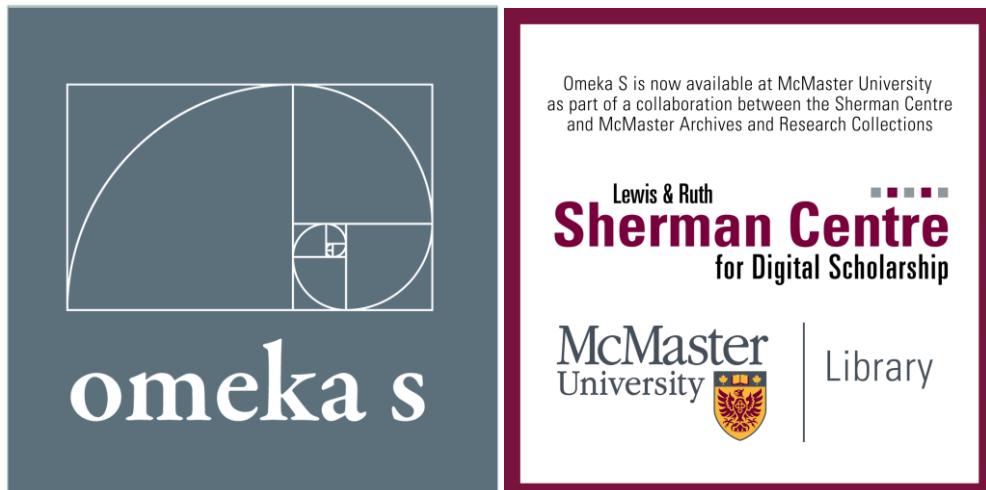

Figure 9. Omeka S Logo and promotional graphic from Twitter announcement.

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 both academic research and rare archival items with the public.

As part of the launch of McMaster's Omeka S instance, 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 impressive Omeka display of posters from the 1848 French Revolution, complete with contextual essays on topics including "Socialism and Struggle" and "Republicanism: Radicals and Realists." The template used in this exhibit was specially created by McMaster Library staff and integrates McMaster-branded elements; the template is now available for anyone using the McMaster instance of Omeka S.
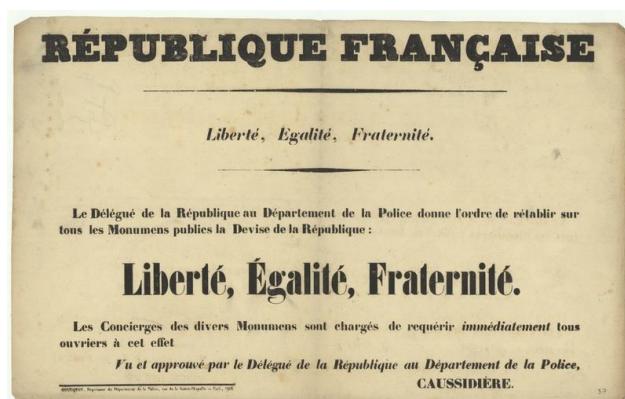
Figure 10. This poster, previously only available to users who can visit McMaster Archives and Research Collections in person, is now available to view on the "Posters of the 1848 French Revolution" Omeka S exhibit.

The McMaster University Library News ran an article announcing the new resource; that piece was then picked up by the University's primary news outlet, the McMaster Daily News.

The Sherman Centre also organized a well-attended virtual roundtable titled "Building Digital Exhibits: A Roundtable Celebrating the Launch of Omeka S." The event saw a diverse group of Omeka users from across the university, including a professor, a rare book librarian, undergraduate students, and the SCDS Postdoctoral Fellow, discuss their experiences with the platform and showcase their projects on the platform, including the "Posters of the 1848 French Revolution" exhibit and an exhibit from Professor Karen Balcom's History class on "Women and Social Movements in the 19th and 20th Centuries."

This semester, students in HI2PP3 (an undergraduate History class co-taught by Professor Karen Balcom and Archives and Rare Books Librarian Myron Groover) used Omeka S to create public-facing exhibits on a variety of early 20th-century holdings.

One exhibit concerned letters by Bernard Freeman Trotter, a McMaster alumni who died in WWI at just 27 years old. As the students write, Freeman's correspondence "paints a somber picture of reality in the trenches; we see a stark difference in geniality in his first letters during his training and time with family in England from his final letter written in the trenches of the French countryside. His hope, glimmer of excitement, and romanticization of war were very swiftly replaced with discussions of fear and the ease at which death can come on the front lines."

One of my best teaching experiences ever was a collaboration with Dr. Amanda Montague where she provided extended support of my senior US women's and gender history research seminar as the students created a set of linked research projects on the topic of reproductive justice and then communicated that research with intertwined visual essays created in OMEKA.

With the new instance on OMEKA S on campus, I've had a great time this past semester (working with Myron Groover and supported by Jay Brodeur) creating visual exhibits with students in HIS2PP3. And, I've. been impressed with how quickly SCDS turned me into a teacher or other instructors considering OMEKA!

-    Karen Balcom, Professor of History, McMaster University

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 year, the Sherman Centre facilitated 16 in-class sessions, offered three undergraduate courses, and ran two intersession courses.

Courses Offered

CMST 3DJ3: Digital Justice (Fall 2021)
In Fall 2021, Andrea Zeffiro designed and delivered a new third-year course for the Communication Studies department. "Digital Justice" examines the relationship between technology, power, and social justice through anti-oppressive theories, actions, practices and strategies. Students explore digital storytelling, counter-archiving, lo-fi and experimental media, maintenance and repair, reverse engineering, and policy and governance intervention.

The final assignment, which students progress towards throughout the class via a proposal, consultation, annotated bibliography, and check-ins with Andrea, asks students to imagine a future where digital technologies actively challenge and undo systems of oppression. The two-part project asks students to write a research paper and then flex their creative muscles by designing a speculative artefact.

CMST 3HC3: History of Communication (Fall 2021)

Andrea's third-year course on the History of Communication introduced undergraduate students to the history and historiography of communications and media. The class became familiar with the historical development of key media forms (including newspapers, radio, television, and the internet) and paid particular attention to subjugated knowledge and the experiences of people in disempowered groups. The course considered both how media technologies, systems, and content have been shaped by the societies in which they emerged and how they have impacted political, economic, and cultural life.

At a deeper level, students gained an understanding of media and communication history, not as a stable narrative but as a contested field, in which scholars argue about how to interpret evidence about the past—as well as about what constitutes evidence in the first place. The class engaged with methods and approaches including archival research, primary source analysis, and the digital humanities.

Course Spotlight: HUMAN 2DH3: Introduction to Digital Humanities (Winter 2022)

In Amanda Montague's third 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, students used Audacity software to create podcasts about life during COVID-19. In the process, they gained valuable skills including audio recording and audio editing. As the final assignment, the class authored a digital story on a topic of their choice. As Amanda notes, it was important that "students have the freedom to create digital storytelling projects on topics that are relevant to them, their life experience, or their communities. This approach helps students make meaningful connections between lived experience, the theoretical concerns of the class, and practical applications of digital tools."

Figure 11. An example of a podcast created by Amanda's students. Listen here.

With this foundation in place, students built digital exhibits with Omeka, created interactive maps with ArcGIS 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.

By centring concepts including collaboration, inclusion, and accessibility, Amanda's course empowered students to consider themselves as researchers in their own right. As she writes, "Asking students to think creatively about digital tools, methods, and contexts prepares them for diverse digital work environments and empowers them as critical content producers, recognizing the complex relationship between technology and power."

Intersession Courses Offered

I.   "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, mobility, and testing over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students also built websites to house their projects—see work by McMaster students Aleena, Anastasia, Arianne, Harjot, Holden, Nilay, and Sarah.
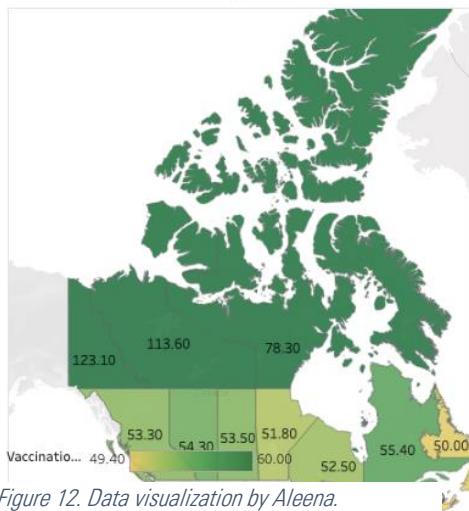
Figure 12. Data visualization by Aleena.

II.   "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. View the student projects.

Figure 13. Screenshot of "You Aren(n't) Here" homepage.

Instruction Collaboration

Increasingly, the Sherman Centre is being called on to facilitate sessions with graduate and undergraduate classes and information sessions across departments and research centres. In the time covered by this report,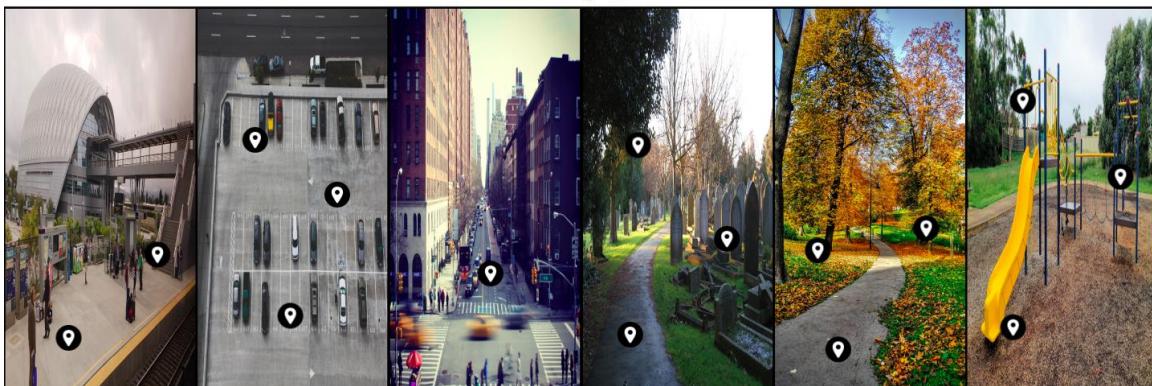 Sherman Centre staff contributed a total of **23 hours of presentations across 16 sessions**, without considering the significant time needed to prepare these talks and demos. Presentations encompassed several in-demand topics and programs in the world of Digital Scholarship including social media research ethics, data analysis, GIS, podcasts, and digital storytelling.

Instructor (Course)	Description of Collaboration
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 (A. Donato)	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)
Fall 2021: Research Knowledge and Skill Builder Session	Presentation on RDM for Family Medicine
Fall 2021: CNMCS 700 (S. Brophy)	Presentation for graduate students in Communication, New Media, and Cultural Studies (A. Montague)
Fall 2021: CNMCS PhD Proseminar	Presentation on "Navigating Academic Job Markets" (A. Zeffiro)
Fall 2021: CNMCS PhD Proseminar	Presentation on "Cultivating Generous and Generative Professional Relationships" (A. Zeffiro)
Winter 2022: CSMT 2RA3 (C. Quail)	Two presentations on digital storytelling platforms, ArcGIS StoryMaps, podcasting, and data visualization for undergraduate students in Communication Studies (C. Homuth, V. Litt, A. Montague, S. Sivajothy)
Winter 2022: HIS 3DF3 (A. McQueen)	Two presentations on Omeka for two classes of undergraduate History students (A. Montague)
Summer 2022: Research Data Centre Showcase (P. Kitchen)	Presentation on GIS Resources (C. Homuth)
Summer 2022: MacPherson Institute Teaching and Learning Month	Presentation on podcasting and knowledge mobilization (V. Litt)

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Support

The Sherman Centre hosted its largest cohort of Graduate Residents in the time covered by this report. Andrea Zeffiro meets with the 11-student cohort 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 185 hours to supporting the Graduate Residents from May 2021-May 2022. Sherman Centre staff also contribute to the residency by sharing their expertise at cohort meetings, consulting with individual residents, and assisting their digital scholarship projects. Veronica Litt has supervised the Graduate Residents' event-planning activities during Andrea's research leave, committing approximately 35 hours to organizing and promoting the four events. For more information on the Graduate Residency, see 3.4.

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 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 and who is now Andrea's doctoral supervisee) 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." In 2022, Andrea supervised a directed study for fourth-year undergraduate student Blake Dillon, who completed an advanced research methods course on cybersecurity and digital in/equalities and whose work resulted in an implementation-ready research study.

> The Sherman Centre opened up a world of opportunities for me. I gained access to research resources, and financial support through bursaries and was connected to a diverse group of graduate residents that were all joined together by their DH research in their various fields.
>
> Through these research connections, my residency group presented at The Digital Humanities Summer Institute, an annual digital humanities training program at the University of Victoria and are currently under review with Interdisciplinary Digital Engagement in Arts & Humanities (IDEAH), a peer-reviewed open-access journal committed to publishing DH research.
>
> The Sherman Centre is one of the top centres for innovative DH research in Ontario.
>
> -   Alexis-Carlota Cochrane, CSMT PhD Student & 2020-21 Graduate Resident

Outside of CSMT, Andrea supervised a Senior Thesis by Arts & Science student Joshua Durand entitled "Streaming with No One Watching: The Viability of Twitch." Durand interviewed professional Twitch streamers and drew from digital ethnography and autoethnography frameworks to study the platform. Andrea also supervised an internship for Humanities student Emma Convey, who spent part of her semester working with Global News. Learn more in a YouTube video by Emma.

Currently, Andrea supervises three doctoral students in CSMT, all working on projects involving digital scholarship. Gil Niessen (ABD) researches the material, economic, and cultural aspects of cloud gaming platforms. Alexis Carlota Cochrane (1st year PhD student) analyzes Meta's content moderation policies and practices, and Natasha Malik (1st year PhD student) examines the experiences and practices of information systems researchers, designers, and engineers who create internet-based artificial intelligence technologies.

3.3 Workshops and Training

Workshops at a Glance

This year's workshops explored several in-demand topics and were enthusiastically taken up by the campus.

In total, SCDS ran 30 workshops across four series. 1,969 people (2,136 including waitlisted parties) registered for the slate of events, which occupied a cumulative 48 hours in presentations. Considering the substantial time investment required to prepare and deliver these workshops, this work represents a significant area of focus for SCDS staff and affiliates. With increased registrations and positive feedback, we are pleased to report that this work is very much appreciated and supported by the McMaster community.

Figure 14. Promotional graphic for winter workshops

64 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.

Our workshops are increasingly well-known in the McMaster University community. **In the last three years, the total number of registrants has increased by 600%.**

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

Do More with Digital Scholarship Workshop Series

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

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.

Figure 15. Poster for Podcasting Workshop

Building on the successes of previous years and inspired by increasing demand, the 2021-2022, the DMDS series included 10 unique workshops. In total, 583 people registered for the 10 events, with an additional 66 placed on the waitlist. Each event averaged 58 registrants.

This indicates a 35% increase in the average number of registrants per DMDS workshop since sessions offered in 2020-2021.

The slate of workshops covered the following topics:

- × Best Practices for Managing Data in your Research   (Live virtual session)
- × Version Control with Git   (Live virtual session)
- Predatory Publishing: Reducing the Risk of Falling Prey   (Live virtual session)
- Omeka S Roundtable   (Live virtual session)
- Visualizing Texts with Voyant Tools   (Live virtual session)
- Network Visualizations with Gephi   (Live virtual session)
- × Intro to ArcGIS Online   (Live virtual session)
- LaTeX for Human(ist)s   (Live virtual session)
- × StoryMaps   (Live virtual session)
- Podcasts: A New Way to Mobilize Your Knowledge   (Live in-person session)

× indicates a cross-listed event

Praise for the DMDS Series

"Very informative, positively challenging, and very helpful for my PhD" – Network Visualizations with Gephi Participant

"I appreciated the clear explanations and the pace, which gave us lots of time to follow the instructions and exercises/examples. I also like that the workshop was open to community members." - StoryMaps Participant

"A very engaging and informative seminar" – Predatory Publishing: Reducing the Risk of Falling Prey Participant

"[The panel provided a] great overview of the system and I appreciated the various perspectives from diverse user experience" – Omeka Roundtable Participant

Data Analysis Support Hub (DASH) Workshop Series
Full descriptions on the [2021-2022](#) DASH 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 May 2021 to May 2022.

SCDS staff, SCDS Affiliates, and DASH Support Assistants united to facilitate a total of 13 interdisciplinary DASH workshops on all aspects of data analysis.
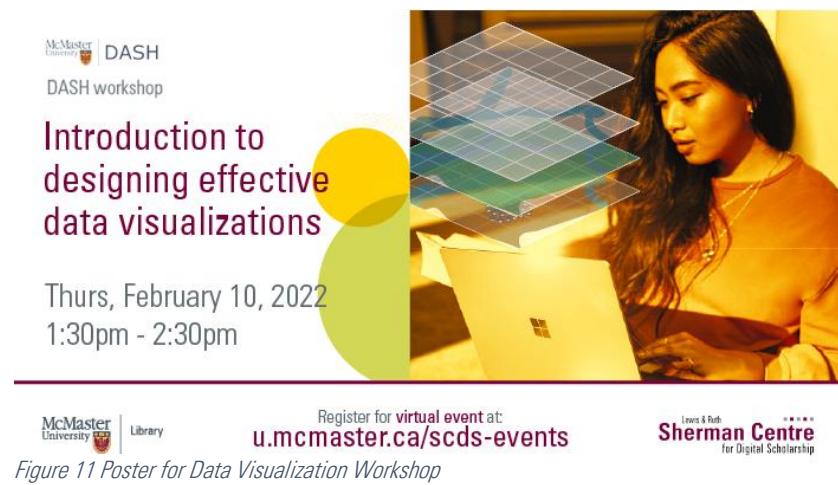
Figure 11 Poster for Data Visualization Workshop

The sessions were incredibly successful, attracting 1065 total registrants, with an additional 135 on the waitlist. Each workshop averaged approximately 82 registrants per session.

This number represents a remarkable increase in engagement and proves that DASH has made a tremendous impact at McMaster. In 2019-2020, DASH workshops had an average of 12 registrants per session. In 2020-2021, that number nearly quadrupled to an average of 41 registrants per session. This past year, we doubled that number and reached an average of 82 registrants per session.
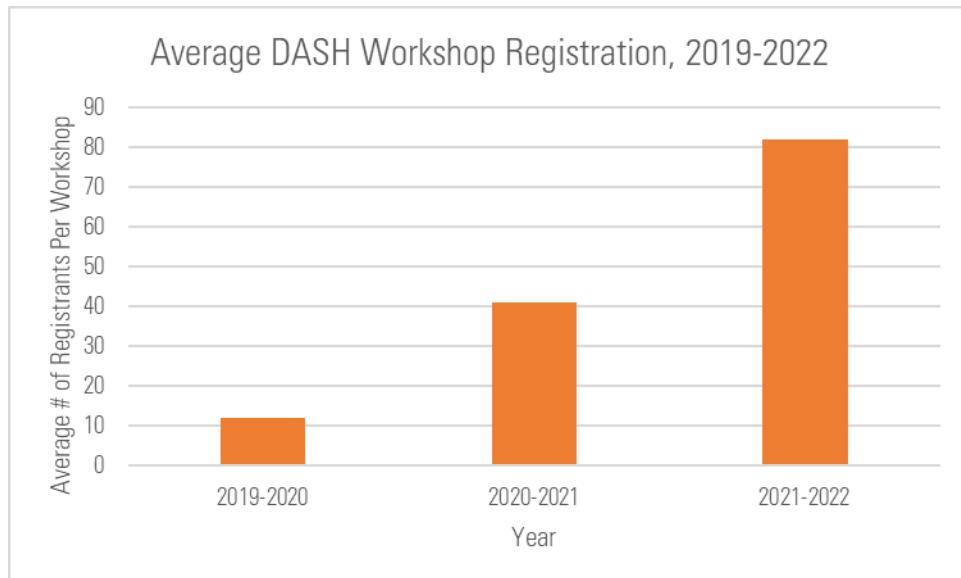
The 2021-2022 DASH series covered the following topics:

- 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)
- Intro to SPSS   (Live virtual session)
- Intro to Microsoft Excel   (Live virtual session)
- Intro to Designing Effective Data Visualizations   (Live virtual session)
- Intro to ArcGIS Online   (Live virtual session)
- × StoryMaps   (Live virtual session)
- Hypothesis Testing in Microsoft Excel   (Live in-person session)
- Intro to R Programming   (Live virtual session)
- Data Visualization in R using ggplot2   (Live virtual session)

× indicates a cross-listed event

Praise for the DASH Series

"I loved getting into the software, being shown around and where shortcuts are, and having real hands-on experience as we followed along with Vivek. He's a great instructor and I really enjoyed both this session and the Intro to R session that he ran."
– Intro to SPSS Participant

"Thank you so much for the R Workshop today. I am thrilled because I have been curious about R for a long time and now I feel like I have the tools to begin and explore it. I thought the workshop setup was AMAZING with the exercises and the ability to walk through them together, and have a record and the resources to repeat later as well. I am so impressed. THANK YOU!!"
– Intro to R Participant

"I really enjoyed the session. It was very practical and useful."
– Intro to R Participant

"I learned quite a few short cuts which was great. I liked that we were encouraged to ask questions."
– Intro to Microsoft Excel Participant

"I liked how we were able to complete the codes while we were being taught. I enjoyed learning about the different features that can be used on LaTeX, and appreciated the hands-on replies to various types of questions. The presenter had a lot of knowledge that was freely shared."
– Intro to LaTeX Participant

Research Data Management Workshop Series

Full descriptions on the [2021-2022](#) RDM 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.

Figure 17. Poster for Data Privacy workshop

In total, 577 people registered for the nine RDM events, with an additional 16 on the waitlist. Each event averaged 64 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   (2 live virtual sessions)
- Organizing Research with the Open Science Framework (OSF)   (Live virtual session)
- What You Need to Know About the Tri-Agency RDM Policy   (Live virtual session)
- Depositing & Sharing Data Online with McMaster Dataverse   (Live virtual session)
- Data Privacy Best Practices   (Live virtual session)

× Indicates a cross-listed event

Praise for the RDM Series

"It was very informative and the group discussion at the end was excellent."
    – What You Need To Know About the New Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy Participant

"Very practical and informative. Both presenters were very knowledgeable and helpful."
    – Set Yourself Up for Research Success Participant

"Information was presented in lay terms and assumed no prior experience with data repositories. It was perfect."
    – Depositing and Sharing Data Online with McMaster Dataverse Participant

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SØFTWARE FREEDØM SER1ES

Full descriptions on the 2021-2022 SFS webpage.

The Software Freedom Series is a student-led workshop series led by undergraduate students S.M Mukarram Nainar (Mathematics and History) and 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.

Figure 12. Poster for Digital Privacy Workshop

In total, 37 people registered for the two SFS events that took place in the last year. Each event averaged 19 registrants. SFS workshops covered the following topics:

- Maintaining Your Digital Privacy   (Live Virtual Session)
- Digital Networking and You   (Live Virtual Session)

Praise for the SFS Series

"The information was easy to understand and applied to our everyday life" | – Digital Networking and You Participant

Online Learning: Workshop Recordings, Modules, and Webinars
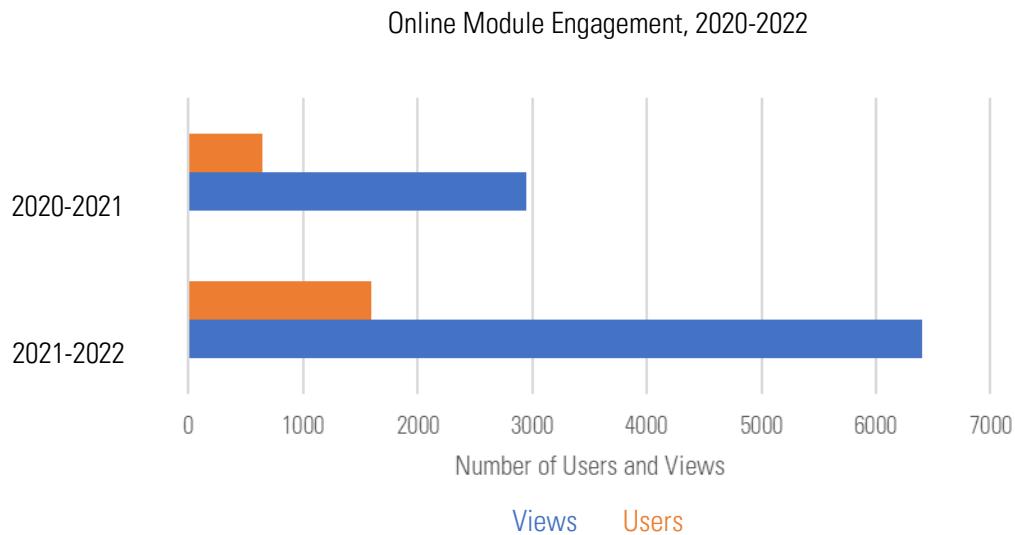*More information on the [SCDS Online Learning](#) webpage.*

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.

Figure 13. Image used on social media to promote the new Online Learning repository.

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 May 2021 and May 2022, the Sherman Centre's repository of webinars and workshop recordings have achieved **6,400 views from 1600 users.** This presents significantly higher views than last year, where we achieved 2,945 views from 656 users. Another indication that online content is finding an enthusiastic audience: Since January 2022, the Online Learning webpage has been visited **675 times.** With the exception of the SCDS website's home page, the Online Learning page is the most visited page on the website.

Online Module Engagement, 2020-2022

Number of Users and Views

Views   Users

Student Training Opportunities

In the time covered by this report, SCDS offered research assistantships to nine students at McMaster: Blake Dillon, Emily Goodwin, Sil Hamilton, Sam McEwan, SM Mukarram Nainar, Gil Niessen, Clementine Oberst, Vange Holtz-Schramek, and Sarah Whitwell. These students—who span both undergraduate and graduate degrees—completed research, administrative tasks, and teaching for the Sherman Centre.

Several SCDS Research Assistants are collaborating with Andrea Zeffiro as she conducts a SSHRC-funded examination of data breaches through a wide range of approaches and methods. Some of these sub-topics include data justice and art, the affective dimensions of data breaches, and the relationship between data breaches and geopolitical crises.

Another cluster of SCDS Research Assistants mobilized knowledge through online modules and events. Sil Hamilton and SM Mukarram Nainar created the Software Freedom Series, a workshop series that helps people gain practical knowledge about software and the internet. Emily Goodwin developed three modules on social media research ethics (a topic on which we increasingly receive consultation requests—Emily's modules are an excellent tool for researchers starting to work in the field).

This summer, the Sherman Centre hired six Summer Students to assist staff with various projects including building an open-access digital edition, maintaining the McMaster Experts database, develop a community data portal, contribute to GIS resources, and create new Data Management Plan documents. These positions provide McMaster undergraduates with the opportunity to learn in-demand digital skills, gain editorial and authorship credits on major projects, and explore new professional fields, particularly the growing realms of digitization, open-access community data, and Research Data Management.

SCDS also funded 50 registrations to this year's virtual Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI). The scholarship will allow 50 McMaster students to attend the University of Victoria's renowned annual program, which occurs in June 2022 and offers lectures and hands-on workshops on all aspects of Digital Humanities.

Project Spotlight: Reviving a Forgotten 18th Century Bestseller

As the Digital Scholarship Summer Student, Subyeta Haque (Humanities Major) is collaborating with Veronica Litt (DS Coordinator) and Myron Groover (Archives and Rare Books Librarian) in creating a digital edition of *Eloisa*, the first English translation of *Julie, ou La Nouvelle Heloise* by the Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. A major bestseller in its own time, *Eloisa* is now largely forgotten in English literary studies.

To bring attention to this novel, which stoked controversy and kick-started compelling debates on sexual mores, women's oppression, and the class system, Litt, Groover, and Haque will run optical character recognition software on scans of a 1761 edition of the novel, correct the transcript, format the text for e-readers and computers, and build a digital exhibit to demystify the digitization process and draw attention to the project. This major undertaking will bring McMaster's already unparalleled eighteenth-century holdings into the digital world and provide Subyeta with valuable technical skills.

Figure 14. Engraving from the first English translation of Julie, ou La Nouvelle Heloise

3.4 SCDS Graduate Residency

In the time covered by this report, the Sherman Centre held two 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 2021 and are currently revising this material for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. In July 2021, we welcomed a new cohort of 11 graduate students. In January 2022, four residents continued their work with SCDS in the inaugural "Self-Directed Graduate Residency" program.

Figure 21. 2021-22 Sherman Centre Graduate Residents

2021-2022 Graduate Residents

2021 Graduate Residents
Read about the 2021 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)

2022 Self-Directed Graduate Residents
Read about the 2022 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)
- Akacia Propst (PhD Student, Anthropology)

> The Sherman Centre provided a valuable network of support that really helped me broaden my perspective. It also connected me with a research community beyond my own field and provided a forum for bigger picture conversations. I think what the Centre is currently doing is incredible.
>
> - Cameron Anderson
>   2021-22 Graduate Resident

Project Spotlight

These residents developed a wide range of fascinating digital projects. A selection:

- Cameron Anderson built an interactive app that allows music scholars to compare a piece's pitch, loudness, timing, and tone
- Duygu Ertemin used Omeka and StoryMaps to bring ancient pottery and archaeological exploration to the public
- Angelo Gio Mateo investigated how government agencies harvest personal data from social media and use it while assessing immigration applications
- Jess Rauchberg explored how platforms like Instagram and TikTok regularly censor or "shadowban" disabled content creators
- Brianne Morgan and Akacia Propst created *The Null Hypothesis*, an open-access science blog that breaks down the research process for a public audience with zippy features like an irreverent "Science Glossary" and a blog where researchers can share behind-the-scenes of their work
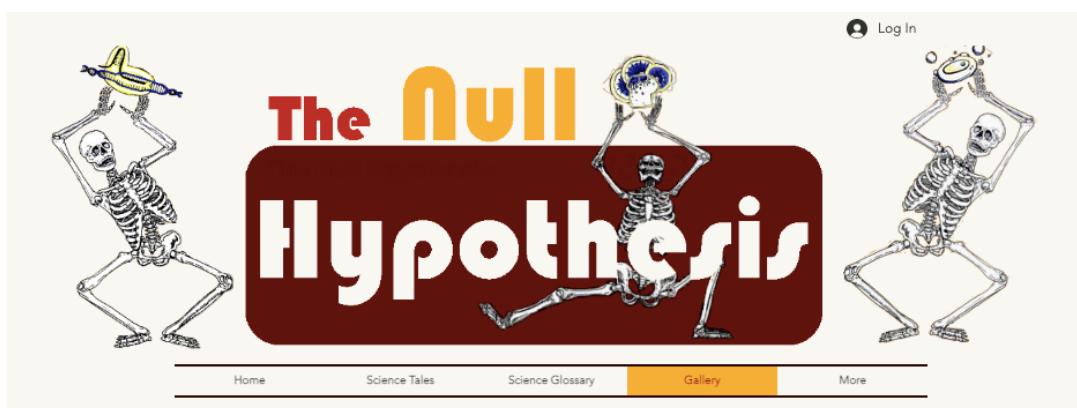

Figure 22. Logo for The Null Hypothesis, an open-access science blog created by two 2021-22 Graduate Residents

Blog Posts

The SCDS Blog is open to Graduate Residents who want to reflect on their research process and practice writing for the public. Read short, snappy pieces by our 2021-2022 residents:

- "How Digital Tools Can Help Us Understand Music Analysis" – Cameron Anderson
- "Feel free to get your pun on": Creating a Space for Science Communication – Brianne Morgan and Akacia Propst
- "Forays into Digital Scholarship as an Omushkegowuk Researcher" – Marrissa Mathews
- "Bestie vibes only? Disabled Content Creators, Shadowbanning, and the Politics of Authenticity" – Jess Rauchberg
- "Reflecting on my Residency at the Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship" – Duygu Ertemin

Residency Workshops

Members and affiliates of the Sherman Centre and broader University Library community visited the 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

Behind the Scenes of the Graduate Residency with Duygu Ertemin

"When I applied to the residency, I intended to learn about how to create an archaeological database. My vision was to bring published data (in Turkish) together, translate them into English, and compile it as an open-access dataset shared through a website. In this way, scholars who do not know Turkish could reach out for these archaeological data and use them. You can read about the details of this project here.

Figure 23. Duygu Ertemin

Andrea Zeffiro, the Academic Director of SCDS, supported me and my project throughout this residency. Her encouraging attitude, the way she moderated our meetings, and the flexibility and support she provided the cohort with to collaborate further made this residency a community I would want to be a part of for a longer time.

After our first cohort meeting, Andrea immediately connected me with the specialists of the Sherman Centre team to receive consultation for my project. I had a virtual meeting with Isaac Pratt and Jeffrey Demaine, and during this meeting, they introduced me to specific programs I could use to create the kind of database I wanted to build. Airtable was one of them. This digital relational database tool serves many purposes, such as creating, linking tables, and looking at your data through different viewing options. I also use this tool to organize my day-to-day work for my Ph.D. project, and I highly suggest every graduate student learn about this fantastic tool.

> "This connection was more than a consultation service. [The residency] showed me the importance of being a part of this community that valued my research"

Another digital tool that I find great and continue to use to organize my writing and project ideas is the Padlet software. Digital Scholarship Coordinator of the Sherman Centre Veronica Litt introduced the cohort to this tool by creating an idea board to organize our group event. I love this tool because it offers different templates, inspiring visuals, collaborative use, and easy sharing. I was introduced to other digital tools, methods, and workshops throughout this residency. Mainly, the research data management webinars prepared by Jason Brodeur and Isaac Pratt significantly impacted me as a graduate student.

I felt the privilege of being a resident, not just for the informative meetings and services I was provided with but also for the connections. One day I received an email from Jeffrey Demaine saying, 'Duygu, I was in this workshop about Omeka S, and I immediately thought about your project!' Then after a couple of emails back and forth, he introduced me to Amanda Montague, with whom I had a meeting to discuss the possibility of using Omeka for my project. Amanda listened to my aims and vision for turning the relational database I am building into an exhibition through Omeka and introduced me to Thinglink and Neatline digital visualization tools that I could use for my project.

This connection was more than a consultation service… It showed me the importance of being a part of this community that valued my research and thought about it without needing my service request. Thanks to the SCDS team and the cohort, my aim of learning the kinds of digital tools I need to create a database at the beginning of the residency have transformed into learning the best practices of knowledge communication. I became aware of the importance of not just producing knowledge but communicating that knowledge in an inclusive, audience-focused, and transparent way. These lessons will stay with me throughout my graduate program and even after it! Thank you all!"

Figure 24. Koukonisi pottery from Duygu's Omeka exhibit

3.5 Supported Events

Over the past year, SCDS supported and co-sponsored six major digital scholarship events. Through public lectures, panels, and work-in-progress talks, the Sherman Centre facilitated wide-ranging, critical discussions on science communication, social media, and digital activism, amplified the work of the Graduate Residents, and brought major digital scholars to McMaster.

Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice

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

"Meet the hidden figures – from the 1960s to the present – who fought the power and sparked a revolution in computing technology."

This special guest lecture built on Dr. Chalton McIlwain's acclaimed new book, *Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter* (Oxford University Press, 2019), which explored digital racial justice, the history of computing, and untold stories of Black tech innovators.

The lecture first took shape in 2021, when the Software Studies Reading Group (a collaboration with the Centre for Networked Media and Performance) selected *Black Software* as its primary text and decided to invite Dr. McIlwain, Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at NYU, to visit McMaster and discuss his research.

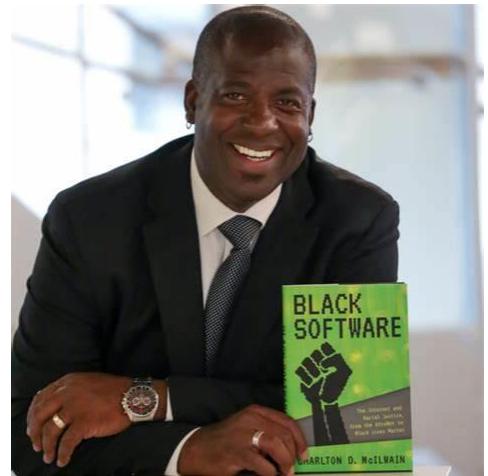The resulting lecture attracted 60 members of the McMaster community.

Figure 25. Professor Charlton McIlwain

The Digital Democracies Institute
and why interdisciplinary work is effective, productive, and necessary.

A Lecture by Dr. Wendy Hui Kyong Chun | February 8, 2022

The Sherman Centre partnered with several Humanities departments on campus to welcome one of the most rigorous, renowned, and creative scholars working in Digital Humanities today, Professor Wendy Hui Kyong Chun (Canada Research Chair in New Media, School of Communication and Director of the Digital Democracies Institute, Simon Fraser University), as the Distinguished Hooker Visiting Professor.

As part of the appointment, Professor Chun gave a lecture on her work with the Digital Democracies Institute, which connects the humanities and data sciences to address questions of equality and social justice. The DDI aims to combat the proliferation of online "echo chambers," abusive language, discriminatory algorithms and mis/disinformation, by fostering critical and creative user practices, creating alternative paradigms for connection, and bridging the gap between data scientists, web developers, and humanities scholars.

The virtual event was highly anticipated and attracted 80 attendees.

Figure 26. Professor Wendy Hui Kyong Chun

Science Communication and Digital Scholarship
A Two-Part Event with SCDS Graduate Residents and Special Guest Abeer Siddiqui | May 4, 2022

I.   "Towards More Meaningful Science Communication with the Benefit of Digital Scholarship: A SCDS Graduate Resident Panel"

How can scholars best communicate scientific analyses and results? How can we engage wider audiences in scientific research?

In this panel, three work-in-progress papers addressed these questions with a shared answer: digital tools. Through case studies of their own research, Sherman Centre Graduate Residents explored the benefits of digital scholarship in science communication and discuss the importance of employing reflexive, inclusive, and interactive approaches.

The three projects highlight the diverse forms that digital scholarship and science communication can take. Cameron Anderson presented an interactive app that allows people to listen to scientific analysis of musical research. Duygu Ertemin introduced an interactive digital exhibit and StoryMap on prehistoric periods; her novel approach to analyzing archaeological materials enables diverse audiences to interact with the exhibition by pinning comments and sharing their own thoughts and stories. Finally, Brianne Morgan and Akacia Propst showcased a science blog entitled "The Null Hypothesis" where scholars can share their research stories with one another and the public to demystify the scientific process.

The presentations were followed by a response by special guest Abeer Siddiqui, Science Librarian and Adjunct Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Science. The event was attended by 33 people.

Figure 15. Promotional poster for the Graduate Panel

II.   "Exploring Barriers to Misinformation Interventions in Public Libraries: A Guest Lecture by Abeer Siddiqui

Misinformation has always been dangerous and divisive, but especially so in the wake of "fake news" and Covid-19 conspiracy theories. How can we, as scholars, librarians, and citizens, combat the spread of misinformation? What challenges might we encounter while doing this work?

We were delighted to host Abeer Siddiqui, a celebrated teacher with a record of empowering students and engaging communities, at this talk.

Siddiqui discussed her research on the challenges of addressing misinformation in public libraries (drawing specifically on her in-progress study of Hamilton Public Library staff) and explored how her recent project informs her longstanding work on storytelling and science communication as a Science Librarian and Adjunct Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Science.

Abeer's guest lecture was attended by 35 people and included a lively Q&A session.

Figure 216. Poster for Abeer Siddiqui's lecture.

Social Media and Digital Activism

A Two-Part Event with SCDS Graduate Residents and Special Guest Jessalynn Keller | May 30, 2022

I.   "Content Creators, Digital Labour, and Online Identities:
         A SCDS Graduate Resident Panel"

What role do social media platforms play in forming and negotiating digital labour? How do platforms frame online selves and lives as intelligible or otherwise? What are the cultural and communicative practices Creators and users rely on to mediate their identities in digital spaces?

At this virtual panel, Sherman Centre Graduate Residents will share their in-progress research and address these timely questions. Drawing from exciting interdisciplinary fields such as Cultural Studies, Feminist Media Studies, Automedia, and Human-Computer Interaction, the papers in this session consider the on and offline impacts of affective labour and attention economies, self-branding practices, and the mediation of identity.

Adrianna Michell analyzes the Twitter hashtag #PaidSickDaysSaveLives, where workers in Ontario, Canada, expressed concerns over government sick leave policies amidst the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emma Croll-Baehre examines how twin content creators across diverse platforms articulate and mediate their digital selves and lives. Jess Rauchberg explores the communicative strategies that censored or "shadowbanned" disabled TikTok and Instagram Creators rely upon for platform engagement. Special guest Professor Jessalynn Keller (Communication, Media, and Film, University of Calgary) then joins the session for a formal response to the Graduate Residents' presentations.

This talk currently has 30 registrants.

Figure 29. Promotional Poster for "Content Creators, Digital Labour, and Online Identities."

II.   "Looking Back to Go Forward: Histories of Oppositional Feminist Politics and the Internet: A Guest Lecture by Dr. Jessalynn Keller

Recent feminist media studies scholarship has attended to the ways in which feminism's current popularity is intertwined with the logics of digital media platforms and neoliberal capitalism. *But, has it always been? And, does it have to be?* This work-in-progress talk by special guest Professor Jessalynn Keller (Communication, Media, and Film, University of Calgary) considers the possibilities for oppositional feminist politics online across both contemporary and historical contexts.

Beginning with the recent case study of #WitchTheVote (based on a paper co-written with Alora Paulsen Mulvey), Professor Keller traces how some feminist Internet users are de-centering economies of visibility, large audiences, and easily consumable content through their use of nostalgic Internet practices. Keller puts this example in conversation with a historical case study from the early 2000s, brownfemipower's blog. She considers this influential blog as emblematic of an intersectional feminist blogging community that actively critiqued the relationship between feminism, digital media, celebrity, and whiteness in the early days of web 2.0.

Taken together, these case studies highlight the need for further historical analysis of the feminist Internet, while illuminating how Internet practices have been at the crux of tensions and reworkings of feminisms for over two decades.

This talk currently has 20 registrants.

Figure 30. Promotional Poster for "Looking Back to Go Forward."

3.6 Involvement in the Broader 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 May 2021 and May 2022, 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 and delivered a workshop on text preparation and analyses, which was accompanied by a publicly-available asynchronous learning module. 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.

Communications Initiatives: The SCDS Snapshot and The DS Dispatch

In January of 2022, the Sherman Centre's Coordinator Veronica Litt launched two new communications initiatives to increase the Sherman Centre's profile in the Digital Scholarship community and support programs and resources by fellow DS and DH centres.

Figure 317. SCDS Snapshot Banner.

The SCDS Snapshot is a monthly newsletter that provides "information on the SCDS team and our work, including special events, web resources, blog posts, workshops, and beyond." The newsletter includes recurring features such as the "Meet Our Team" series (short interviews with the SCDS staff), "Hot Off the Presses" (new publications by the SCDS community), "Graduate Research on the SCDS Blog" (highlighting work by the Graduate Residents), and "You're Invited" (event promotion). Read the latest issue of the Snapshot or browse the complete archive.

The DS Dispatch is a monthly round-up of events, resources, and opportunities in the world of Digital Scholarship. Read the latest issue of the DS Dispatch or browse the complete archive.

Both the SCDS Snapshot and the DS Dispatch regularly reach >400 readers.

We also focused more attention on our Twitter account. SCDS staff and affiliates took over the account for Digital Humanities and Digital Scholarship events including #DayOfDH2022, which featured a thread by our DH expert Amanda Montague, and #LoveDataWeek22, which saw Subhanya Sivajothy create a thread of data visualizations as Rihanna outfits, Andrea Zeffiro highlight data justice art, Vivek Jadon announce the upcoming Hamilton Community Data Portal, Isaac Pratt share RDM tips for beginners, Christine Homuth guide students through "Getting Started with GIS at McMaster," and the DASH Support Assistants introduce themselves to our followers. We also reached out to McMaster undergraduates through custom memes.
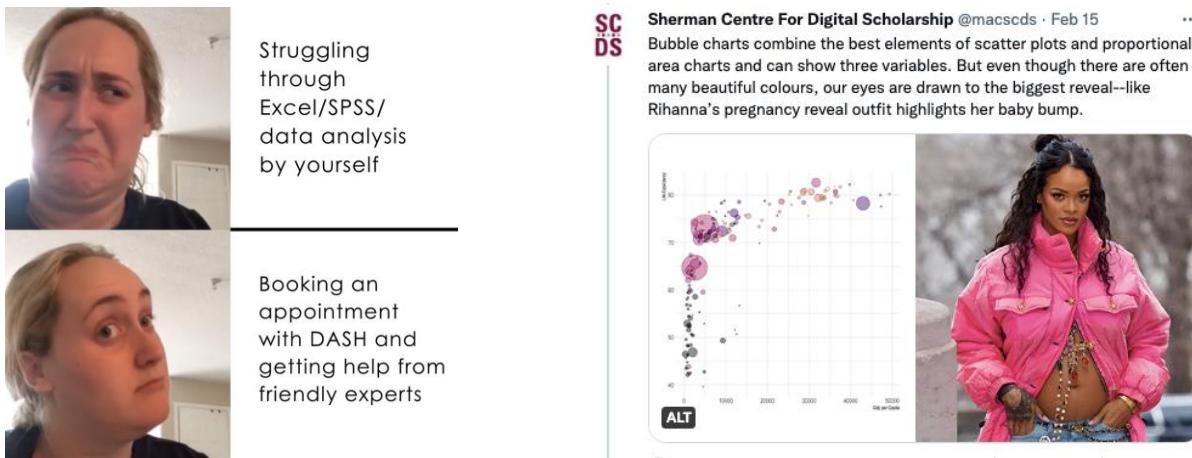

Figure 32. Meme to promote DASH's consultation service and a screenshot of Subhanya's #LoveData22 Twitter takeover

This increased effort towards our social media presence has increased the account's follower count by 32% and improved metrics including engagement, mentions, and profile views.

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.

Figure 33. HASTAC Logo.

National Digital Research Infrastructure and Research Data Management

Throughout 2021-2022, 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, who previously worked as a curation officer with the Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR), the Sherman Centre is well-positioned for further contributions to national DRI efforts.

Publications

What if breaches are a feature, not a bug? In March 2022, *Heliotrope Journal* published "Breach" by Andrea Zeffiro. The essay examines links between Big Tech, white supremacy, and breaches, both digital and physical.

In the time covered by this report, Jeffrey Demaine published two articles in top academic journals: "Trends in Authorship by Women at Canadian Universities, 2006-2019" was published by the *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*. The piece analyzed the shifting gender distribution of professors at 30 Canadian universities and notes the shortcomings of using algorithms to sort names into discrete gender categories.

Figure 34. Photograph accompanying "Breach" article.

Jeffrey's most recent article, "Fractionalization of Research Impact Reveals Trends in University Collaboration," was published by Scientometrics. The piece uses citation data to show that scientific research is increasingly collaborative, specifically in terms of collaboration across multiple institutions.

Jay Brodeur also published two articles in the last year, co-authoring "Creating Guidance for Canadian Dataverse Curators: Portage Network's Dataverse Curation Guide" in the *Journal of eScience Librarianship*. This piece introduces the new Dataverse Curation Guide from the Portage Network and explains the bilingual curation framework developed to support the resource. Jay also published "Heat and Drought Impact on Carbon Exchange in an Age-Sequence of Temperate Pine Forests" in *Ecological Processes*, which analyzed how extreme weather events impact how much carbon forests can remove from the atmosphere.

A past Graduate Resident also saw longer-term work reach the publication phase. During her 2020-21 Graduate Residency, Maddie Brockbank (PhD Candidate, Social Work) began a project that collected McMaster resources related to building safe classrooms and learning environments through an anti-racist framework. In the Fall semester of 2021, the final product was unveiled to an enthusiastic audience. The "Learning in Colour" website was profiled on the McMaster Daily News) and has quickly become a go-to resource for the McMaster community.

My experience as an SCDS graduate resident provided an invaluable opportunity to expand my intellectual horizons. It was truly such a wonderful experience to have such a supportive cohort, led by the amazing Dr. Andrea Zeffiro, that helped me reimagine my project, and develop my understanding of what is possible in DS.

- Maddie Brockbank, Social Work PhD Candidate & 2020-21 Graduate Resident

External Talks and Presentations

Summer 2021

June 2021 was a busy month in terms of external presentations. The Centre's Bibliometrics expert Jeffrey Demaine 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.

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.

The month also included a Library Carpentry session by John Fink on Git. Library Carpentry is an organization that provides "software and data skills for people working in library- and information-related roles." John's session acted as an intro session for Librarians and Information professionals looking to use Git in their work.

Figure 18. Logos for Carto, Library Carpentry, and Clarivate.

Fall 2021

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."

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.

On November 17, 2021, Isaac Pratt presented at ACENET's "Dataverse in Canada: Leveraging an Open Data Repository for Research Data Stewardship" series of webinars. Pratt participated in the "Dataverse Community Panel: Use Cases from Across Canada" and discussed McMaster's new Dataverse instance, which allows researchers to deposit datasets in our institutional repository, as well as McMaster's work supporting the *Canadian Journal of Economics* as they develop their own Dataverse to share datasets associated with the journal's publications.

Figure 19. ACRL, Access, and Acenet Logos.

Summer 2022

Most recently, John Fink ran a session for Brock University's Digital Scholarship Lab. On May 12, 2022, "Intro to Python" taught beginners the basics of the versatile and popular programming language.

Figure 20. Promotional Graphic for John Fink's Python workshop.