What is a Digital Project?

Co-presented by:
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Session Objectives

• Introduce you to some values of project-based digital humanities scholarship
• Increase your interest in digital scholarship appropriate for the AMICAL style institution
• Draw your attention to some of the platforms and tools people use. Provide some glimpses into projects that can work, and have worked, in AMICAL consortium institutions
• Open dialogue within AMICAL about such scholarly endeavors
Who are we?

David Joseph Wrisley

Rayane Fayed
What does the term Digital Humanities refer to?

Intellectual work and scholarly endeavors at the intersection of digital technology and humanities disciplines
What is a Digital Project?

• Simply put, a digital project is an emergent way of doing scholarship in digital environments

• It brings together focused research questions; digital assets/content; a digital structure for accessing those assets; creators; users
Common Elements of Digital Projects

• Often web-based
• Interdisciplinary, team-based, bringing together librarians, faculty, technologists, students, developers, “citizen scholars”
• Public orientation, local quality
• Emphasis on openness, from archives to tools
• Focus on process over product, “chunked” into manageable stages
• Digital environments allow research to be presented in dynamic ways, but also create new challenges (sustainability, project management, labor)
A rough typology of Digital Projects

- Text-centered project: Text project / Crowd transcription
- Digital Archive / Exhibits: curation of digitized materials
- Visualization/Curation of Humanities Data
  - Networks of people, places and relationships
  - Mapping
### Text-centered projects (1)

**CIVIL WAR LETTERS**

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**Title**: Letter written by Daniel Preston Adams from Baltimore, Maryland, on September 25, 1862, to his sister Esther Adams of North Linckleen, Chenango County, New York, #602100

**Sender/Author**: Adams, Daniel Preston

**Regiment**: Regiment unknown

**Place Sent**: Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland

**Date Sent**: 1862-09-25

**Recipient**: Adams, Esther

**Place Received**: North Linckleen, Chenango County, New York


**Title**: Letter written by Henry Welch, corporal in the 123rd New York Infantry Regiment, Company K, from Sandy Hook, West Virginia, on September 4.

**SENDERS/AUTHORS**
- Adams, Daniel Preston [1]
- Pearl, George W. [1]
- Stannard, Dwight W. [1]
- Unknown [1]
- Welch, Henry [1]

**PLACE SENT**
- Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland [1]
- Camp Hungry (near Parkton), Baltimore County, Maryland [1]
- Fort Corcoran, Alexandria County, Virginia [1]
- Sandy Hook, Washington County, West Virginia [1]

**DATE SENT**
- 1862-08-30 [1]
- 1862-09-01 [1]
- 1862-09-04 [1]
- 1862-09-23 [1]
- 1862-11-13 [1]

**REGIMENT**
- 117th New York Infantry Regiment [1]
- 123rd New York Infantry Regiment [1]
- 97th New York Infantry Regiment [1]

[cwl.dhinitiative.org/](cwl.dhinitiative.org/)
Text creation (2) crowd transcription
Digital Archive / Exhibits: Curation of Digitized Materials

Songs of the Victorians

A setting from *Maud* (1855)
By Alfred Lord Tennyson

"Come into the Garden Maud" (1898)
By Sir Arthur Somervell

A setting from *Maud* (1855)
By Alfred Lord Tennyson

"The Lost Chord" (1877)
By Sir Arthur Sullivan

http://www.songsofthevictorians.com/

Digital Scholarship Services

Lafayette Special Collections
Digital collections that include materials from Skillman Library’s Special Collections and College Archives

Digital Scholarship Projects
Faculty driven research projects housed in customized Virtual Research Environments (VREs). These interactive platforms for research are built and maintained by DSS.

Digital Resources
Access images, slides, and art collections for use in research and in the classroom.

DH Classroom Projects
Examples of small-scale digital projects designed specifically for use in the classroom in support of the instructor’s learning outcomes using easy-to-use tools.

http://digital.lafayette.edu/collections
Visualization/Curation of Humanities Data
Networks of People, Places and Relationships

*Kindred Britain* is a network of nearly 30,000 individuals — many of them iconic figures in British culture — connected through family relationships of blood, marriage, or affiliation. It is a vision of the nation’s history as a giant family affair.

Map environments - cartographic narrative (1)
Map environments -participatory (2)

1. Microblogging exercise

2. Individual student project

3. Course-embedded collective Project

4. Ran for two data collection phases (2015-2016)

5. Phase 3: Data cleanup, Transcription and TEI XML Encoding (funded by AMICAL’s Small grant for digital projects)

llbeirut.org
When Do Digital Projects Succeed?

- Collective interest in a topic
- Starting small
- Willingness to learn platforms, tools, basics of data curation (DIY spirit)
- Committing to openness
- Commitment to standards, anchoring your work in that of others
- Values of DH (http://www.dmdh.org/values-of-dh/)
Final Considerations
Call for Action
Q&A