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A Year in the Life of a Digital Humanities Librarian

Hannah Scates Kettler  
*University of Iowa*

Nicole White  
*University of Iowa*

Stephanie M. Blalock  
*University of Iowa*
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The University of Iowa – Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio

Stephanie M. Blalock
Hannah Scates Kettler
Nikki JD White
History and Organization

Who are we and how did we get here?
Before merge

Office of the Provost

Digital Studio for Public Arts and Humanities

University Libraries

Digital Research and Publishing

Independent DH Projects
Merge

University Libraries

Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio
New org chart

Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio

- Director
- DH Librarians
- Designer
- Outreach
- Library Assistant
- Student workers
- Program Coordinator
- Developers
- GIS Specialist
- Digital Scholarship/Collections Librarians
- Steering Committee
- Studio Scholar
Relationships to other orgs

University Libraries

- Library IT
- Preservation
- Research & Instruction
- Special Collections

Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio

Information Technology Services
Typical Workflow

How do we do what we do?
Workflow

Initial Contact
- Studio Staff
- Head
- Web form

Second Consult
- Studio Staff
- Principal Investigator
- Outside Consults

One Pager/ MOU
- Scoping for Achievable Stages
- Building in flexibility for future work
Workflow

- Team building
  - Project Manager (typically one of us)
  - Developers
  - Subject Specialists
  - Consultants

- Documentation
  - Project Tracker
  - Trello to track workflows
  - Slack

- Developing Prototype / Project
  - Content Management System
  - Customized websites
  - Applications and Visualizations
  - Custom Builds

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Achievements and Challenges

What have we learned?
Achievements

- Cohesive, efficient workflows
- Communication between departments
- Process of consultation and MOUs
- Digital projects
Projects

• FLUXUS
• DIY History
• Coffee Zone
• Walt Whitman's Correspondence Project (Walt Whitman Archive)
DIY History lets you do it yourself to help make historic artifacts easier to use. Our digital library holds hundreds of thousands of items – much more than library staff could catalog alone, so we’re appealing to the public to help out by attaching text in the form of transcriptions, tags, and comments. Through “crowdsourcing,” or engaging volunteers to contribute effort toward large-scale goals, these mass quantities of digitized artifacts become searchable, allowing researchers to quickly seek out specific information, general users to browse and enjoy the materials more easily. Please join us in preserving our past by keeping the historic record accessible – one page or picture at a time.
In this section, the Whitman Archive offers a growing amount of correspondence. We are gathering, transcribing, and encoding documents so as to compile the first complete record of Whitman's personal correspondence, both incoming and outgoing. In 2010, with generous support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) we made available Whitman’s Civil War correspondence. We are now in the process of editing and publishing Whitman's two-way correspondence from the Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction years, also with NHPRC support. All letters from the Civil War period are currently available, and
Challenges

• Appropriate scope for each project
• Multiple PIs on a project
• Shifting priorities of PIs
Thank you!

lib.uiowa.edu/studio
@TheStudio_UI