A Year in the Life of a Digital Humanities Librarian

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The University of Iowa – Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio
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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
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

Developing Prototype / Project

Team building

Documentation

Workflow
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)
HISTORY OF THE
FLUXUS MOVEMENT

(d) immediately on finishing the piece, buy another, and repeat.

Albert Fine
DIY History

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.
Coffee Zone

coffee zone.
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 others will be added over time.
Challenges

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

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