A Year in the Life of a Digital Humanities Librarian

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?
Merge

University Libraries

Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio
Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio

- Director
- Program Coordinator
- Developers
- GIS Specialist
- DH Librarians
- Digital Scholarship/Collections Librarians
- Designer
- Outreach
- Library Assistant
- Student workers

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

- Scoping for Achievable Stages
- Building in flexibility for future work

One Pager/ MOU
Workflow

Team building

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

Developing Prototype / Project

- Content Management System
- Customized websites
- Applications and Visualizations
- Custom Builds

Documentation

- Project Tracker
- Trello to track workflows
- Slack

Developing Prototype / Project
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

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...
Challenges

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

lib.uiowa.edu/studio
@TheStudio_UI