Project Title

Sustainable Digital Scholarship Summer Programs through Consortial Collaboration

Chief Facilitator(s)

- Andrew Janco | Digital Scholarship Librarian, Haverford| ajanco@haverford.edu
- Nabil Kashyap | Librarian for Digital Initiatives and Scholarship, Swarthmore| nkashya1@swarthmore.edu
- Alicia Peaker | Digital Scholarship Specialist, Bryn Mawr| apeaker@brynmawr.edu
- Lora Taub-Pervizpour | Associate Dean for Digital Learning, Muhlenberg| lorataub@muhlenberg.edu

Project Abstract

Digital scholarship and digital humanities summer programs are emerging inside of and with the support of library and IT organizations throughout the PCLA. While each local instantiation is unique, programs and program organizers would greatly benefit from formal opportunities to share best practices and receive feedback on programmatic activities. Further, undergraduate students would greatly benefit from more opportunities to share their evolving digital scholarship and digital humanities research. Combining these two related needs, we propose a series of three in-person, one-day meetings to support and sustain emerging collaborations among PCLA institutions fostering digital scholarship and digital humanities summer programs.

What does this project aim to achieve, and which PCLA goal(s) will it address?

Through this proposal, we seek to foreground the community-building activities among digital scholarship and digital humanities program organizers and among students through a series of in-person meetings. Last summer, students and staff from five PCLA schools gathered at Bryn Mawr College for a one-day showcase of undergraduate DS/DH research. Later in the summer, Ursinus hosted a DH mini-conference, supported by a PCLA sub-grant, with participation from Muhlenberg, Ursinus, and Gettysburg Colleges. Attendees at both events expressed overwhelmingly positive responses. While neither conference was envisioned as an annual event, their successes demonstrate a need to provide undergraduates with more opportunities to share their work. Because digital scholarship and digital humanities research are deeply collaborative, providing our students with models and opportunities to collaborate prepares them for future endeavors. In bringing together the two independently-conceived summer conferences, we are modeling that collaboration.

The goals of this series are twofold: first, to provide a platform to feature and promote undergraduate digital scholarship and digital humanities research, thereby also raising institutional visibility and second, to strengthen an emerging community of PCLA DH/DS program organizers by providing opportunities to share best practices as well as identify and address issues and concerns that would benefit from collaborative problem solving. While the task of creating a community may seem abstract, there are concrete steps we will take to build and sustain relationships among our community members and institutions.

How will this project achieve these goals?

Through this grant, we seek to build on the successes of last summer's showcase and mini-conference by bringing together DH/DS summer program organizers for two meetings—one in early spring and one in late summer—to share best practices, reflect on past successes and challenges, and plan forward to sustainable future collaborations. These meetings would not homogenize our varied programs but rather help each evolve along its own path. The diversity of our program structures reflects the diversity of the constituent members of the PCLA. At the same time, many of us

face similar challenges in establishing new programs and would benefit from opportunities to collaboratively solve problems and propose best practices. In between these two in-person meetings, we would host a one-day conference for our students to share and receive feedback on their evolving digital scholarship and digital humanities research.

In the first, one-day session, held in early spring, faculty and staff from PCLA institutions will:
*Workshop local summer program goals
*Workshop local summer program plans and curricula and assess how well these plans support the program's goals
*Discuss best practices for recruiting and hiring diverse groups of students
*Gather and publish local resources (e.g., tutorials, modules, lists of experts, past student work, and student work produced during the grant period) in a shared digital space
We anticipate 15-20 participants at this session. The meeting would be open to all PCLA institutions, and the following have committed to participating: Bryn Mawr College, Swarthmore College, Haverford College, Gettysburg College, Lafayette College (if the timeline for new hire aligns), Muhlenberg College, and Ursinus College.

In the second session, faculty, staff, and students will gather for a one-day conference. During this conference students will present their completed or ongoing DS/DH work orally or via a digital poster session. We anticipate 50-60 students, and 20-25 faculty and staff members will participate in this conference. The event will be open to all PCLA institutions and may also be attended by Philadelphia area institutions eager to hear about DS/DH liberal arts programs.

In the third and final session, faculty and staff will gather to:
*Assess and revise local program goals
*Reflect on successes, failures, and challenges, culminating in a collaborative report
*Add new resources (e.g., tutorials, modules, lists of experts, past student work) to the shared digital platform established in the first meeting
*Discuss possible future iterations of the student conference, student work, and ways to connect the community during the academic year
We anticipate 15-20 participants at this session. The meeting would be open to all PCLA institutions, and the following have committed to participating: Bryn Mawr College, Swarthmore College, Haverford College, Gettysburg College, Lafayette College, Muhlenberg College, and Ursinus College.

Provide a timeline for completion of your project.

This project entails planning meetings at three separate institutions to be held over a six month period.

December 2017: Asynchronous communications among program organizers to schedule spring meeting
January-February 2018: Muhlenberg prepares to host planning meeting for program organizers
Early March 2018: Spring planning session held at Muhlenberg College
March-June 2018: Bryn Mawr prepares to host undergraduate conference; late summer meeting for program organizers scheduled
June/July: Bryn Mawr hosts undergraduate conference
June-August: Haverford College prepares to host final meeting of program organizers
August: Final meeting of program organizers held
October: A subset of organizers present outcomes at the Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference

What are the key indicators of success for you and the PCLA Board of Presidents?

Increased Student Participation
The success of this summer's meetup demonstrates a need to provide more consortial opportunities for diverse

groups of students to share their digital scholarship and digital humanities research publicly and with peers at other institutions. Because we are opening up participation in the summer conference, we expect the number of students involved, as attendees or presenters, to increase by at least twenty-five percent, from an initial 40 students. Further, we will restructure the conference schedule to include a digital poster presentation session, which allows more time for additional students to present their research.

Report on Outcomes & Best Practices
At the final meeting, program organizers will be invited to record takeaways and best practices that would be most beneficial for their respective programs. This cumulative and collaborative report, produced through reflection and problem-solving, will be shared with our respective institutions and will be made available through our shared digital space. Further, a group of program organizers will also propose to present the outcomes of the grant at the Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference in fall of 2018.

Increased PCLA Program Organizers' Participation
We expect increased participation from additional PCLA schools and their constituents both through the in-person meetings and through asynchronous access to the published collection of shared resources developed during the first meeting and added to throughout the six months of the grant period and beyond.

What is the potential for this project beyond the Opportunity Grant timeline?

In our initial meeting, we will select a shared digital platform or platforms that will enable the exchange of resources during the grant period and will sustain communication and the sharing of resources beyond the grant period. Many planning documents related to organizing the student conference were created and templatized at Bryn Mawr this past summer. Additional documents will be created during the course of planning the 2018 summer conference, with an eye towards providing future hosts with packaged and reusable content. These documents will be included on the shared digital platform and will be available for PCLA constituent members to consult.

During the final meeting, program organizers will develop a post-grant plan for sustaining the community, including the shared resources site. This plan may include rotating the student conference to other PCLA schools, integrating the conference into existing events (such as Keystone DH or the Re:Humanities student conference), scheduling regular in-person or digital meetings of program organizers during the academic year, or communicating through an asynchronous digital platform such as a listserv or Slack team.

Provide a budget and an explanation of the use of the funds.

All expenses will be for the planning and hosting of the three events outlined in the proposal. For participants (including students) traveling from greater than 100 miles away, one night in a hotel the night before the event will be provided. Host institutions will contribute event space and staff time towards the organization of the event. A graduate assistant from Bryn Mawr will also assist with logistics and communication for all three events.

The full request of $8,185.00 can be best viewed in the appendix provided.[1]

---

[1] Consortium staff took this action so that the committee may see the detailed budgetary plan laid out by this proposal group.