

Digital Collections Discussion Group Minutes

ALA Annual 2018, New Orleans, LA

Saturday, June 23rd from 10:30am-11:30am

Attendees: 36 including presenters

1. Digital Collections Group progress & check-in
 - a. Current total membership of listserv: 85
 - b. Co-convenor Michelle Urberg begins her term on 7/1
 - c. Thanks to Sherri Brown from the University of Kansas for the idea for the program and help planning
 - d. Opportunities for participation: topic leaders, future conveners, people interested in helping with planning webinars. Those interested should contact Suzanna or Michelle.
 - e. Goals of the discussion group, i.e. best topics, presentations, webinars etc. What would benefit you as a member? What's our mission? Feedback from attendees included:
 - i. Michelle & Suzanna talked about opportunities for training on skill sets and interviews/how to identify stakeholders in digital collections projects.
 - ii. Collections available for people to do digital scholarship.
 - iii. Finding data librarians - what conversations are about data indexing, data storage, finding solutions in data security, etc. What kinds of collections? Public, private.
 - iv. Digital Special Collections Discussion group under RBMS - is it different or the same? Also Digital Preservation Interest Group, or various other IGs. Discussed that the group needed to find a clear niche/mission.
 - v. Digital collection development - collection development of digital materials, either freely available or licensed materials that we can host locally.
 - vi. Retention policies around digital collections.
 - vii. Purchase and harvesting or downloading.
 - viii. What do researchers doing empirical research need?
 - ix. Ongoing challenge: researchers who want to do a project using newspapers as primary source data and often it's data mining they want to do, but sometimes more reading articles and coding them. Researchers have expectations of the availability of digital content. What they're coming to the library for is the information in digital form that they can use. Host of challenges. Never really sure where it fits.
 - x. Digitizing historical fashion collections - community college. Dealing with a grant and hired an archivist. Doesn't know if this is the group to help with policies.
 - xi. Ethics of digital collections - issues of what gets digitized, what gets left out. The ethics of fully open or not.

- xii. Accessibility of digital collections. 5 years ago, the goal was to get images online. Now it needs to be fully 508 compliant. Changing mindsets that the project is bigger than many expect.
 - xiii. Question about how many have digital in their title or job description? Most had digital in their title or in their job description. Probably space to address those without digital in their title or description.
 - xiv. Best software alternatives for digital collections? How to display complex collections. How do you capture the connections / context of a digital object that is inherent with the physical object?
2. Presentations on Funding Digital Collections Projects included one from Bethany Davis, Digital Processing Coordinator Librarian at the University of Iowa Libraries, who detailed her experiences digitizing the Keith/Albee Vaudeville Theater Collection Documents with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and Lauren Jensen, Digital Services Librarian at Burke Memorial Library at Spring Hill College, who presented her experiences digitizing the college's student newspaper *The Springhillian* using a local Friends of the Spring Hill College association grant.
 3. Q&A session for the presenters concluded the session.