Digital Humanities Task Force Proposal

Alex Watkins and Thea Lindquist presented a proposal for a Digital Humanities Task Force to Management Team.

- **About digital Humanities**
  - Digital Humanities is using data in the humanities—using technology to do research
  - Using technology to visualize research—using technology to communicate research
  - Building digital library, exhibition, technology, tool, or other new form of scholarly communication
  - Relatively new, but becoming standard part of humanities work
  - Where do Libraries fit in? Zotero, EEBO, Hathi Trust, World War I Collection
  - Our resources & collections are being used to bring out new connections
  - Also connected with data services & scholarly communications
  - Gap in technology & support and a need that is unfilled
  - Chance to integrate into new research process—become collaborative partner in the process
  - Improve and expose our own digital collections

- **Proposed Task Force & the work it would do**
  - A vision: Integrate the Libraries into Digital Humanities research on campus & to bring digital research into our culture
  - Mission: serve advanced digital research needs in the humanities
  - To be a real collaborative partner
  - Who might participate?
  - A Libraries-wide initiative: connection with SCWG, SPWG, and UXWG
  - The task force would be selected from those who have contributed to the proposal and interested volunteers. There are already people working on projects that are related in various departments in the Libraries.
  - Goals
    - Participatory process to identify campus needs;
    - Proposal outlining how we might support them;
    - Campus-wide DH Interest Group (e.g., CHA, OIT, A&H departments, ATLAS);
    - Pilot project to demonstrate what might be done and to determine what types of resources are necessary and to give us something to show at the end and with an eye to scalability
  - Two-Tiered Approach
    - Start small and look for quick wins
      - Promote tools in current resources (for example, more and more vendors will have digital humanities tools)
      - Create/Adapt Tools to Increase Engagement with our own digital collections (for example: tag cloud, map, timeline in WWI Collection)
      - Leverage (lightweight) tools to increase engagement with digital collections (like UCLA did with dipity) shows new patterns and allows us to organize materials in new ways
      - Exploit & grow staff expertise (identify & make the most of it)
    - If warranted, we could develop a more formal framework
      - Explore & vet tools
      - Create digital editions with EEBO texts
      - Serve as a resource for campus and Libraries needs
      - Help establish a digital scholarship/data lab
  - Many other libraries are supporting digital humanities

MT asked Thea and Alex questions about the proposal and discussed the proposal at length.
Management Team supports this proposal in principle and looks forward to seeing a revision in the next month or so.

E-mail action items

MT approved Dec 31 hours as proposed by the Service Points Working Group and Building Management.

The Libraries will be closed to the public on Monday, December 31. Libraries personnel who are not on leave can work from 8AM to 5PM by gaining access to Norlin through the Commons entrance, using the CCure Buffcard Swipe System. Libraries personnel could then access the Libraries by signing in with the east gate guard who would let them in the door. East gate guard could provide access to East Elevator which will probably be locked. Access to the branches would be determined by each branch and posted to Norlin List. Staff would need to exit the libraries through the Commons by 5PM. Notice of this arrangement will be sent to Norlin and Non-Libraries lists, well in advance (2 weeks) so people could work out any problems they might have with their BuffOne cards. A reminder should be sent out about Dec. 26.

Departmental items

- Bruce made a proposal for additional positions to Archives & Special Collections (ASC) to address critical intellectual access deficiencies regarding the libraries' unique collections.
  - ASC requests two OEP positions and a staff upgrade from part-time to full-time to address critical intellectual access deficiencies to support our unique collections. ASC holds vast photographic and print archival and manuscript collections dating to the 19th century that remain hidden, unprocessed, un-cataloged, and in many cases in a precarious state of preservation.
    - **Photographic Archivist:** to arrange and describe, preserve, and make accessible the libraries’ vast and fragile holdings of photographic images. Most of the estimated 1,000,000 images remain hidden, unprocessed, and un-cataloged. These comprise exceedingly rare images and constitute some of our most valuable primary sources.
    - **Processing Manager:** to lead standardization of arrangement and description of tens of thousands of feet of manuscript and archival collections. This position would serve to address the massive backlog of unprocessed and hidden collections, standardize and professionalize their arrangement and description, and direct the implementation of Archivists Tool Kit.
    - **Research and Teaching Associate:** An upgrade of Susan Guinn-Chipman’s current part-time positions to full-time is requested. This position is needed to perform instruction ad oversee ASC’s instruction and outreach programs across the units, as well as manage exhibits scheduling and museum loan processes. This position would also serve as a member of the archival processing team and staff the unit’s reference desk.

- MT discussed this proposal, and ExCom will discuss the proposal.

Working Group Debrief

MT intended to debrief on the Working Group open session, but ran out of time. This discussion will take place at the December 4 meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- December 4 *(Tentative agenda items: Debrief/Next Steps on Working Groups, Course release discussion, E-Reserves, Outlook calendaring, Future directions for IR)*

Management team minutes are available online: [http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/adminservices/management/index.htm](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/adminservices/management/index.htm)