Presentation Overview

1. Operating a Digital Scholarship Lab
2. Organizational Structure & Context
3. Digital Scholarship Models
One attempt at defining digital scholarship...

"Digital Scholarship is a mode of work that is at its core collaborative, typically project-based, prone toward openness, dependent on technological infrastructure, and predisposed towards new or emerging research methods."

But what's a digital scholarship lab/centre?

“Imagine an ideal environment at Brock that will support your research in a digital context (eg. using digital resources, tools, methods). What would this environment or facility be like? What would be happening there? What could you do there? What would draw you to come there?”
Synthesis of focus group results

Tech infrastructure
- "Bedrock", "The Right Stuff"
- Computing, HPC, platforms, digital making

Expertise
- "Mike Holmes attitude"
- Consulting, partnering, connecting

Space
- "The Farm", "Kitchen Table", "Beehive"
- Modular, clusters, flexible, structured, collaborative

Programming
- "En-lightening"
- Sharing opportunities, workshops, conferences, demos, courses
Competing Paradigms

1. As Research Institute
   • Center for Digital Humanities (Brock)

2. As Centre
   • Center for Digital Scholarship (Brown)

3. As Distributed Practice
   • Hunt Library (NCSU)

4. As Collaboration
   • Sherman Centre (McMaster)

The Timeline

- Digital Scholarship Lab Proposal – Jan. 2015
- Development of Brock LINC Proposal - 2015/16
- Awarded SIF funding for Brock LINC – Nov. 2016
- Establishment of DSL Advisory Group – Fall 2016
- Brock LINC construction begins – April 2017
- Anticipated opening – March/April 2019
Organizational Structure & Context
DSL Branding

Brock University Library

Brock University Library
Archives & Special Collections

Brock University Library
Digital Scholarship Lab

Brock University Library
Map, Data & GIS Library

Brock University Library
Makerspace

Brock University Library
James A. Gibson Library
Brock University Library Departments

1. Collections
2. Archives and Special Collections
3. Library Systems
4. Liaison
5. Access Services
6. Map, Data, GIS Library

Digital Scholarship Lab
Who Reports to Who

Acting Head, Map, Data, GIS Library/DSL

- DSL Technician
- DSL Coordinator
- DSL Co-op Student
Service Point Staffing

Acting Head, Map, Data, GIS Library/DSL

- DSL Technician
- DSL Coordinator
- DSL Co-op Student
- Student Assistants

Other Library Staff

- Systems Department
- Liaison Department
- Map, Data, GIS Library

Central ITS

Compute Canada
Who are Other Library Staff?

- Head, Library Systems
- Data Librarian
- Metadata Librarian
- Geospatial/GIS Librarian
- Geospatial Data Coordinator
DSL Advisory Committee:

1. University Librarian
2. Associate University Librarian
3. Acting Head, Map, Data, GIS Library/DSL
4. Head, Library Systems
5. Data Librarian
6. Metadata Librarian

Library

1. Central ITS
2. Compute Canada
3. Sharcnet
4. Centre for Digital Humanities

Partners
Summary: Organizational Structure Collaboration!

1. Acting Head Map, Data, GIS Library/DSL
2. DSL staff report through Acting Head
3. Staffing of the DSL space by:
   1. DSL Staff
   2. Library Staff
   3. Student Assistants
   4. Partners (Central ITS, Compute Canada)
4. Advisory Committee also has individuals from:
   1. Centre for Digital Humanities
   2. Sharcnet
Why so much Partnering & Collaboration?

1. Programming requires diverse expertise
2. Skills lie in many people on campus, both in and out of the library
3. To be a part of the overall Digital Scholarship conversation across campus
4. Programming:
   1. Data Use & Reuse
   2. Research Data Management
   3. Data Visualization
   4. GIS & Mapping
   5. High Performance Computing
More Collaboration: the Space

• The DSL is:
  • Physically going into the Rankin Family Pavilion
  • A part of the LINC Programming that will be housed in the Rankin Family Pavilion
Rendering: Aerial View
Rendering: Front View
Rankin Family Building at Brock

1. LINC Programming:
   1. Learning
   2. Innovation
   3. Networking
   4. Collaboration

2. Multiple Brock Services points within this space – together make LINC Programming
LINC Programming within the Rankin Family Building

1. Digital Scholarship Lab (Library)
2. Makerspace (Library)
3. Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Sensory Reality Consumer Laboratory, known as R3CL
4. Career Zone
5. Venture Development (Incubator)
6. Goodman MBA Consulting
7. CIMEE - Centre for Innovation, Management and Enterprise Education (Goodman)
Collaborating on LINC Programming

1. LINC OG (LINC Operations Group) - reporting to the Vice-President, Research
2. Building a LINC Operational Plan
3. Considerations: LINC-related Certifications & Experiences
4. Discussions on: hours, room bookings, security, student experience, tracking, assessment
Organizational Structure and Context: All about Collaborations and Partnering

1. DSL within the LINC on campus
2. Staffing the DSL
3. Supporting the DSL (Advisory Committee)
4. With the intention to be the campus hub for digital scholarship and research collaborations
Operating a Digital Scholarship Lab
How we do things

Tech infrastructure
- Jupyter
- Omeka
- GitHub

Expertise
- Drop in with local experts
- Consultations

Space
- 1100 SQ FT
- 8 Terminals
- Visualization wall

Programming
- Workshops
- Symposia
- Guest Speakers
What does this mean in the day to day?

• We are in the business of cultivating ideas

• We can do interesting things in interesting ways

• Collaborations
Cultivating Ideas

• Workshops, workshops, workshops

• Use social media *a lot*
Interesting Things in Interesting Ways

• We are chronicling the opening of the space via a Podcast

• We are building large portions of our offerings with GitHub

• Flexibility of having everything as a Pilot project
Collaborations

• Door aren't even open yet...

• Reputation precedes us, projects have begun in earnest

• We treat it like improv: **Yes and v. No**

  Thanks
What's still to come

- Docker
  - Virtualized services specific to project work
  - On demand project support

- Jupyter
  - Computational Notebooks to teach everything under the sun
  - The vehicle of reproducible science

- Mini Cluster
  - Via Microsoft's HPC-Pack
  - Batch processing or true parallel computing
Thank you! Questions?