A Community Without a Space: Digital Scholarship at Brock University

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First a word on 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."

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 – December 2018*

* Funny story about that
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But Then...

November 2018
Timeline P.2

• Acting Head of the space appointed – July 2018
• Staff hired for the space – October / November 2018
• Co-op student to start – January 2019
What to do?

• Service Model
• Develop Infrastructure
• Workshops
• Projects
Service Model

We Can Help You With:

- Managing Your Research Data
- Developing Your Digital Project
- Finding and Using Data
- Visualizing Your Data
- Mapping Your Data (GIS)
- Processing Your Data (HPC)
Develop Infrastructure

• All Things on GitHub
  • Tutorials
  • Data
  • Collaboration

• Virtualized services using Portainer
Workshops

• Conducted **35** workshops and events
• Mostly on platforms & software
• Also film screenings and symposia
• A few iterations of Software Carpentry
Workshops p.2

• Asked Collaborators to help
• Important to talk to your colleagues about what you’re doing too
• 4 staff focused sessions held
Projects - Omeka

- Web exhibits have far reach
Projects - Grants

- Collaboration with Applied Health Sciences
- Match of Minds Grant to develop the Niagara Sport Database
- Hosted on MySQL server run by DSL and Library
Projects – Piloting New Platforms

Jupyter Notebook
- Amazing teaching and analysis tool
- HTML pages with embedded code

Cluster Computing via HPC Pack
- Super computing lite
- All terminals in Library working at night
Projects - PodCast

• We wanted to get the word out that support for digital scholarship is being developed at Brock
• We support non-traditional outputs, let’s make one too
• 17 episodes and counting
Projects - Marketing

Digital Scholarship Lab seeks to bring new wave of innovation to Brock

A Day in the Life of a Digital Scholar

The Digital Scholarship Lab (DSL), which will be launched to push the Brock community to a higher level of innovation, is spearheaded by the Brock Library in collaboration with Compute Canada and SHARCNET.
But then...
Seriously Though...

• The delay ultimately was a good thing

• It allowed us to float the idea of digital scholarship support without being tied to staffing a space and the logistics associated with that

• We operated like a street team, building hype and support for the idea

• We found out some what we should avoid right from the get go
Thanks

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