

Texas State University Libraries Technology Roadmap

Pathways to ARL Membership Whitepaper

Ray Uzwyszyn, June 2018

Introduction

There are several pathways for Texas State University Libraries to show congruency with ARL libraries leading edge technology perspectives. Each of the following options may be pursued singly or together with others, mixing and matching plans. Pursuing any of these areas will expand potential towards ARL technology perspectives. Broad general areas of Digital Scholarship, Digitization of Wittliff Collections Online and Leadership in New Technology areas are introduced and then subdivided into project types and yearly benchmarks of success.

Digital Scholarship

Faculty Scholarly Research. The division of Digital and Web Services has been very successful over the past four years in larger innovative digitization projects with University Archives and Special collections. The next stage of this development is to extend successes and possibilities to faculty to begin a digital scholarship program with faculty and their research. These projects would focus on building online infrastructure for faculty research projects (i.e. digital libraries and online archives).

Present Challenges: Faculty are difficult to reach. A strong focus on marketing to faculty and motivating them with a digital fellows' program would help in bringing faculty on board with library digitization services. This type of incentive structure could be incorporated similar to present library faculty funding programs (i.e. electronic resource grant, new faculty funding etc.). For a model of an incentivized digital fellows program see Appendix A: University of Miami Model, 15k grant model).

- 1) **Digital Scholarship Research Project Types:**
 - 1) Online Exhibits of Faculty Research, spectrum of artifact types: i.e. texts, images, data, video/audio.
 - 2) Digital Libraries and Archives of Faculty Generated or Faculty Owned Material.
 - 3) Contextualized Data Repositories of Faculty Material or Faculty Specialized Centers (Texas Data Repository)
 - 4) Multimedia Image or Video Repositories of Faculty Research Material (IIIF Viewer)

Yearly Benchmarks of Success

2019-2020 – One faculty research project produced. Online archive or exhibit with infrastructure workflows. Marketing plan to faculty worked out. National Conference Presentation or Published Article.

2020-2021 – Two faculty scholarly research digitization projects/collaborations started. Incentivized Digital Fellows Program set-up. National conference presentation or published article.

2021-2022 - Two faculty research projects begun. One project completed. One grant application/collaboration pursued between library and faculty member (i.e. NEH, IMLS, NSF). National conference presentation or published article

Wittliff Special Collections Online

The William Wittliff Collections contain a range of special collections and archives worthy of digitization and national ARL perspectives. Strong digitization potential is manifest ranging from online exhibitions to digital multimedia archives to pairing archives with higher end technologies (i.e. IIIF, Mirador Viewer, Multimedia video archives etc.). Challenges include changing perspectives towards online projects, working on obtaining copyright or partial copyright for online reproduction and education with regards to other parallel ARL institutions digitization efforts (i.e. Ransom Center Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

Expanding Wittliff Collections Online. A stronger digital focus on the Wittliff Collections in terms of digital scholarship possibilities and expanding this area in terms of national level collections online would significantly add to the ARL candidacy for Texas State University Libraries. Key collections would need to be identified, rights cleared, and collections placed online or digitized for scholars.

Example Projects

Cormac McCarthy Project - Digitization of extant Manuscripts for Cormac McCarthy and placing the Manuscripts so versions can be compared using the IIIF Framework and offline terminal. After a prototype, this could also be extended as a grant worthy project.

South by Southwest Writers Collection. Digitizing manuscripts of other luminaries of the SWWC collections to be placed online (i.e. Larry McMurtry, Sam Shepard, William Wittliff, Sandra Cisneros etc.). Projects would be contextualized by appropriate scholars and curators to present online exhibits and archives as both digital scholarship and marketing tools

Texas Music Digitization. Digitization of music collections and placing collections online with online exhibits and audio archives. Collections online could range from Willie Nelson to Stevie Ray Vaughan to selections from the collection related to Tejano Music and biographies. i.e. Selena) Rights would need to be worked out and placing select works online would add a valuable marketing tool to the physical collections holdings

Southwestern & Mexican Photography Digitization. Major Imaging projects using the IIIF viewer and

contextualized sites/photographers of the Southwestern and Mexican Photography Collections (i.e. Keith Carter, Mariana Yampolsky, Kate Breakey, Graciela Iturbide, Yolande Andrede etc.). Cross-cultural partnerships could be pursued with other national institutions (i.e. Mexico) and collaborations worked out. (Models, UT Austin, Guatemalan, Brazilian and Mexican Human Rights Digitization Projects)

Lonesome Dove Project - Multimedia project devoted to digitization and contextualization of materials related to Lonesome dove with digitized interviews. (Similar to Severo Perez film project but on a larger scale fitting to Lonesome Dove)

Yearly Benchmarks of Success

2019-2020 - One major Wittliff Project (Digital archive or library) completed. Major Grant Application applied for. National Conference Presentation or published article.

2020-2021 – Two major Wittliff Projects (i.e. Music, Film, Literary) started. Two grant applications or one successful grant. National Conference Presentation or published article.

2021-2022 – Two major Wittliff Projects completed from two different areas. One grant application. National conference presentation or published article.

New Technology Infrastructure Leadership

ARL Technology Infrastructure Leadership Focus. This technology leadership pathway focuses on building the Alkek library Collections and Digital Services Technology Infrastructure to lead R&D development congruent with other ARL Libraries (and more specifically Texas Institutions). This technology build out would necessarily involve leading edge new technology software, infrastructures and technology stacks congruent with ARL leadership directions (i.e. working out these models, workflows and paradigms to gauge applicability for other libraries). Because this work is necessarily more R&D and showing associated leadership risks, characteristics take a more research and development approach.

Example Projects and Software

- 1) Avalon – Digital Video Projects (i.e. Austin Film Festival)
- 2) New digital library infrastructure investigation (i.e. Sanverra/Hydrax/Fedora/Hyku/Solr Digital Library/Indexing infrastructure software Projects to form unique stacks of technology for digital archives)
- 3) Hyku in a Box. Migrations of present collections from D-space
- 4) Blacklight/Geolight – Application of new front end interface projects
- 5) Linked Data/Special Collections/Archives initiatives online. Working out Texas State’s own unique Linked Data infrastructure.
- 6) IIF Viewer – partnering with other universities with the IIF Viewer possibilities and/or “From the Page” annotation transcription software

7) Data Repository/Data Visualization Infrastructure Services

These projects involve both new technology and digitization but also migration of existing projects (i.e. Ashes of Waco, Panther Hall) to new infrastructures. These would be used as proof of concepts and case studies and presented on at conferences and published as articles.

Challenges: Because of present Digital and Web Services workloads, a new programmer to focus on this more leading-edge software and the time required for implementation, R&D would be required. To also note, as technology infrastructure is worked out for the 'learning commons' this area and the scholarly research areas could be combined productively with new learning commons technology possibilities (i.e. 3D Visualization, 3D Digital Archives etc.) to begin investigation of these new possibilities.

Yearly Benchmarks of Success

2019-2020 – One leading edge technology or infrastructure adopted with documented workflows. National conference presentation or published article.

2020-2021 – One leading edge technology adopted with documented workflows. National conference presentation or published article. Grant application for technology infrastructure.

2021-2022 - One leading edge technology adopted with documented workflows. National conference presentation or published article. One successful infrastructure grant (IMLS).

Conclusions

There are many pathways towards ARL directions and leadership perspectives with regards to library technology and strong possibilities with major pathways of Digital Scholarship, Wittliff Collections Online and New Technology Leadership Infrastructures. Each of these pathways could be used to strengthen congruency with ARL perspectives, either uniquely or a combination of pathways. There are both challenges and possibilities to creating these directions. While these models lay out more assertive 3-5-year timeliness a longer 5-7 multiyear timeline may also be used to develop these areas more organically.

Appendix A – University of Miami Digital Library Fellows Request for Proposals

Overview

The University of Miami Libraries are initiating a Digital Library Fellows program to create innovative new electronic scholarly content by awarding grants to faculty interested in developing digital resources. The Libraries will provide funding and technological support to UM faculty for the creation and online delivery of scholarly electronic resources. The Libraries are seeking projects that will have a significant impact on teaching, learning, and research, and encourage projects which include student participation.

Projects will result in open access on-line resources designed to have long-term relevance to UM faculty and students. To ensure long-term access to resources created, all digital content will be produced in adherence to state-of-the-art digital standards and technical specifications.

Eligibility

The competitive Digital Library Fellowships are open to full-time, regular (tenured or tenure track) University of Miami faculty interested in developing innovative digital resources. The fellowship is limited to Coral Gables campus faculty.

Funding

Up to two Fellowships will be awarded with a maximum of \$15,000 for one year.

Project Selection

Selected projects will result in the creation of scholarly, internet-based digital resources that meet the following criteria: Represents a new and innovative type of resource or provides access to a traditional resource in new ways; Generates a new user experience which would not be possible via access to a print resource; Contributes to the teaching and learning at the academic level of content relevant to the University of Miami student body as well as the international scholarly community.

Proposal Format

The proposal must include the following parts:

- one paragraph abstract of the project;
- A two to three-page narrative describing the proposal;
- A current CV of the applicant;
- A detailed project budget;
- An outline of participants and their respective levels of engagement;
- A realistic time line for the accomplishment of stated project goals;
- Letters of support from the applicant's departmental Chair and Dean.

Proposal Tips

Writing the Narrative. The narrative section should describe both the relevance of the project to the University of Miami, general ideas of implementation, and include a brief description of how the digital content created by the project relates to teaching, scholarship and research. Projects that make use of digital images, audio, video, text and incorporate a spectrum of multimedia in innovative ways are particularly encouraged, and the narrative should specify whether the content to be presented already exists in a digital form or needs to be converted from an analog format.

Copyright Control. All applicants should generally review the UM Libraries Digital Initiatives Copyright Guidelines, and make sure that they resolve or adequately plan for the resolution of any potential copyright challenges in their proposals before applying. If in doubt, it is a good idea to briefly arrange a meeting with the Director of Digital Initiatives for both copyright and preliminary direction

Sound Budgeting. Strong preference will be given to projects with realistic budget proposals and pragmatic timelines. Applicants should consider the scope of the work to be done, the tools required to complete the work, and the wages paid to project workers, as these often make up the majority of a given project's budget. While budgeting for student workers, on the undergraduate and/or graduate level, is strongly encouraged, applicants are strongly discouraged from including budget allocations which will contribute funds to their own salaries.

Library Participation. Applicants are encouraged to craft proposals which would support the University of Miami Libraries mission to advance innovation in information technology and scholarly communication. For more information on these objectives, visit the Mission Statement page on the UM Libraries website.

Work Space. Work space for student workers and work stations for projects will be made available to Digital Fellows. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with their departments to provide additional office space and work stations to project contributors if necessary. For projects working directly with locally held archival materials, space may also be made available in the Libraries for the project principals for office work.

Consultations. Faculty with questions about project plans or the proposal process are welcome beforehand.

Review Procedures

A committee of internal and external reviewers made up of university higher level administrators (Deans, Provost, Library Director) and experts in the field of digital projects will review each proposal and select those that best meet the stated goals of the Digital Library Fellows program.

Award Criteria

Recipients will be expected to share their experiences with other faculty through a colloquium sponsored by the Libraries, as well as authoring a final written article, and acknowledging the Libraries in any publications, printed materials, or websites that result from the grant. Partnership money will also be made ready between the libraries and departments for innovative 2-day conference type events to promote synergies Fellows are expected to work closely in partnership with the Libraries various areas of expertise (subject specialists, technologists, metadata cataloguers, project managers) in developing a detailed and innovative timetable and creative plan of work in order to ensure successful completion of their projects, and to develop a presence on the Libraries [Digital Initiatives website](#).

Intellectual Property Rights

Working with Legacy Materials. Digital Fellowship applicants should ensure that they hold general rights to publish the materials in their proposals in an open access on-line format or that the materials are within fair use copyright strictures. In practice, this means that Fellows work with materials in the public domain, own copyright to the materials in question, or allocate funds to purchase permission from the respective copyright holder to publish the materials online.

Creating new Intellectual Content. Intellectual property rights for content produced during Digital Fellowships, including digital files, software, hardware, or other innovations, are governed by the policies outlined in the "Patent and Copyright" section of the UM Faculty Manual.