You Built It, but Can You Talk About It?

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Abstract
Gettysburg College and Bucknell University have adopted library-led summer research fellowships for undergraduates that focus on teaching research skills with digital methods. In the summer of 2017, Gettysburg and Bucknell's student cohorts met to learn how to create elevator speeches for their research topics; R.C. Miessler (Gettysburg), and Carrie Pirmann and Courtney Paddick (Bucknell), talk about the structure and goals of their summer programs, with a focus on their combined session and the importance of helping students learn how to talk about their research.

Keywords
digital scholarship, digital humanities, Musselman Library, summer fellowship

Disciplines
Digital Humanities | Library and Information Science

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You Built It, But Can You Talk About It? Effective Elevator Speeches for Undergraduate Digital Scholars

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Digital Scholarship Summer Programs: The Basics

● Curricular-based summer internship programs
● Programs are librarian-led; focus is on student-driven research rather than faculty-driven research
● Goals
  ○ Students learn about digital scholarship methods and tools, and undertake an independent, digitally-based research project.
  ○ Process-oriented, focus on research as well as tools / methods
  ○ Students engage in community of practice
Research & Presentation Go Hand-in-Hand

- Both programs have a public presentation component at conclusion
- Students are also encouraged to present at conferences or other external venues
- Students need to learn HOW to talk about their research
Community of Practice

“Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.” (Lave and Wenger, 1991)
Elevator Speech Workshop

1. I am __________, and I have been __________ this summer as a __________ at __________ University/College.

2. Based on what I’ve learned about __________, I have ________________. By using digital tools, we can ________________.

3. Specifically, my project ________________. Now that I’ve done this part, my next step is to ________________.

4. You have been a supporter of undergraduate research, and I thank you for ________________. I would like to ________________ to build upon my project.

In order to do this, I hope you’ll ________________. If we are able to move forward, I expect to see these benefits for students: ________________.

5. I know that’s a lot of information. I hope we will be able to ________________.

Modeled after Ron Hoff’s *Say it in Six: How to Say Exactly What you Mean in Six Minutes or Less* (1996)
Putting it into action
Thank you!

Gettysburg College

https://dssf.musselmanlibrary.org/2016/
https://dssf.musselmanlibrary.org/2017/
https://dssf.musselmanlibrary.org/2018/ (Coming Soon!)

Bucknell University

http://dssrf.blogs.bucknell.edu/
http://dssrf2018.blogs.bucknell.edu/ (Coming Soon!)

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