6-29-2020

'Shut Up and Take the Mellon Money!': Adapting a Library-Led Digital Humanities Program to Accommodate Grant Funding.

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Abstract

This presentation discusses how the team of librarians who facilitate Musselman Library's Digital Scholarship Summer Fellowship program have negotiated the shift from local to grant funding, focusing on how we have organized our team and adapted program outcomes, assessment, and reporting to fit the requirements of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Presidential Leadership Grant. We review some unexpected challenges when working with grant funding and how we have successfully worked within the parameters of the grant to fit our needs locally.

Keywords

Digital Humanities, Libraries, Grant Funding

Disciplines

Digital Humanities | Higher Education | Information Literacy | Library and Information Science

Comments

This talk was included in a larger group of presetations hosted by the ACRL DSS Digital Humanities Discussion Group entitled, "Constructing Digital Humanities Grant Proposals as a Librarian."

"SHUT UP AND TAKE THE MELLON MONEY!"

Adapting a Library-Led Digital Humanities Program to Accommodate Grant Funding

R.C. Miessler and Kevin Moore, Gettysburg College

ACRL DSS DHDG Webcast: Constructing Digital Humanities Grant Proposals as a Librarian
Monday, June 29, 2020

Image by AgentStrix, https://www.reddit.com/user/AgentStrix/
Image source: https://i.redd.it/tmk0rp4mrz331.png

Introductions

- R.C. Miessler, Systems Librarian
- Kevin Moore, Research & Instruction Librarian

Thank You!

- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Gettysburg College
  - Office of the President
  - Department of Foundation, Government, & Faculty Grants
- Pennsylvania Consortium for the Liberal Arts
- Robin Wagner, Dean of Musselman Library
- Janelle Wertzberger, Assistant Dean of Musselman Library
- Library Digital Scholarship Committee
  - Clint Baugess, John Dettinger, Mary Elmquist, Amy Lucadamo, Catherine Perry, Donna Skekel

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Digital Humanities at Gettysburg College

- No Digital Humanities center or curricular mandate
- Handful of faculty doing their own projects
- Question of how to get more faculty interested in doing DH …

Digital Scholarship Summer Fellowship

- 8-week summer program, library-led, student-focused
- Student fellows are hired during the academic year to support classes
- Program managed by the library's Digital Scholarship Committee
- Costs
  - $3,500 stipend + $500 summer housing per DSSF
  - Food, summer meetups, stipends for outside speakers
  - $8.50/hour during the academic year, 4-6 hours per week per student
- Funding – Years 1 & 2
  - Provost's Office
  - Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning
  - Library endowments

Grant Funding

Looking to sustain an existing, institutionally funded program

- **Spring 2016:** IMLS Sparks! Ignition Grant
    - Incomplete match between program and grant goals
- **Spring 2017:** PCLA Arthur Vining Davis Teaching and Learning Award
    - Regional community of practice
- **Fall 2017:** Mellon Presidential Leadership Grant
    - Adapting program to match grant goals

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Adaptations

- **Requirement: support humanistic inquiry**
  - Tailor student project selection
  - Revisit summer curriculum
- **Requirement: emphasize faculty development**
  - Focus academic year work on faculty-designed projects
- **Requirement: prepare annual report**
  - Track budget in detail
  - Record all examples of impact

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What's Next?

- Provost's Office committed funding for the summer program after grant funding is exhausted
- Campus shutdown disrupted plans for full in-person experience in 2020
- Mellon funding is extended for another year

DSSF Sites and Further Reading

- Digital Scholarship Summer Fellowship sites (includes curriculum, reflections by fellows, and project links)
  - 2016
  - 2017
  - 2018
  - 2019
- Wertzberger, Janelle and R.C. Miessler. "Dreaming Big: Library-Led Digital Scholarship for Undergraduates at a Small Institution."
- Contact us!
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