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From Bankers to Farmers: Finding a Sustainable Model for an Undergraduate Summer DH Program

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From Bankers to Farmers: Finding a Sustainable Model for an Undergraduate Summer DH Program

Abstract

Librarians R.C. Miessler and Kevin Moore provide an overview of how summer Digital Humanities programs at Musselman Library entered their last year of grant funding with an eye toward securing a commitment of institutional support. The presenters will reflect upon the overall sustainability of Musselman Library's Digital Scholarship Summer Fellowship program and share their plans for ongoing management of the program.

Keywords

digital humanities, digital scholarship

Disciplines

Digital Humanities | Higher Education | Online and Distance Education

Comments

Presented at the Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference, October 19, 2021.

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From Bankers to Farmers



Finding a Sustainable Model for an Undergraduate Summer DH Program

R.C. Miessler and Kevin Moore, Gettysburg College
Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference
October 19, 2021





Many kinds of people made the trip to Oregon.

You may:

1. Be a banker from Boston
2. Be a carpenter from Ohio
3. Be a farmer from Illinois
4. Find out the differences between these choices

What is your choice? _

Your Bankers



R.C. Miessler
Systems and Digital
Initiatives Librarian



Kevin Moore
Research, Instruction, and
Online Learning Librarian

Mellon Presidential Leadership Grant

- Transition from institutional to grant funds
- Fully funded 3 cohorts of Digital Scholarship Summer Fellows
- Fully funded 2–4 students to support digital project work during the academic years
- Included funds for professional development
- Included funds for paying speaker fees



Image: <https://www.died-of-dysentery.com/oregon-trail.html>

Kansas River crossing
April 4, 1848



You do not have enough
money to pay for the ferry.



Press SPACE BAR to continue

Summer DH Pre-COVID

- In-person experience
- All digital tool instruction took place during scheduled workshops
- Fellows focused exclusively on their own projects
- Fellows wrote weekly blog posts in response to DH readings



Members of the 2018 DSSF cohort work on metadata and Omeka in Special Collections and College Archives.

March 2020

- Campus shutdown
- At the time, interviewing students for the #dssf20 cohort
- April – we decided to not convert the summer program into a remote experience
- Mellon grant extended to September 2021



Image: <https://www.died-of-dysentery.com/oregon-trail.html>

Summer 2020 — The DH Toolkit

- Set of tutorials for digital tools, user experience, and copyright
- Collaborative effort over 10 weeks
 - Emma Lewis '20
 - Emma Poff '22
 - R.C. Miessler
 - Kevin Moore
- Ongoing development of tutorials for new tools and updates to existing materials



Image: <https://www.died-of-dysentery.com/oregon-trail.html>

Summer 2021 — #DSSF21

- 6 students: half residential, half remote
- All sessions done via Zoom
- Flipped workshop format – prerecorded lectures and live activities
- New for 2021 – fellows worked on a collaborative "microproject"
- DH Summer Speaker series



Our virtual space for the 2021 DSSF cohort. Top-left to bottom right: Ana Vashakmadze, Mary Elmquist, Theary Heang, Ben Johnson, Carlee Mayo, R.C. Miessler, Kevin Moore, John Dettinger, Shukirti Khadka, Nicole Parisi, Amy Lucadamo

Sustainability Post-COVID/Mellon

- Consolidation of work into dept/position
- Continued development of DH Toolkit
- Fewer summer students and smaller stipend
- Return to funding from library endowments and other institutional sources
- Reimagine in-person summer experience with lessons learned from #dssf21

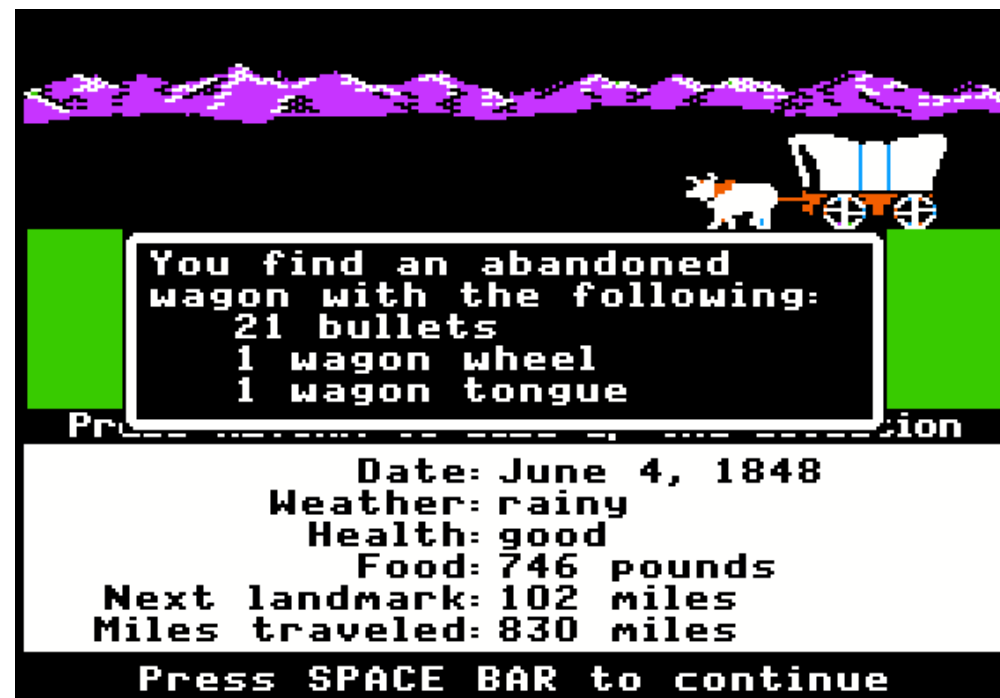


Image: <https://www.died-of-dysentery.com/oregon-trail.html>

The Trail Divides Here ...

- #dssf22?
- Develop remote collaboration opportunities for future summer student cohorts
- Curriculum redesign may allow for more integration of DH adjacent learning outcomes into courses

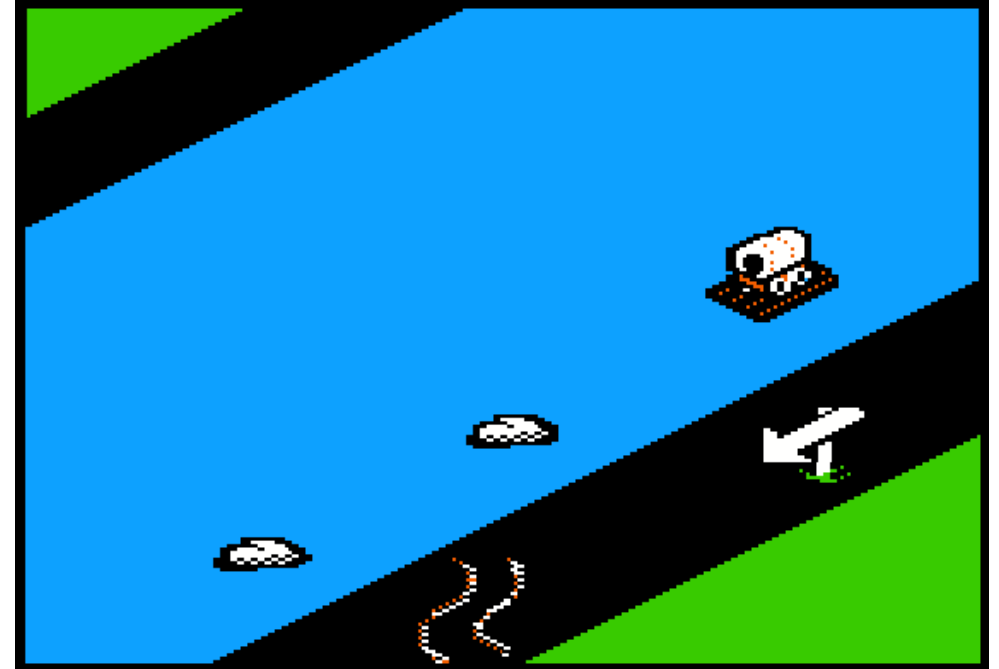
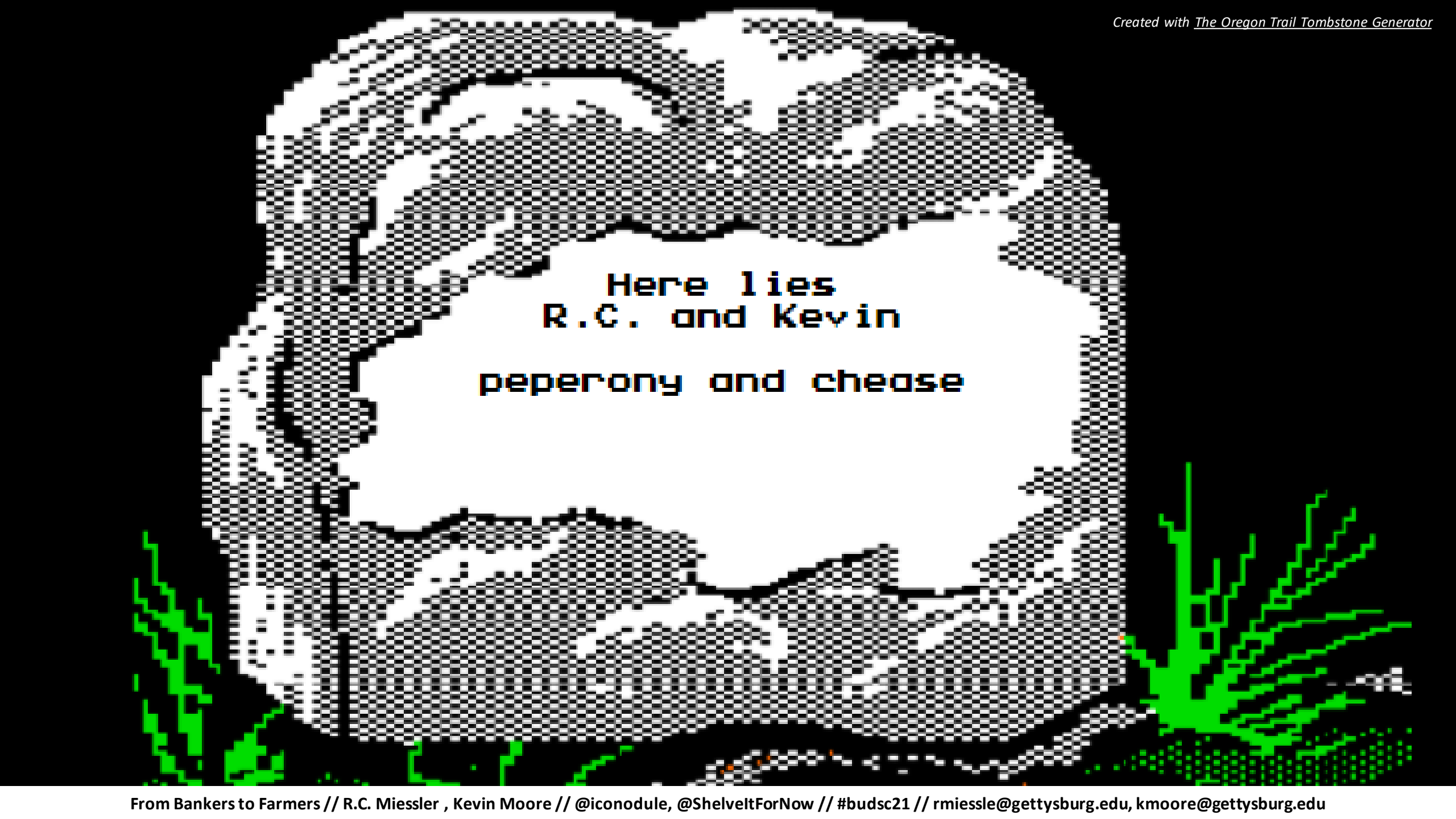


Image: <https://www.died-of-dysentery.com/stories/rafting-columbia.html>



Here lies
R.C. and Kevin
peperony and chease

Links and Further Reading

- DSSF Websites
 - [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2021](#)
- [DH Toolkit](#)
- [DH @ Gettysburg](#)
- "[Dreaming Big: Library-Led Digital Scholarship for Undergraduates at a Small Institution](#)" by Janelle Wertzberger and R.C. Miessler
- "Bridging Communities of Practice: Cross-Institutional Collaboration for Undergraduate Digital Scholars" (forthcoming in *Undergraduate research and the academic librarian: Case studies & best practices, Volume 2*) by R.C. Miessler, Clinton Baugess, Kevin Moore, Courtney Paddick, and Carrie Pirmann