SHAKESPEARE 400

A Librarian - Faculty Experiential Learning Collaboration in the Digital Humanities

Presented by Ann Hemingway and Nancy Lemay

BACKGROUND

Since 2013, the Library has contributed its resources and expertise to at least 20 projects in 11 departments including History, Visual Arts, Music, Theatre and English Literature. The Digital Humanities Librarian, in collaboration with subject liaison librarians, has played a pivotal role in the success of these digital humanities projects.

These initiatives have positioned the Library as a key partner in the delivery of the Digital Humanities curriculum at the University of Ottawa both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

As an example, the Shakespeare 400 project aimed at creating a cultural ‘map’ of Shakespeare’s current and past reach in Canada. The exhibits were showcased as part of the Shakespeare 400 celebrations at the University of Ottawa.

LIBRARIANS AS COLLABORATORS

- Help students discover new technological environments and tools
- Expertise for narrative development
- Work with students to transform narratives into online exhibits aimed at storytelling
- Guide students through project management and planning

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- Transferable soft skills
- Digital literacy
- Archival research skills
- Web design and writing for the Web
- Creativity and critical thinking

TECHNOLOGY

- Platform: Omeka (Customized Avant-Garde theme)
- Plugins: Exhibit plugin, CSS editor, Simple Page
- Embedded Applications: StoryMap JS, Tiki-Toki, Youtube
- Additional Software: Photoshop, iMovie, GarageBand, Goldwave, Movie Maker
- Other equipment/Hardware: Scanners, cameras and smartphones

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Full class participation for 4th year Shakespeare course (25 students)
- Two librarians + two dedicated teaching assistants
- Greater participation in designing course
- Building future capacity for DH in English literature courses