Building a Research Commons in a University Library:
Connecting Scholars with Technology, Expertise and Each Other
The Rise of Digital Scholarship

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MITH
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University of Virginia Library
Scholars' Lab

The William Blake Archive

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

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42 panels devoted to digital projects at this year's meeting of the American Historical Association. There were 24 last year (which seemed huge at the time).

This year's meeting of the Modern Language Association hosted 55 sessions with digital in the title.
The Rise of Digital Scholarship
The Challenge for Scholars

Where can I work?

Who can help?

Is anybody else doing this?
The Challenge for Libraries

• How can we engage scholars and anticipate their needs before they know them?
• How do we support digital scholarship in a sustainable way?
The Challenge for Libraries

SPEC Kit 326

Digital Humanities
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ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES
The Solution
Historical Context
The Information Commons
The Learning Commons
The Research Commons
The Research Commons
The Research Commons
The Research Commons
Event Space
The Digital Scholarship Commons (DiSC)
The Digital Scholarship Commons (DiSC)

Goals:
• Start a Digital Scholarship Center at Emory which:
  • Encourage collaborative work/Creates a community
  • Involves librarians in new and meaningful ways
  • Produces 4 projects per year
  • Exposes library collections
• Create a model for other institutions to follow
DiSC: Events

• Workshops
• DiSCussions
• Speakers
• Advisory Board Meeting
• Conferences and Symposia
DiSC Projects: Two Tier System

Tier 1: simple projects, consultation

- At the Tier 1 level, we aim to empower scholars to do the work themselves.
- Some home-grown projects. Example: disc.library.emory.edu/ows
DiSC Projects: Two Tier System

Tier 2: complex projects, receive support

- Four Tier 2 projects/year
- Developer Time
- A small amount of money which can be used for travel, student work, translation services, web development …
Challenges

- Funding
Challenges

• Funding
• Preservation
Challenges

- Funding
- Preservation
- Attracting and Retaining Talent
Challenges

- Funding
- Preservation
- Attracting and Retaining Talent
- Becoming Truly Interdisciplinary
Challenges

• Funding
• Preservation
• Attracting and Retaining Talent
• Becoming Truly Interdisciplinary
• Establishing True Partnerships
Questions?