A Tale of Two Centers: Incubators for Digital Scholarship at Emory and Georgia State

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What is a digital scholarship center?
“Digital scholarship is the use of digital evidence, methods of inquiry, research, publication and preservation to achieve scholarly and research goals.”
Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director of CNI and workshop facilitator, seeded the discussion with a comparison of DSCs versus digital humanities centers. Lippincott posited that DSCs have a different administrative home (e.g. the library), wider set of clientele, a service mission, and often a broader disciplinary focus than digital humanities centers.
CURVE Mission

CURVE (Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment) is a technology-rich discovery space supporting the research and digital scholarship of Georgia State University students, faculty, and staff. A service of the University Library, CURVE’s mission is to enhance research and visualizations by providing technology and spaces that promote interdisciplinary engagement, collaborative investigation, and innovative inquiry.
Atlanta, originally named Terminus, has a profound history which is extensively intertwined with transit. This project visualizes how the city’s public transit system, now a shadow of what it once was, falls short of its far-reaching intentions. By highlighting the routes which have been proposed in the development of these systems, this project aims to contribute to larger discussions taking place around the topic of public transit in Atlanta.

The displayed map layers were gleaned from planning documents available through the Georgia State University Library Planning Atlanta collection. These historical, paper maps often served general planning purposes and therefore were not created with attention to precise geographical accuracy. While map layers represent there accurately reflect rail transportation routes displayed by planning documents, please be advised that the map layers accessible from this page have limited geographical accuracy and do not necessarily align with one another.

- 1961 Proposed Rail Plan
- 1967 Proposed Rail Plan
- 1971 Proposed Rail Plan
- 1977 Proposed Rail Plan
- 1985 Proposed Rail Plan
- 1992 Proposed Rail Plan
- 2015 MARTA Rail Route
Stadiumville

The Stadiumville project proposes to document the history and memory of the events and people who have shaped the neighborhoods in what is now Turner Field and the redevelopment of the area as the Atlanta Braves leave for the suburbs.

Herb and Jane / Jewish Community
CURVE Projects

3D modeling / Photogrammetry
Coding ("PantherHackers," R)
Digital Exhibits (Omeka)
Interactive Maps (Esri Story Maps)
Virtual Tours (Google Earth, Oculus Rift)
Workshops (NVivo, Tableau, OpenRefine)
Peer Learning, Innovative Faculty
Increased Involvement in the Sciences
ECDS Mission

The Emory Center for Digital Scholarship (ECDS) provides consulting expertise, project coordination, and a technology-rich collaborative space for faculty, staff, and students to incorporate digital tools and methods into research, teaching, and publishing.

The multidisciplinary ECDS staff of technologists, librarians, faculty, curriculum designers, and students work with scholars at Emory and partner institutions to create innovative and sustainable models of digital scholarship and pedagogy for academic and public use.
Belfast Group Poetry | Networks

members of the Belfast Group. It highlights the wider literary circle in which members of the Group worked. That said, the network is based on data from the Group sheets and materials in special collections at Queen’s University Belfast. Our visualization is therefore limited by the data that we have been able to create.

Download network data for this graph as GEXF. Click on the “i” next to “Graph Settings” to learn more about visualization options.
Originally home to Roberts & Yon Sandwich Shop, this building later became Cable Piano Company. Unfortunately this building burned down in 1936 and now can only be enjoyed in historical recreations like this one.

Check out the photo gallery of the fire!
Southern Spaces

A JOURNAL ABOUT REAL AND IMAGINED SPACES AND PLACES OF THE US SOUTH AND THEIR GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Katrina + 5: An X-Code Exhibition
For more than a century, art historians, dealers, and other connoisseurs have identified some art from West Africa as Senufo.

Why? What does the term Senufo convey about art?

**Mapping Senufo** focuses on arts commonly labeled as Senufo from an area known as the three-corner region because it is where the present-day borders of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali come together in West Africa.
Active Learning and Engagement Initiative

The Active Learning and Engagement Initiative (ALEI) is a collaboration between ECDS and the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence (CFDE). The program provides dedicated assistance to the participants to develop a technology-enhanced curriculum and assess the impact on teaching and learning with a focus on active learning principles in the classroom. ALEI is designed to explore teaching, learning strategies, and technologies that can enhance the classroom experience, as well as developing best practices in creating and delivering course content.

Since the launch of the pilot program in January 2012, twenty faculty members have participated in ALEI. The initial cohort, the "Edgewalkers," comprised of nine pre-selected faculty who participated in three half-day sessions, and the second cohort, all who applied to be part of the program, included eleven faculty who attended nine weekly sessions on Monday mornings, from 9:30–11 a.m. Departments represented within ALEI
Emory University undergraduate students are examining unsolved and unpunished racially motivated murders from the modern civil rights era in Georgia. In the classroom and in the field, students use primary evidence and secondary readings to go beyond the who-done-it and explore the history and meaning of the Jim Crow South from the inside out.

Spotlight: The James Brazier Case

WHAT HAPPENED ...  

... AND WHY: THEMES, ISSUES, AND PEOPLE

CHIEF CHERRY IS KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT
We’ve covered the “what” and the “why,” now onto the “how”...
THE FIVE KEY FACTORS

1. Space
2. Staff
3. Partnerships
4. Process
5. Funding
SPACE

• Structure & Layout
• IT infrastructure
• Location on Campus
STAFF

• Skill sets in the center
  • Which make the cut?
  • Which don’t make the cut?
PARTNERSHIPS

- Key partners, both internal and external
- High level and practical
- Depends on culture
PROCESS

• How initiatives get:
  • Identified
  • Accepted
  • Accomplished
  • Evaluated
  • Sustained
FUNDING

• Hard Money vs. Soft Money
• Grants?
• Charging for services?
Thank you, PollEverywhere!
Which factor is the most important to the success of a center in an ideal institutional environment?

a. Space
b. Staff
c. Partnerships
d. Process
e. Funding
Which factor is the most challenging at your institution?

a. Space
b. Staff
c. Partnerships
d. Process
e. Funding
Order of Challenges

ECDS
1. Partnerships
2. Process
3. Funding
4. Staff
5. Space

CURVE
1. Staff
2. Process
3. Funding
4. Space
5. Partnerships
CURVE Challenges: Staff

- Skill sets in flux
- Ongoing training
- Hiring / recruiting
- Training ground?
ECDS Challenges: Partnerships

- Work expands and impact grows
- Institutional resource demands
- Boundaries renegotiated
Shared Challenges: Process

- Evolving mission, evolving process
- Aligning center’s mission with university’s
- Project “ownership” must be limited
- Empowerment center
- “Sustainable” Scholarship
- “Open” Scholarship
Shared Challenges: Funding

- Sustainable funding
- What to prioritize?
- External funding
- Internal funding
Conclusion
Questions?
How do you blend cultures of IT, library, faculty, and students? Is it a question of organization and culture or a question of the projects you prioritize?
PROCESS

What developments either in technology or pedagogy will affect the process of digital scholarship centers in 3 to 5 years? How do you see our business changing?
PARTNERSHIPS

How do we redefine the traditional academic partnership from a service model (especially between faculty and library/IT organizations) to more of a scholarly collaboration?
How do you feel the physical location and orientation of a center dictates your organizational success?

If you build it, will they come, and what do you do if they don’t?
FUNDING

As the pool for public funding the digital humanities shrinks, what are some of the creative ways to find funding for digital scholarship?
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Poll Everywhere: Easy way to engage students

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2. Audience responds by text or web
3. Responses display live in the slide or on a web page

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