

Digital humanities in the library : Challenges and opportunities for subject specialists. Edited by Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Laura Braunstein, and Liorah Golomb. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2015. 312pp. ISBN 978-0838987674

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Digital humanities in the library: Challenges and opportunities for subject specialists represents the collected, evolving experiences of librarians across a variety of institutions who have grappled with the digital humanities. This book is divided into four parts, which track the experiences and paths that a librarian first encountering the digital humanities may experience. This book has come at a critical time, as an increasing number of colleges and universities are exploring institutionalization of their digital humanities scholars. The diverse experiences found within this volume should, at the very least, provide some comfort to librarians that they are not alone in adapting to these trends.

Part 1 of this book discusses the theoretical underpinnings of digital humanities scholarship, as well as the steps necessary for subject librarians to acquire the skills necessary to serve this type of scholarship. Part 2 discusses bringing librarians in to the digital classroom, using a pedagogy revamped for digital humanities. This section seeks to make the implicit argument that librarians can bring methodologies grounded in the disciplines to digital projects. Part 3 continues the themes from the previous section and presents the academic community's growing interest in and need for a dedicated digital humanities space. Part 4 discusses a wide range of projects in which subject liaisons must take a more active role in order to remain relevant. These four parts present an overview of the challenges, expectations, and opportunities for success in guiding digital projects.

As libraries continue to evolve to meet the greater digital needs of graduate students and faculty, the digital humanities are rapidly becoming collaborative in nature. The roles that subject librarians take in these projects may be as varied and innovative as the projects themselves, further embodying the collaboration of the digital humanities. This book describes some examples of the emerging opportunities for subject librarians who are engaged in digital projects, particularly those who are guided not by their technical skills but by their subject training. The growth of the digital humanities has presented a new crossroads for librarians. As an increasing number of graduate students and faculty members begin digital humanities projects and research that involve an integrated digital component, liaisons still have a major role to play.

This book would be most appropriate for academic librarians, especially subject librarians, who are interested in becoming involved in digital humanities projects that are informed by their subject expertise. These subject liaisons must continue to create and develop their roles in digital humanities projects, marrying their subject expertise with their often newly-acquired technical skills. Thankfully, as this book describes, subject liaisons need not be regulated to the backseat of digital scholarship, but can continue to serve their universities as subject experts in digital environments.