ROLE OF THE INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES CONTENT FOR RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND LEARNING IN THE MODERN ACADEMIC LIBRARY: AN IRISH CASE STUDY

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DEFINING DIGITAL HUMANITIES

• An Archive holds a memory
• A Library shares the memory
• Digital Humanities is the bridge between them
• Research undertaken at Trinity College Dublin – The Role of the Librarian in the field of Digital Humanities
• The research project, The Mary Martin Diary, is highlighted as an example of a multidisciplinary collaboration project.
• **Digital Humanities** field has many participants in the creation of digital collections, online resources, tools and standards for development of this type of research.

• **Researchers/Historians** invaluable to the addition contextualisation of content - why is this information important, the authenticity of content etc.

• **IT Developers** – at the forefront of development of tools and platforms for the publication of DH projects – create the leap from static original items to dynamic online access.

• The term **Information Professionals** - includes a range of roles, Archivists, Curators and **Librarians**
THE IRISH LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT

The Library Association of Ireland (LAI) is the representative Professional body for librarians and information professionals. Of the 15 groups & Sections 4 were selected for participation:

- Academic & Special Libraries
- Rare Books Group
- Government Libraries Group
- Cataloguing and Metadata Group

- Specific cultural organisations where librarians are employed were targeted as well (National Library, National Gallery & Chester Beatty Library)
SURVEY Q’S OBJECTIVES

• Professional profile of participants
• Personal level of awareness about Digital Humanities—specifically internal to employment and external – previous experience, own research or interests
• Personal awareness of individual’s organisations level of participation and management of Digital Humanities projects
SOME FINDINGS OF RESEARCH

Personal level of awareness about Digital Humanities Specifically internal to employment and external – previous experience, own research or interests

- Convergence of IT & Humanities
- Research Facilitated by IT & Humanities
- Digitsation of Archives
- DH Contextualisation & Preservation
- Management of Digital Collections
- Data Modelling
- Electronic Publishing
SOME FINDINGS OF RESEARCH

Determining the perceived relationship between the Library & Digital Humanities Sectors

- Collaborators in Research Development
- Providers of solutions for access to information
- LIS Skills used as Models to develop DH field
- Developers of MetaData
- LIS as intermediary between DH & IT
SOME FINDINGS OF RESEARCH

Librarians Perception of their roles in the area of Digital Humanities & Digital Project (not limited to current role or organisation)

- Scholarly Collaborator
- Resource Manager
- Project Manager
- Consultant
- Research Assistant
• Research Project for Development of Digital Scholarly Exhibitions Module
• Katherine McSharry, NLI identified the diary as a suitable project
• Mary Martin a widowed mother of 12 children get news that her 2nd eldest son Charlie fighting for the British in WWI is missing
• January 1st 1916 she starts to write diary to give to Charlie when he returns
• Team members- diverse backgrounds Librarian, Historians, Mozart Researcher and Film/Media student

http://dh.tcd.ie/martindiary/
CYCLE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN DH ENVIRONMENT

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• Diary of Situation- not a personal reflective endeavour

• Demonstrating the tendency of women to pay attention to the texture of the everyday

• The last entry in the diary is May 25. Shortly after they learn that Charlie had died in December 1915
This type of project does what we do already - the effective contextualising of information in multiple formats and platforms.

Further utilise the internet to reach more users, to provide research opportunities and resources.

To develop methodologies and guidelines for these types of projects based on experience with a range of end users.

Provides opportunities for collaboration with researchers, educators and IT developers in a new way to impact on teaching & learning.
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THANK YOU!

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REFERENCES

• Mary Martin Diary  http://dh.tcd.ie/martindiary/


• Full list available upon request