Communicating New Library Roles to Enable Digital Scholarship

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National University of Ireland Galway

- Founded 1845
- 17000 students
- 2400 staff
- Most disciplines, including:
  - Medicine
  - Science
  - Engineering
  - Business and Law
  - Humanities/Social Sciences
Outline

• Digital scholarship
• Communication challenges
• Key messages
What is Digital Scholarship?

- Hard to define, eg 250 attempted definitions of digital humanities on one website:

- And it’s not just humanities…
Possible Starting Point

- Digital scholarship is a term applicable to the transformation of most areas of scholarly work by a series of information technologies.
New methods of enquiry characterise digital scholarship, especially in the humanities.

…the application of digital resources and methods to humanistic enquiry

…seeking to make new connections in a digital world”, thanks to technologies such as data visualisation and text and data mining.

… new approaches to publishing findings and sharing data are in scope, often on an open access basis, across all disciplines
Digital Scholarship: some roles for libraries

- **Digitisation** and digital preservation, often of archives and special collections
- **Metadata** creation and enhancement for exchange and reuse
- Assignment of unique identifiers to promote **discovery**
- Hosting of digital **collections** in library repositories
- **Open access** dissemination of research outputs and learning materials
- Management of **research data**
- Advice on **copyright**, digital rights management and standards
- Participation in **text mining**, data analysis projects
- Provision of **spaces**, tools, equipment and training for digital scholarship
Communications Challenges

- Defining digital scholarship!
- A crowded playing field
- Disjointed efforts on campus
- Getting different messages to different parties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Message</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Reputational impact, new value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
<td>Capacity, centrality, commonality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library staff</td>
<td>It’s our future, with roots in our past</td>
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- Library directors need to engage deeply
High-Impact Publication of Research, Data and Digital Content

The Vision for 2020

The impact of your research is enhanced by the Library’s publishing services. These include advice, training and infrastructure for open access, commercial publishing and rights management. Funders require your research data to be made available on an open access basis and preserved for future researchers to discover and reuse. The Library hosts and describes research data for easy discovery and linkage to and from your publications. We promote awareness of what you publish.

The Library is your partner in digital scholarship and e-research. Our digitisation programme generates near digital content and metadata which have potential for new research, discovery and innovative presentation or use. We work to enable scholars to apply new tools to reinterpret, analyse, visualise, and reuse digital content, including archives and datasets, text and multimedia, made available locally and globally as part of an international digital library community.

Creativity and culture are increasingly recognised as powerful inputs to both personal and societal development. They are a driving force for economic growth and are at the core of global competitiveness in the knowledge society. They constitute the essence of place and are central to Galway’s branding.

We see an opportunity for the Library and the University via digital initiatives that build on our particular advantages. These include the collections of collections and research institutes in the Hardiman Research Building and the uniqueness of our archives and special collections in Irish, English and other languages. The quality and diversity of other players on campus in digital humanities, social sciences and data analytics offers the potential for partnerships.

In recent years, digitisation and open access have fuelled a trend for libraries to become publishers. This will accelerate as the Digital Publishing and Innovation Team works closely with researchers to create digital collections for innovative research and learning and wider access to University publications. The team will partner with other in research data management and in developing vital infrastructures such as preservation systems, identifiers, workflow, policies and funding streams.

An innovative, High-Impact programme of digital projects, leveraging our unique collections and working with local and external partners, will create new pathways to understanding and, through user interaction, collaboration, and global media exposure, help to stimulate cultural tourism and the creative economy.

High-impact publication of research, data and digital content will advance by:

Establishing a Centre for Digital Scholarship
Combining scholarly interpretation with innovations in technology, a Digital Scholarship Centre, developed in partnership with others, will be a focus for collaborative knowledge creation and discovery of new insights. An appropriately resourced space will enable its users to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to leverage digital content and technology effectively for scholarly ends.

Publishing Digital Collections
The Digital Collections Repository is the cornerstone of our digital infrastructure. It provides search, preservation and access facilities and will host a growing range of digital and paper collections. The repository architecture allows for the constitution of applications that leverage our content without the necessity to duplicate it.

Advancing Open Access
Open access publishing is recognised as an enabler of wider readership, increased citation and international impact. The Library’s ARAN repository and related systems will maximise open access to NI’s university research output. Areas for development include archiving, the utilisation of global identifiers for authors, papers and data and the hosting of research data necessary for peer review, reproduction of results and where appropriate, reuse.

“In recent years, digitisation and open access have fuelled a trend for libraries to become publishers”
Key Messages to Communicate

• Asserting partnership (not service…)
  – we belong in academic spaces

• Users need us, eg:
  – Digital projects need metadata, preservation, sustainability
  – Collections enable new forms of research, data analysis etc

• Digital scholarship plays to library strengths, eg:
  – cataloguing, curation, sharing → metadata, digital preservation, open access

• We believe in our capacity and track record
The Library enables digital scholarship by partnering with the academic and research community to provide expertise for digital projects, such as:

- **Abbey Theatre Archive**
- **Shakespeare's Plays**
- **Data Visualisation**
- **Gate Theatre Archive**
- **Duanaire**
- **Tim Robinson Archive**
The Library and Digital Scholarship

The Library welcomes opportunities to advance our Digital Scholarship Enablement Strategy. Our areas of contribution include content, technology, infrastructure, partnership and the practice-based expertise in our team.

LEARN MORE WORK WITH US REPOSITORIES

Expert assistance

CILLIAN JOY

AISLING KEANE

TRISH FINNAN

Latest News

Maker Space Workshop: Introduction to SketchUp Make design software

Mon, 17 Oct 2016 14:04:00

Learn how to create 3D printable objects using the SketchUp Make software. At the end of this session you will be able to design a simple household item SketchUp Make is an easy to learn, intuitive and powerful 3D drawing tool. After this 1-hour workshop you will be able to create 3D objects and ready to move on to using the more advanced features of the software.

Tweets by @nuiglibrary

Digital Publishing Brownbag Series – Tim Robinson Archive ow.ly/sOXo505yr6U

Maker Space Workshop: Introduction to SketchUp Make design software ow.ly/0hac5n0j7a
Thank You

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