Building Assessment Frameworks for Digital Research Projects That Drive Open Publishing Services

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
LIBRARIES
Digital Research Commons

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UH AT A GLANCE

45,000+
Students

2,600+
Faculty

109
Undergrad Majors & Minors

105
Masters Degrees

46
Doctoral Degrees

1ST
In the Nation Subsea
Engineering Master's Program

25
Research Centers

Digital Research Commons (DRC)

FY19 to date:

- Sponsored and facilitated 10 digital-based research projects
- Hosted 8 lecture-workshop events on a range of digital research topics and competencies
- Delivered day-long method-based colloquia
- Launched biannual, week-long Digital Scholarship Institute
- Open office hours for consultations relating to publishing and author rights

Overview of Sponsored Projects

- 5 projects accepted in Year One of the DRC (FY18)
- 10 accepted in Year Two (FY19), 3 of which are extensions of Year One project charters
- PIs gain access to DRC staff expertise, software, tools, and project management to execute a Minimum Viable Product
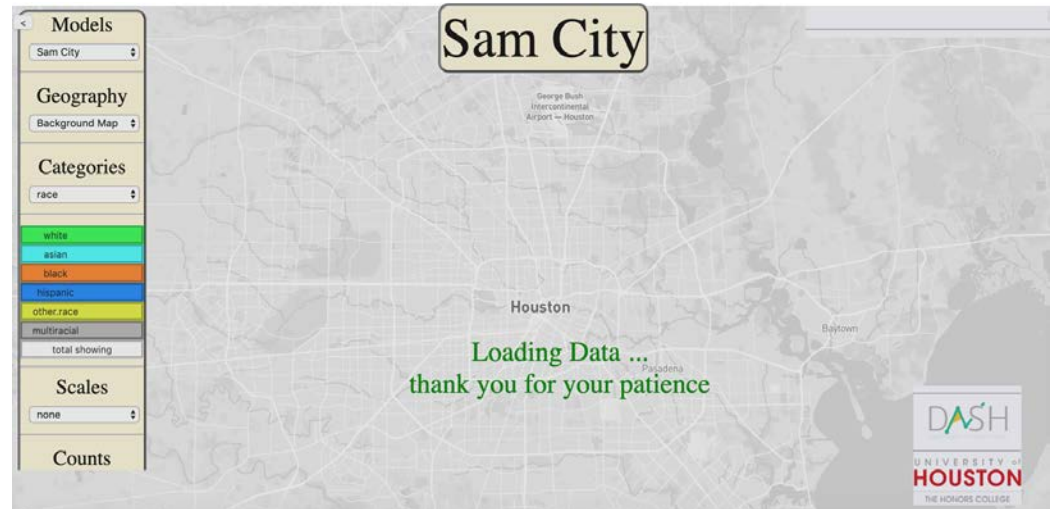- MOU and project charter established for each project
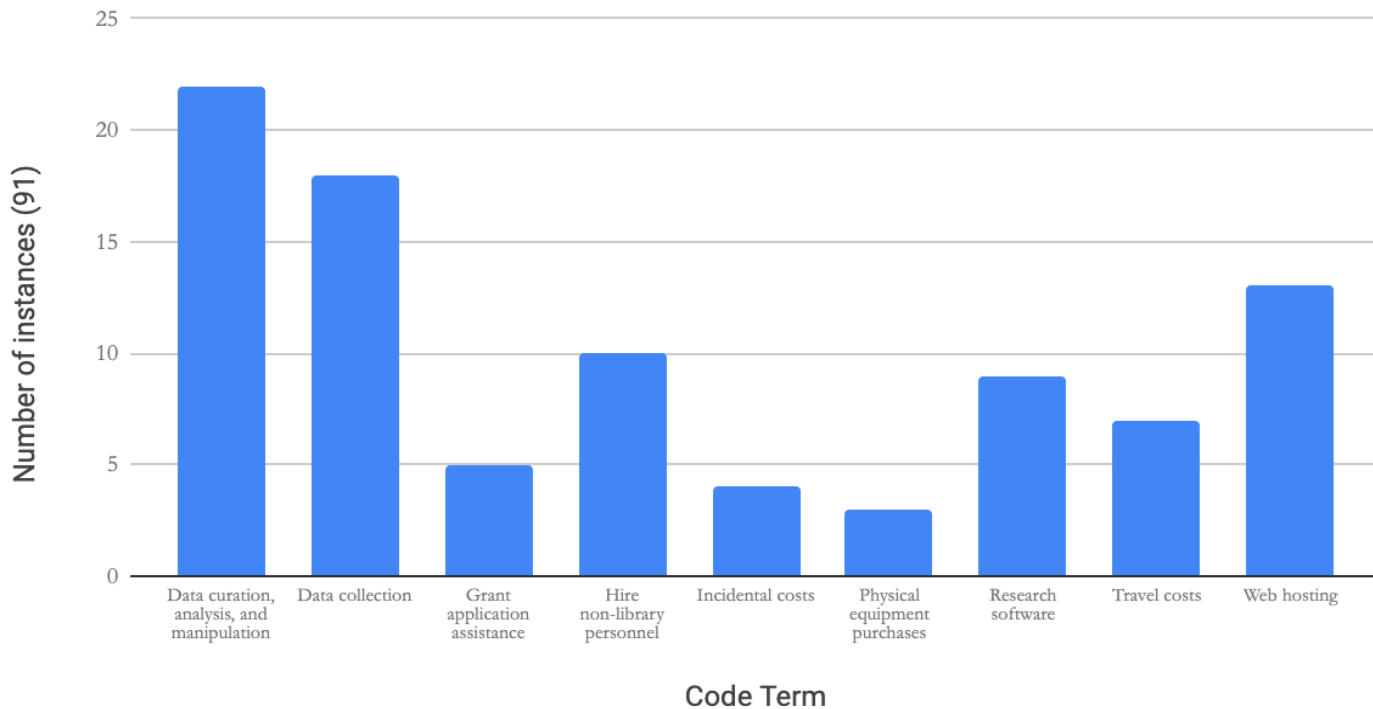
Table 1: Code Terms and Definitions

Code Term	Code Definition
Data analysis and manipulation	Librarian assistance required for tasks relating to structuring a dataset or corpus; data cleaning; experimental analysis; data visualization; text mining; or topic modeling
Data collection	Librarian assistance with data collection and compilation from open and proprietary sources
Grant application assistance	Expressed interest in partnering with UH Libraries on future internal (to the University) or external grant opportunities
Hire non-library personnel	Funds to hire student employees as research assistants, web designers, project managers
Incidental costs	Includes funding requests for local events, transcription costs, research participant incentives, permissions fees
Physical equipment purchases	Includes requests such as a Dropbox account, external hard drive, audio recorder
Research software	Requests for licensed or open source software as well as training from a librarian
Travel costs	Includes requests for airfare, travel incidentals, conference registration
Web hosting	Requests for a website(s) or online exhibition space over the lifespan of the project, including related storage needs

Table 2: Category Terms and Definitions

Category Term	Category Definition
expertise	Specific skills, knowledge, or experiences needed to complete a project, such as implementing controlled vocabulary workflow or building an interactive visual data project and embed on website
grant	Projects or topics that have future grant aspirations
logistics	Miscellaneous funding requests that were not considered mission critical to a project, such as travel or professional development funds.
service	Aspects of the research lifecycle needed to complete a project, such as data collection or data analysis and manipulation
staffing	Requests for personnel to complete specific parts of a project, such as employing a graduate student to build an online project exhibit
tech	Specific hardware, software, and technology needed to complete a project, such as data visualization tools and access to cloud storage solutions

Sponsored Project Application Analysis Results

Number of instances (91) vs. Code Term

Informing a Nascent Open Publishing and Hosting Program

- Migrated from independent instances of Omeka Classic to a single instance of Omeka S for DRC projects requiring exhibition space
- Storage needs: immediate need of 20GB. With exceptions for very large files, we expect that need to grow by 20-30GB annually over the next 3 years. Plan for minimum of 1TB needed for projects by start FY22.
- Libraries' server functionalities: Java-capable; IIIF-capable; able to host MySQL databases; query and display XML documents; support ArcGIS.
- Websites: each sponsored project assumed to have its own site; hosting for 10 sites now, plus an additional ~7 per year, with a living will to shut them off within a set time span.
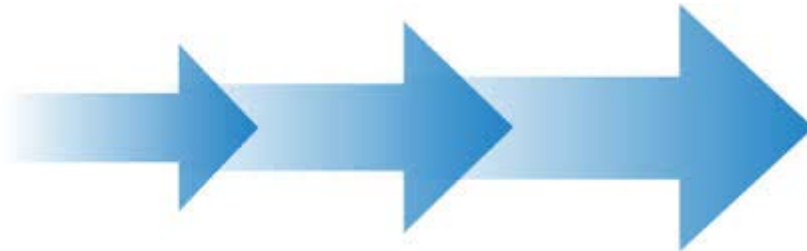
UH Libraries' Publishing Responsibilities

Established:

- ETDs and other student works
- Faculty works
- Library "owned" assets (via UH Digital Library)
- Open Educational Resources

Emerging:

- Bespoke research outputs
- Interactive websites
- Researcher-generated databases
- Digital Editions

One-Time Assessments of DRC Sponsored Projects

Mandatory criteria for project completion (due end of FY):

• Deposit of Minimum Viable Product data in UH IR and/or Dataverse

• Collaborative attribution among team members on every output

• Public-facing project description available at end of cycle (for display on UH Libraries website)

• Clear intellectual context for future work in the area

Mid-Range (3-5 Year) Assessment Criteria for Sponsored Projects

• Evidence of project uptake in the classroom at UH or elsewhere

• Evidence of public use or engagement: Is the project discussed in a public forum, either in person (e.g. a lecture, a local newspaper, a forum at UH or elsewhere) or online (Twitter, blogs)?

• Circulation of research product(s) among peers or in the campus community: Is the research output taken up by anyone in the field or on campus as material for further exploration?

• Has the project lead(s) created pathways for students to undertake independent work: Does the project offer ways for students (at UH and elsewhere) to undertake their own independent research using the project's output(s) as a platform?

Establishing Program-Level Assessment Measures

- Updating merit guidelines to acknowledge digital research

- Fulfillment of new DH Certificate

Thank you!

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