Digital Scholarship and Open Strategies Unit 2024-25

Overview

The Digital Scholarship and Open Strategies unit enriches learning opportunities and advances research, scholarly and creative activity related to digital scholarship, open education, open publishing, web development, and asynchronous and online learning. Serving as the home for programs such as the Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning, the Open Access Publishing Fund, and the Think Open fellowship program, the unit fosters the infrastructure and expertise necessary to support and sustain the library's efforts in digital projects, services, and project management.

- Fall meeting notes, DSOS Meetings Fall 2024.docx

Library KPIs:

- Digital Collections
- Research Information Management
- Web Properties
- Fellowships (Primary)
- Student Savings

Objectives:

Facilitate access to and preservation of unique collections and scholarly outputs (CDIL, digitization).

- Why:
  - The library has an important responsibility to steward and promote University of Idaho's unique collections and scholarship. Since these resources may not be formally published and are unavailable anywhere else, the Library serves as a hub to preserve and provide lasting access to users.
- How:
  - Improve digital archive storage to meet NDSA standards for Level 3 digital preservation.
  - Ensure the public and campus are made aware of new scholarly productions and digital collections when released.
  - Ensure scholarly outputs and digital collections are easily discoverable, useable, and accessible.

- Success looks like:
    - Key faculty and staff are conversant with digital preservation standards and have documented practices to use digital preservation storage.
    - Regular updates promoting new digital collections and scholarly outputs are sent out via a variety of communication channels, leading to increased traffic to new content.
    - Web navigation and discovery of digital collection and digital scholarship is user friendly and meets accessibility guidelines.
- **Fall Updates:**
    - Unit members have worked with Spec and Digital Collection Team to facilitate digital preservation processes. We contributed to discussions on implementing Archive-It service for web archiving and developing policies for other born digital workflows. Access to the digital archive drive was updated and better documented. A step by step review based on NSDA standards has not yet been completed.
    - Some digital collection update and launch workflows were disrupted due to the departure of key staff over the summer (Klytie and Sarah). Significant effort went into rewriting all Digital Collections documentation to include step by step checklists for all processes to help coordinate activities while onboarding new members (over 50 commits to the documentation in this period). This has helped clarify work based in CDIL/DSOS vs Spec and establishes steps to better record data about activities in the unit. Going forward, our launch checklist is being followed to help improve communication of new collections and recorded in our tracking spreadsheet (2 collections completed the checklist this period). Andrew developed a new digital screen slideshow display for the Library living room area to highlight new and featured digital collections.
    - This period saw a complete overhaul of the Digital Collection templates and home page which brought more consistent branding, updated colors, and useability and accessibility improvements. Complete redeploying of all collections was necessary to prep the data used for our Search index.
    - We soft-launched our new Search app and deployed search to 111 of 115 eligible digital collections. This represented a huge investment of time for DSOS with application development, metadata fixes, collection template updates/fixes, and redeployment. Metadata for about 100 collections and 60,000 records were updated to ensure better consistency in our aggregated fields. We also improved data about the collections for better reporting. The

work helped grow confidence and skills of CDIL staff which is essential for ongoing digital collection and website maintenance.
- DSOS members have been evaluating the impact of new accessibility requirements and reviewing our existing web properties. In working towards accessibility goals, we continued a major project to create and deploy transcripts for all audio/video items in our collections, adding more than 230 new transcripts (only one collection still has any items needing a transcript, LCOH—transcripts are created but not yet deployed). We have contributed accessibility updates to Digital Collections, Inside Idaho, LibGuides, and Pressbooks (particularly fixing color contrasts and improving alt text).
- CDIL lab (Kevin) contributed important work on custom digitization requests that support research on campus and beyond. These often involved obsolete formats (VHS, reel-to-reel), consulting on process, and quick turn arounds. 7 request projects were recorded for this period.
- DSOS members have been involved in exploring possibilities for IR, OA/OER, and data reporting in VERSO. They have helped develop policies and transferred data for Ag Extension publications and ETD.

Provide collaborative opportunities for learning and project development (fellowships programs) that impact campus research and teaching.

- Why:
  - The Library's unique resources and expertise can directly impact scholarship on campus by opening new research and learning opportunities. This includes developing OER to impact costs and empower instructors, and developing digital methods that enable unique research and communication.
- How:
  - Facilitate Think Open Fellowships.
  - Facilitate CDIL Digital Scholarship student and faculty fellowships.
  - Maintain, develop, and improve digital scholarship on campus through CDIL
  - Organize campus events for fellows to publicly share projects and outcomes.
- What success looks like:
  - Fellowship programs receive competitive applications.
  - Fellows publish their projects, present to audiences at the library, and are promoted online.

- Publication of 2-3 significant digital scholarship projects.
- **Fall updates:**
  - CDIL fellowships were prepped for applications in Spring. Data about fellowships was gathered to prepare for a more centralized representation of the work and outputs.
  - DSOS/CDIL hosted the Library Fellowship Showcase in October with three fellows presenting. DSOS members have taken an active role in facilitating the MRIC presentations move into the Library (including weekly work from Kevin to assemble and deploy an A/V setup).
  - DSOS has collaborated on a wide variety of digital scholarship projects with faculty and students. We provided ongoing support to Spec, CDIL, and Think Open fellows' projects (more than 5 during this period). Outputs published in Fall 2024 include:
    - School of Cello Playing, Mirada Wilson (Music, faculty) - translation project with Evan Williamson, published on Pressbooks.
    - Basic Financial Education Curriculum for Students, Upal Kundu and Udit Sipani (ASUI, undergraduates) - literacy project with Leesa Love, published on Pressbooks.
    - Aural Skills, Miranda Wilson (Music, faculty) - open textbook converted to Pressbooks project for potential reuse.
    - The Cook Undergraduate Research Journal (CURJ), with Markie McBrayer and Florian Justwan (Political Science, faculty) - undergraduate research journal project.
    - Donald E. Crabtree Lithic Technology Collection, final publishing of long grant funded scholarship project, with significant custom features.
  - DSOS members also did significant consultations with researchers across campus, reporting over 12 meetings during the fall semester. We taught over 10 public workshops / class sessions related to our area.

Facilitate social and technical infrastructure for open publishing both on campus and worldwide (OAPF, web development, Pressbooks).

- Why:
  - The Library invests in the future of publishing beyond traditional subscription models, supporting and developing alternative open publishing opportunities to increase access to knowledge.

- How:
  - Pressbooks platform and service is promoted, documented, and maintained for campus users.
  - Open Access Publishing Fund is managed to directly support open publishing for U of I researchers.
  - CollectionBuilder and related approaches are developed and promoted for sustainable web projects.
  - Meetings and events are hosted that promote Digital Scholarship and Open scholarship collaboration on campus.
- What success looks like:
  - Use of Pressbooks to create OER and other projects increases.
  - Metrics for OAPF continue to show impact supporting open publishing.
  - CollectionBuilder continues to get engagement beyond campus.
- **Fall updates:**
  - The Pressbooks home was revised to improve presentation and catalog consistency. Leesa has worked on documenting best practices for Pressbook service and growing our capacity to support projects. She has developed Pressbooks templates, covers, draft policies, project management document template, and better data for tracking projects. 2 new Pressbooks projects were published (listed above section), and 2 additional projects created. Additionally, 5 Pressbooks were added to the Library's main catalog and VERSO, and 4 were promoted.
  - OAPF continued as normal, closing in period #1 early with high demand. Leesa took over leadership of the program and everything went smoothly.
  - CollectionBuilder opened applications for the second round of the LIS Student Program and received over 70 applications from 25 different schools. The CB blog and Slack have seen increased engagement. CB team has collaborated on a number of projects beyond campus, including:
    - Lauren McCormick (grad, Princeton University), Judean Pillar Figurine Exhibit, "Let There Be Light: Recoloring Ancient Artifacts", https://laurmcco.github.io/judeanpillarfigurineexhibit/

Unit/Team Metrics:

- # of staff/faculty conversant with NDSA standards
  - Fall: 2.
- Levels of digital preservation report

- o Fall: no.
- # of scholarly outputs and digital collections produced, # of Pressbooks projects
  - o Fall: 2 Pressbooks published. 2 new Pressbooks projects.
- Web traffic to publications
- # of communications announcing new digital collections, projects, scholarly outputs, and fellowship opportunities
  - o Fall: 6 recorded.
- # of templates and scholarly outputs reviewed using Lighthouse or other accessibility auditing tools
- # of fellowships and applications
  - o Fall: n/a, supported finishing Spec fellow projects.
- # of public events
  - o Fall: 1 showcase, 10 workshops/classes.

Membership:

- Evan Peter Williamson (head)
- Kevin Dobbins
- Maryelizabeth Koepele
- Leesa Love
- Marco Seiferle-Valencia
- Andrew Weymouth

Reporting to:

- Associate Dean, Research & Instruction