Hazard zet Forward:
CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES AT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

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DIGITAL HUMANITIES
at Seton Hall

- The convergence of computing and humanities scholarship and practices for the purpose of finding new approaches to the study of a given topic. Craig Harkema

- DH place faculty and students at the intersection of culture and technology. Zephyr Frank

- Digital humanities is a constantly evolving discipline based on scholarship and pedagogy derived from the intersection of computing and technology with traditional humanities education and field of study. James Neal

- Text technologies encompasses technologies of communication; social media analysis; database creation, coding, TEI; technologies of publishing and text access; and digital curation of virtual exhibitions. Mark Algee Hewitt

- I don't define Digital Humanities any more. All humanities seems to be digital in one way or another. Martin Holmes   http://whatisdigitalhumanities.com/

Working Assumptions

- Broad collaboration, involving all sectors of academia (faculty, librarians, technologists, students)

- Cross-disciplinary (on campus, off campus, infrastructure, projects)

- Rooted in past scholarship, but involves new ways of representing data, of processing data, of manipulating data

- Largely grant-funded (successor of digital libraries projects of the 1990s)

- As the nature of the Web changes so do possibilities for digital humanities and digital scholarship (Web 1.0, Web 2.0, Web 3.0)

- Endorsement by MLA, other humanities national and regional organizations

- Recognized methodologies now over 25 years old [See the History of Humanities Computing]

Lingering Questions

- Nature of DH scholarship is at odds with so much of humanities research and training

- What is the technology curve?

- Is it real scholarship? How will it be evaluated?

- Will there be sustained job growth or is this a passing fad?

DIGITAL HUMANITIES at Seton Hall

- Private, diocesan Catholic university, founded in 1856
- Comprised of 9 schools and colleges: Arts and Sciences; Communication and the Arts, Nursing, Education, Business, Health and Medical Sciences, Diplomacy, and Law; launching a medical school in partnership with Hackensack Hospital
- Primarily an undergraduate institution, with doctoral programs in the Chemistry and Biology, Health Sciences, Education, and Nursing
- Ranked 118, according to US News Report
- Total enrollment: 9,824
- Undergraduate enrollment: 6,090

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
at Seton Hall

- One of the first institutions to have a Teaching, Learning and Technology Center and Roundtable

- Innovator in mobile computing with a laptop initiative that began in the 1990s

- Pioneer in online education, dating back to the 1990

- One of the 25 Most Wired campuses in the late 1990s/early 2000s

- Slow to respond to developments in humanities computing—in retrospect, an advantage since it allowed us to look at and learn from the work of other institutions rather than being one of the first to implement a program

Our Focus is Pedagogy

- Faculty--teachers, researchers—are the center of our initiative

- Undergraduate students—as learners, co-innovators, co-collaborators—the reason for our program

- We've looked specifically at DH programs and initiatives that emphasize teaching and learning, such as:
    - [The Digital Humanities Lab](#)
    - [Digital Humanities Program at Michigan State](#)

DIGITAL HUMANITIES at Seton Hall

- Several ongoing or previous initiatives on campus served as models.

- These include:
  - A successful and fairly recently established university core curriculum
  - The Department of Math and Computing's minor in data visualization
  - A culture of awarding grant funding to spark faculty innovation—i.e., our curriculum development grants, assessment grants and fig grants
  - An earlier successful faculty fellows program that dated from the 2000s
  - An earlier consortium of Catholic colleges and universities

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We have partnered with:

- Our Faculty Development Center

- Our Core Curriculum faculty

- The Library

- The Department of Math and Computing and its minor in data visualization

- Our Teaching Learning Technology Center (TLTC) and Roundtable (TLTR)

- TLTC Instructional Designers (several serve on the committee)

- Faculty Senate IT Committee

- The Career Center

- The Liberal Arts Committee (Arts & Sciences)

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
at Seton Hall

- Began in spring 2013 with three faculty members: one from the library, one from English, one from Math and Computer Sciences

- Hosted its first event—a Best Practices event highlighting several DH faculty teaching projects—in fall 2013

- Invited other members and officially created the DH Committee in 2014

- First funding from provost: 2015-16 (based on a presentation we gave on the value of DH to the larger SHU community)

- Second funding from provost: 2016-17

- Now consists of 21 members from all schools, colleges and divisions on campus

- Our blog https://blogs.shu.edu/digitalhumanities/

- Established and administers Digital Humanities Faculty Fellowships: year-long competitive awards for faculty on the South Orange campus for a teaching-related project (applicants were encouraged to attend a fall 2015 DH event)

- Established and administers Faculty Seed Grants: semester-long innovation grants for faculty on the South Orange campus (no specific focus). Applicants had to attend at least one day of the three-day DH Summer Seminar (May 2016)

- Sponsors "best practices" events, a speaker series, workshops, and colloquia

- Visit to Hofstra University (by invitation) for the DRexChange (3/16)—connecting to other centers and initiatives

- Established two self-directed working groups (R, DH Press)

- Currently pursuing several grant opportunities

Where We Want to Go

- Inclusion of a "digital" proficiency in the University Core Curriculum

- Advancing learning about DH through our new "creativity/maker" area: Space 154

- A digital humanities minor, housed in Math and Computing, but which is cross-disciplinary based on an academic "hub and spoke" 3+3 model

- Discussions with Liberal Arts Committee about sponsoring the DH program

- A developing partnership with the Career Center to enable students to work as interns in our own and consortial archives

- Growing the newly established New Jersey Digital Humanities Consortium (in collaboration with Drew, Montclair, Princeton, Rutgers, and Stockton

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- Building on existing structures

- Partnering for things like speakers, events, and general support/advocacy

- Not reinventing the wheel (for example, our intern program will be based on one at Stockton)

- Networking: both visiting other campuses and bringing others to campus

- Avoiding faculty "DH fatigue" (see recent article on year-long conversation about technology at Univ. of Michigan)

- But, at the same time, bringing up DH at every opportunity as a value-added for our students and faculty

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DIGITAL HUMANITIES
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HUB:

- Data Visualization

- Data Mining

- Text analysis course

SPOKE:

- Intro to DH course in the disciplines: English/History/Philosophy/etc.

- + 2 DH-infused courses (of which one could be an Independent Study project)

Some existing courses:

- The Sacred Labyrynth

- Representations of the Body in Early America

- British Catholic Women Writers

- Irish Literature: Past and Present

- The City in American Literature

- + Courses being developed by our grant recipients

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
at Seton Hall

- **Faculty presentations**

- **Co-sponsored speakers**

- **Opening DH events to consortium members**

- **Summer Seminar (the one at SHU open to all consortium members)**

- **Web site and Twitter tag**

- **Working groups**

- **Grant funding**