Texas State University Libraries Technology Roadmap Pathways to ARL Membership Whitepaper

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Introduction

There are several pathways for Texas State University Libraries to show congruency with ARL libraries leading edge technology perspectives. Each of the following options may be pursued singly or together with others, mixing and matching plans. Pursuing any of these areas will expand potential towards ARL technology perspectives. Broad general areas of Digital Scholarship, Digitization of Wittliff Collections Online and Leadership in New Technology areas are introduced and then subdivided into project types and yearly benchmarks of success.

Digital Scholarship

Faculty Scholarly Research. The division of Digital and Web Services has been very successful over the past four years in larger innovative digitization projects with University Archives and Special collections. The next stage of this development is to extend successes and possibilities to faculty to begin a digital scholarship program with faculty and their research. These projects would focus on building online infrastructure for faculty research projects (i.e. digital libraries and online archives).

Present Challenges: Faculty are difficult to reach. A strong focus on marketing to faculty and motivating them with a digital fellows' program would help in bringing faculty on board with library digitization services. This type of incentive structure could be incorporated similar to present library faculty funding programs (i.e. electronic resource grant, new faculty funding etc.). For a model of an incentivized digital fellows program see Appendix A: Texas State University Digital Fellows Program).

1) **Digital Scholarship Research Project Types**:
   1) Online Exhibits of Faculty Research, spectrum of artifact types: i.e. texts, images, data, video/audio.
   2) Digital Libraries and Archives of Faculty Generated or Faculty Owned Material.
   3) Contextualized Data Repositories of Faculty Material or Faculty Specialized Centers (Texas Data Repository)
   4) Multimedia Image or Video Repositories of Faculty Research Material (IIIF Viewer)

Yearly Benchmarks of Success

2019-2020 – One faculty research project produced. Online archive or exhibit with infrastructure workflows. Marketing plan to faculty worked out. National Conference Presentation or Published Article.
2020-2021 – Two faculty scholarly research digitization projects/collaborations started. Incentivized Digital Fellows Program set-up. National conference presentation or published article.
2021-2022 - Two faculty research projects begun. One project completed. One grant application/collaboration pursued between library and faculty member (i.e. NEH, IMLS, NSF). National conference presentation or published article

Wittliff Special Collections Online

The William Wittliff Collections contain a range of special collections and archives worthy of digitization and national ARL perspectives. Strong digitization potential is manifest ranging from online exhibitions to digital multimedia archives to pairing archives with higher end technologies (i.e. IIIF, Mirador Viewer, Multimedia video archives etc.). Challenges include changing perspectives towards online projects, working on obtaining copyright or partial copyright for online reproduction and education with regards to other parallel ARL institutions digitization efforts (i.e. Ransom Center Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

Expanding Wittliff Collections Online. A stronger digital focus on the Wittliff Collections in terms of digital scholarship possibilities and expanding this area in terms of national level collections online would significantly add to the ARL candidacy for Texas State University Libraries. Key collections would need to be identified, rights cleared, and collections placed online or digitized for scholars.

Example Projects

Cormac McCarthy Project - Digitization of extant Manuscripts for Cormac McCarthy and placing the Manuscripts so versions can be compared using the IIIF Framework and offline terminal. After a prototype, this could also be extended as a grant worthy project.
South by Southwest Writers Collection. Digitizing manuscripts of other luminaries of the SWWC collections to be placed online (i.e. Larry McMurtry, Sam Shepard, William Wittliff, Sandra Cisneros etc.). Projects would be contextualized by appropriate scholars and curators to present online exhibits and archives as both digital scholarship and marketing tools
Texas Music Digitization. Digitization of music collections and placing collections online with online exhibits and audio archives. Collections online could range from Willie Nelson to Stevie Ray Vaughan to selections from the collection related to Tejano Music and biographies. i.e. Selena) Rights would need to be worked out and placing select works online would add a valuable marketing tool to the physical collections holdings
Southwestern & Mexican Photography Digitization. Major Imaging projects using the IIIF viewer and

contextualized sites/photographers of the Southwestern and Mexican Photography Collections (i.e. Keith Carter, Mariana Yampolsky, Kate Breakey, Graciela Iturbide, Yolande Andrede etc.). Cross-cultural partnerships could be pursued with other national institutions (i.e. Mexico) and collaborations worked out. (Models, UT Austin, Guatemalan, Brazilian and Mexican Human Rights Digitization Projects)
Lonesome Dove Project - Multimedia project devoted to digitization and contextualization of materials related to Lonesome dove with digitized interviews. (Similar to Severo Perez film project but on a larger scale fitting to Lonesome Dove)

Yearly Benchmarks of Success

2019-2020 - One major Wittliff Project (Digital archive or library) completed. Major Grant Application applied for. National Conference Presentation or published article.
2020-2021 – Two major Wittliff Projects (i.e. Music, Film, Literary) started. Two grant applications or one successful grant. National Conference Presentation or published article.
2021-2022 – Two major Wittliff Projects completed from two different areas. One grant application. National conference presentation or published article.

New Technology Infrastructure Leadership

ARL Technology Infrastructure Leadership Focus. This technology leadership pathway focuses on building the Alkek library Collections and Digital Services Technology Infrastructure to lead R&D development congruent with other ARL Libraries (and more specifically Texas Institutions). This technology build out would necessarily involve leading edge new technology software, infrastructures and technology stacks congruent with ARL leadership directions (i.e. working out these models, workflows and paradigms to gage applicability for other libraries). Because this work is necessarily more R&D and showing associated leadership risks, characteristics take a more research and development approach.

Example Projects and Software

1) Avalon – Digital Video Projects (i.e. Austin Film Festival)
2 New digital library infrastructure investigation (i.e. Sanverra/Hydrax/Fedora/Hyku/Solr Digital Library/Indexing infrastructure software Projects to form unique stacks of technology for digital archives
3) Hyku in a Box. Migrations of present collections from D-space
4) Blacklight/Geolight – Application of new front end interface projects
5) Linked Data/Special Collections/Archives initiatives online. Working out Texas State's own unique Linked Data infrastructure.
6) IIIF Viewer – partnering with other universities with the IIIF Viewer possibilities and/or "From the Page" annotation transcription software

7) Data Repository/Data Visualization Infrastructure Services

These projects involve both new technology and digitization but also migration of existing projects (i.e. Ashes of Waco, Panther Hall) to new infrastructures. These would be used as proof of concepts and case studies and presented on at conferences and published as articles.

Challenges: Because of present Digital and Web Services workloads, a new programmer to focus on this more leading-edge software and the time required for implementation, R&D would be required. To also note, as technology infrastructure is worked out for the 'learning commons' this area and the scholarly research areas could be combined productively with new learning commons technology possibilities (i.e. 3D Visualization, 3D Digital Archives etc.) to begin investigation of these new possibilities.

Yearly Benchmarks of Success

2019-2020 – One leading edge technology or infrastructure adopted with documented workflows. National conference presentation or published article.
2020-2021 – One leading edge technology adopted with documented workflows. National conference presentation or published article. Grant application for technology infrastructure.
2021-2022 - One leading edge technology adopted with documented workflows. National conference presentation or published article. One successful infrastructure grant (IMLS).

Conclusions

 There are many pathways towards ARL directions and leadership perspectives with regards to library technology and strong possibilities with major pathways of Digital Scholarship, Wittliff Collections Online and New Technology Leadership Infrastructures. Each of these pathways could be used to strengthen congruency with ARL perspectives, either uniquely or a combination of pathways. There are both challenges and possibilities to creating these directions. While these models lay out more assertive 3-5-year timeliness a longer 5-7 multiyear timeline may also be used to develop these areas more organically.

Appendix A

Texas State University Libraries Digital Fellowships Request for Proposal

Overview

Texas State University Libraries are initiating a Digital Library Fellows program to create innovative new digital scholarly content by awarding grants to faculty interested in developing digital resources from their own research or resources to which they have copyright. The Libraries will provide funding, digitization, programming and technological support to Texas State University faculty for the creation and online delivery of digital libraries, online exhibits, digital archives, online scholarly resources or a combination of the above. The Libraries are seeking projects that will have a significant impact on learning, and research, and encourage projects which would include student participation and would benefit from being placed online for global reach.

All disciplines are invited and research content is at the discretion of faculty members. The division especially encourages researchers who are involved in Science and STEM research but all disciplines will be considered. Examples of digital libraries, online exhibits, multimedia archives currently produced by the libraries are available to review below:

Cabeza de Vaca IIIF Digital Manuscript Archive
National Tour of Texas Multimedia Archive
Severo Perez's and the Earth Did Not Swallow Them Digital Exhibit and Archive
University Archives Pedagogs Digital Library
Santiago Tafolla Online Exhibit and Manuscript Digitization
Texas State University Bobcat Flickr Commons

The division also can support data related projects with connections possible to the Texas State University Dataverse.

Supported projects will result in open access on-line resources designed to have long-term relevance to Texas State faculty and students but also the larger global scholarly research community. To ensure long-term access to resources created, all digital content will be produced in adherence to state-of-the-art digital standards, technical specifications and copyright standards.

Eligibility

These competitive Digital Library Fellowships are open to full-time, regular (tenured, tenure track or non-tenured) Texas State University faculty and advanced stage Ph.D. candidates (ABD or recently graduated local Ph.D.'s, three years or less) interested in developing innovative digital resources. Selected fellows should be able to meet at least bi-weekly with library staff on the San Marcos campus during the year of the fellowship and must commit to completing the project as outlined in the scope on a one year timeline.

Funding

Up to three Fellowships will be awarded with a maximum of $25,000/fellowship for one year.

Project Selection

Selected projects will result in the creation of online scholarly, internet-based digital resources that meet the following criteria:
1) Represents a significant new contribution to online research, resources and/or original content
2) Provides access to traditional research and resource in new ways and accessible to a global scholarly audience
3) Generates a new scholarly contextualized user experience which would not be possible via access to print resources
4) Contributes to teaching and learning at an academic level relevant to the Texas State and wider US scholarly community
5) Contributes original and/or gathered research for an international scholarly community.

Proposal Format

The proposal must include the following parts:

1) one paragraph abstract of the project;
2) A two to three-page narrative describing the proposal;
3) Current CV of the applicant or applicant(s);
4) A detailed project budget;
5) An outline of participants and their respective levels of engagement;
6) A brief project management plan with scope, stakeholders and time lines for the accomplishment of stated project goals;
7) One or two letters of support from colleagues, department chair and/or dean stating the scholarly value of the project.

Proposal Tips

Writing the Narrative. The narrative section should describe both the relevance of the project in terms of scholarly research and the research community and include a brief description of how the digital content created by the project relates to teaching, scholarship and research. The narrative should specify whether the content to be presented already exists in a digital form, needs to be converted from analog formats or whether similar projects already exist online. Projects that make use of a combination of digital images, audio, video, text and data and incorporate a spectrum of multimedia in innovative ways are particularly encouraged. Please review online examples noted above for possibility and feel

free to contact Alkek Library Head of Digital and Web Services Todd Peters (tpeters@txstate.edu) for any preliminary technical questions.

Copyright Control. All applicants should hold general copyright to the material to be digitized. Material should be in the public domain or copyright may be easily obtained. For questions of copyright and rights, the libraries copyright officer Stephanie Towery may be consulted (sst25@txstate.edu). Prospective library fellows should resolve as much as possible any potential copyright questions in their proposals before applying.

Budgeting and Scope. Strong preference will be given to projects with realistic budget proposals, pragmatic timelines and a well-defined scope. Applicants should consider the scope of the work to be done, time required to complete the work, and the wages paid to project workers. Budgeting for student workers, on the undergraduate and/or graduate level, is encouraged but not mandatory. While fellow applicants may utilize funds for travel to complete gathering/researching materials, the majority of material for a fellow's proposed digitization project should consist of materials already in their possession or easily in their possession. Applicants are strongly discouraged from including budget allocations which contribute funds to their own salaries or time.

Library Participation. Applicants are encouraged to craft proposals which would support the Texas State University libraries mission to advance innovation in information technology, digital scholarship and scholarly communication. Candidates are also encouraged to align their proposals with the libraries goal of transforming into a research library (ARL) and the Universities goal of transforming into a Research intensive institution. Research intensive projects with a variety of media content resources and research that may be shared online are especially encouraged.

Work Space. Work space for fellows, student workers and work stations for projects will be made available to Digital Fellows. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with their departments to provide additional office space and work stations to project contributors if necessary. For projects working directly with locally held archival materials, space may also be made available in the Libraries for the project principals for office work.

Consultations. Faculty with questions about project plans or the proposal process are welcome beforehand.

Review Procedures

A committee of reviewers made up of administrators and technologists in the field of digital projects will review each proposal and select those that best meet the stated goals of the Digital Library Fellows program.

Award Criteria

Recipients will be expected to complete their project within their defined scope within a year of their starting date. Fellows will also be expected to share their experiences with other faculty through a library sponsored colloquium sponsored within six months of completing the projects as well as authoring at least one written article, acknowledging the Libraries in any publications, printed materials, or websites that result from the grant. Award money may also be used by fellows for innovative 1-2 day

colloquia to promote the final online research product (i.e. digital library, archive, multimedia exhibit) and to develop further links with global experts. The libraries will do their best to assign project work teams to help fellows carry out technical aspects of their projects. Once awarded, fellows are expected to work closely in partnership with the Libraries various areas of technical expertise (technologists, programmers, digitization experts, metadata cataloguers, project managers) in developing a detailed and innovative timetable and more detailed project plan of work from their accepted proposal in order to ensure successful completion of their projects, and to develop a presence on the Libraries Digital Collections website.

Further Notes on Intellectual Property Rights

Working with Legacy Materials. Digital Fellowship applicants should ensure that they hold general rights to publish the materials in their proposals in an open access on-line format or that the materials are within fair use copyright strictures. In practice, this means that Fellows work with materials in the public domain, own copyright to the materials in question, or allocate funds to purchase permission from the respective copyright holder to publish the materials online.

Creating new Intellectual Content. Intellectual property rights for content produced during Digital Fellowships, including digital files, online exhibits, digital libraries, digital archives, multimedia applications, or other innovations, are governed by the policies defined by Texas State University Libraries and Texas State University.