

Digital Toolkit: Developing a Training Series for Beginners in Digital Scholarship in the Humanities

■ PRESENTERS

Donna Langille (she/they)

Community Engagement
and Open Education
Librarian

UBC Okanagan

donna.langille@ubc.ca

Jess Yao (she/they)

Digital Scholarship Librarian
UBC Vancouver

jess.yao@ubc.ca

■ LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the work presented here today was conducted on the unceded, ancestral, and stolen lands of the Syilx Okanagan peoples and the x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam) First Nation.

We are very grateful to be here today in Tiohtiá:ke, on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst many First Nations including the Kanien'kehá:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinaabeg.

■ OUTLINE

- Digital Scholarship in the Humanities, or DH
- Digital Toolkit Series
 - Institutional Context
 - Objectives
 - Planning
 - Outcomes
- Next Steps

Join at
slido.com
#4046 922






DIGITAL HUMANITIES (DH)



What is it?

“DH can be defined as new ways of doing scholarship that involve collaborative, transdisciplinary, and computationally engaged **research, teaching, and publishing**” - Drucker, Lunenfeld, & Presner



As well as...

1

Studying culture with technology

DH researchers and developers work together to design digital tools that can answer questions about culture, history, literature, art, and other areas of humanities inquiry.

2

Understanding & critiquing the role of technology in the past & present

DH uses critical lenses including feminist, anti-colonial, and non-Western approaches to technology. These lenses result in complementary fields like cyberfeminism, critical making, critical code studies, data justice, race and technology, and non-Western perspectives on technology. DH equates these critical perspectives to both the subject of research and the tools used in research.

3

Building collaborative networks and communities

DH research is highly interdisciplinary and has the capacity to be done internationally, engaging experts from around the world to work collaboratively. Often requiring partnerships with different skills, DH researchers work with galleries, archives, libraries, museums (QAM Institution), as well as local organizations to conduct cutting-edge research.



4

Preserving, analyzing, & making public data & cultural heritage media

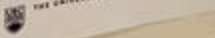
DH interprets and analyzes a range of cultural artifacts—whether digital, textual, sound recordings or other media—through the lens of digital technologies. It helps increase public and scholarly access to these materials through digitization, preservation, remediation, data analysis, and other technology-focused methods such as AI and VR. In addition to traditional scholarly publishing, DH also uses accessible and open access media formats, such as podcasts, newsletters, and digital editions to make information available to those outside of the institutional context.

5

Increasing the visibility and impact of scholarship outside academia

By being shared in open access and online spaces, DH values public outreach and participation beyond the academic community.

What is Digital Humanities?



1. Studying culture with technology
2. Understanding & critiquing the role of technology
3. Building collaborative networks and communities
4. Preserving, analyzing & making public data & cultural heritage media
5. Increasing the visibility and impact of scholarship outside academia

Contributors: Emily Murphy, Judith Barr, Kara Shaver, Megan Bulchert, Sarah Cipes, and Tessa Luffman.

■ INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

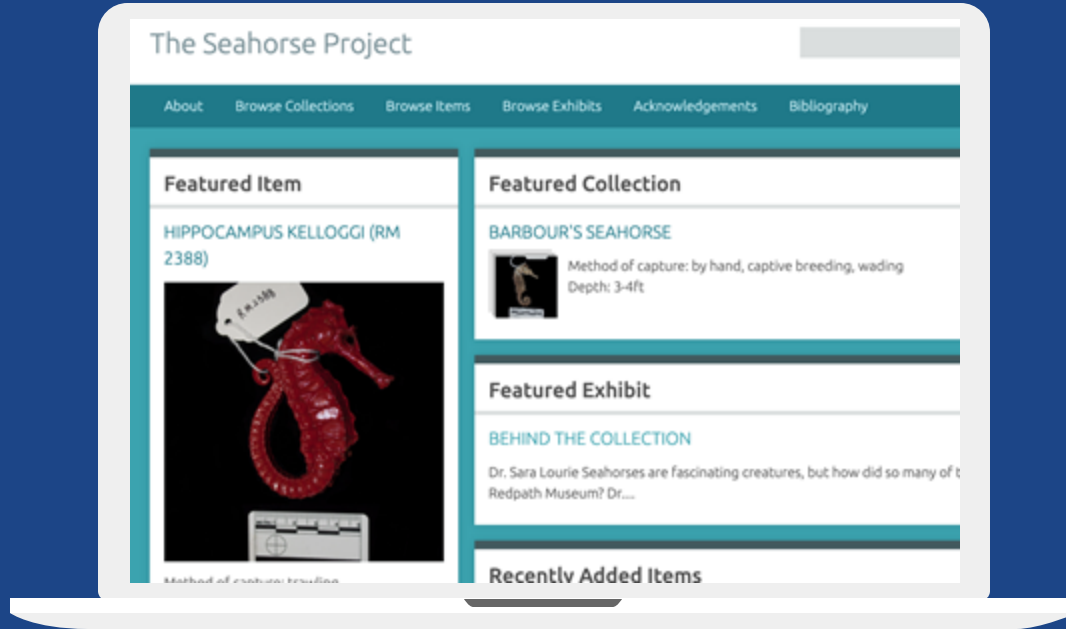
- Two major campuses: Vancouver & Okanagan
- Large student population; many faculty and programs
- Vancouver
 - Research Commons (Library)
 - Public Humanities Hub, Advanced Research Computing, Emerging Media Lab, Arts ISIT, etc.
- Okanagan
 - Centre for Scholarly Communication (Library)
 - AMP Lab, Advanced Research Computing

DIGITAL TOOLKIT SERIES

What is it?

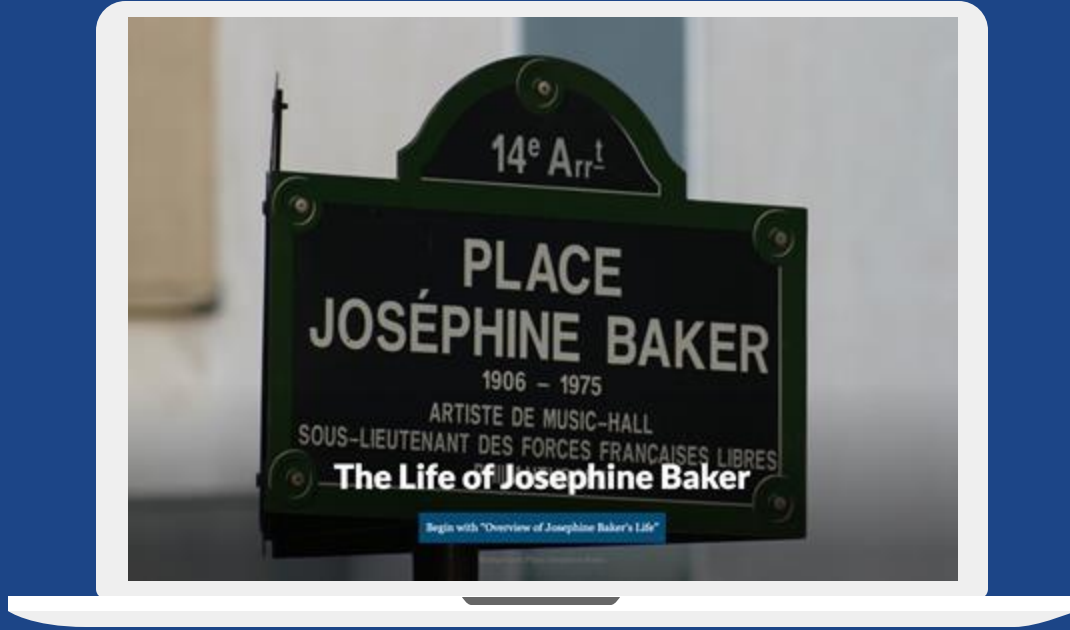
■ DIGITAL TOOLKIT

- Introductory training for common tools used in Digital Scholarship (DS) in the Humanities (e.g. GitHub, Scalar, Voyant, Omeka, etc.)
- Target audience included faculty and graduate students
- Themes such as open pedagogy, community engagement, online publishing, accessibility, and technical upskilling



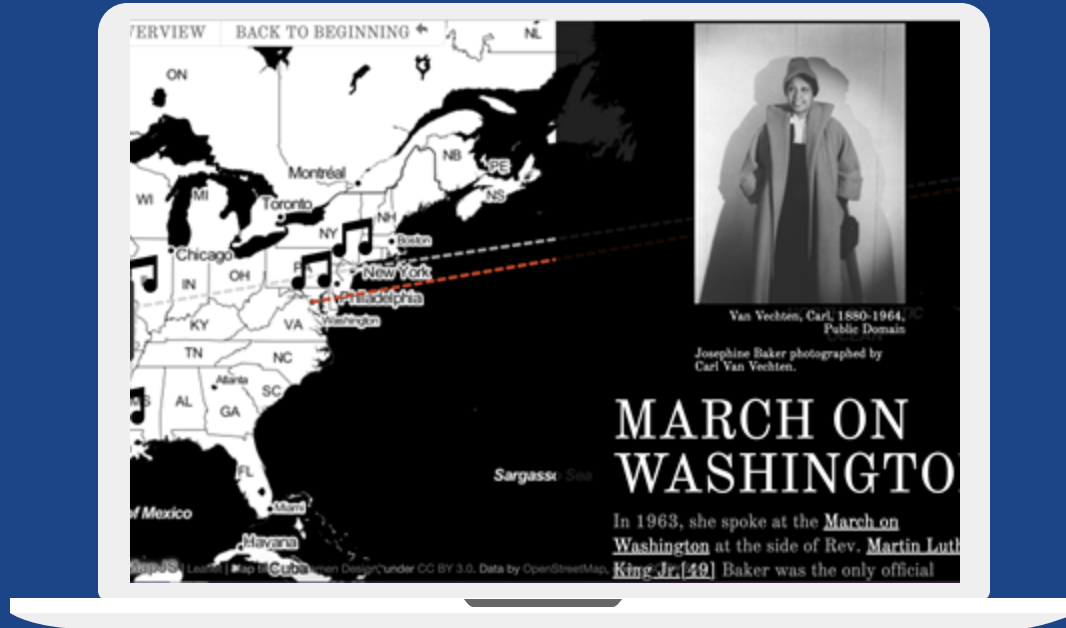
OMEKA

Free, open source content management system for online digital collections.



SCALAR

Free, open source, web-based publishing software for non-linear digital storytelling.



STORYMAPS JS

Free, open source tool that allows you to create an interactive story using maps.



Wax, CollectionBuilder

■ PROGRESSION OF TOOLKIT

- Standalone tool-based workshops
 - Inclusion of hands-on, step by step tutorials
- Survey sessions (e.g. creating digital exhibits)
 - Free time / space to develop practical skills at own pace

■ DIGITAL TOOLKIT OBJECTIVES

1. Fulfil a need for tool-based short form instruction for Digital Scholarship in the Humanities across both campuses
2. Build cross-campus collaboration and increase programming through the UBC Library Research Commons
3. Respond to direct requests for specific tools or skill sets from faculty and students across both campuses

■ PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

- Tools are recommended based on projects, not whether or not they are “easier to use” (Morgan 2018)
- Minimal demonstrations
- Extra time for hands on activities at the end (choose your own adventure)

■ PLANNING PROCESS

- One-pager approach
- GitHub workshop templates
 - Openly licensed
 - Accessible
 - Adaptable

■ DIGITAL TOOLKIT OUTCOMES

- Over 250 participants and counting
- Increased cross-campus collaboration
- Supporting new and existing courses
- Two-person architecture to delivering content helped in online context

■ NEXT STEPS

- Reviewing and making adjustments on an ongoing basis
- Thinking about sustainability, scalability
- Assessment (goals), featuring examples of projects, gaps + needs

WORKS CITED

Morgan, P. C. (2018). The consequences of framing digital humanities tools as easy to use. *College & Undergraduate Libraries*, 25(3), 211-231. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10691316.2018.1480440>

Murphy, E., Burr, J., Shearer, K., Butchart, M., Cipes, S., & Lotfizadeh, Y. (2023). *What Is Digital Humanities?* AMP Lab, UBC-Okanagan.

Omeka <https://omeka.org/>

Scalar <https://scalar.me/anvc/scalar/>

Knight Lab <https://knightlab.northwestern.edu/>

Wax <https://minicomp.github.io/wax/about/>

Collection Builder <https://collectionbuilder.github.io/>



THANK YOU!

Donna Langille

Jess Yao

donna.langille@ubc.ca

jess.yao@ubc.ca