Digital Humanities

The Michigan State University Libraries Digital Humanities team works in partnership with faculty, students, organizations, and centers to grow and sustain Digital Humanities research and pedagogy. Strengths of the Digital Humanities team include text analysis, image analysis, network analysis, visualization, digital preservation, and data curation.

Areas of Specialization

- Instruction: method, tool, and technique lectures and workshops
- Consultation: text analysis, network analysis, image analysis, visualization, digital preservation, data curation, grant application process
- Collaboration: partner on Digital Humanities research, develop tools, convene events, symposia, and colloquia
- Collection: build and/or enhance collections amenable to computational analysis, enable new modes of discovery and access to collections, acquire and/or condition data to support pursuit of Digital Humanities research questions

Team Members

Devin Higgins, Digital Library Programmer
Thomas Padilla, Digital Scholarship Librarian
Michael Rodriguez, Digital Humanities Coordinator
Bobby Smiley, Digital Scholarship and American History Librarian

Team Office Hours

Every Thursday (excluding Holiday breaks)
12:00-1:30 Main Library
Collaborative Technology Lab, W101C
Projects Affiliated with CREATE

Automated Analysis of Constructed Response

The Automated Analysis of Constructed Response (AACR) Research Group is a collaboration of researchers from seven universities with backgrounds in various STEM disciplines, linguistics, and educational research. The project is exploring computerized analysis of students' writing in large enrollment undergraduate STEM courses. We are pursuing multiple approaches to using linguistic analysis software for identifying conceptual categories in students' written responses and using that data to build statistical models of students' thinking in biology, chemistry, and statistics. These techniques have potential for improving assessment practices across STEM disciplines.

Interactions: Student Understanding of Intermolecular Forces

This NSF-funded project hosted by the Institute is building and testing interdisciplinary instructional materials to support high school students in developing integrated understanding of the forces and energies involved in interactions that occur between atoms and molecules. Along with building new curriculum materials, the research program explores how students' learning develops across time.

TEAM Project (MTH1825 Project)

The Teacher Education And Mathematics Project (TEAM Project) is working on transforming the remedial mathematics experience at Michigan State University. We are specifically working on MTH1825, within the face to face component MTH100E. Our intervention uses Pre-Servic Mathematics teachers (Students taking TE407) to implement a curriculum using group-worthy tasks in an inquiry-based environment.

Creating a Coherent Gateway for STEM Teaching and Learning at MSU

This project endeavors to change the culture at Michigan State University so that teaching and learning are valued and rewarded. The primary mechanisms to enact this change are (1) helping individual departments develop a shared vision for their gateway courses and (2) developing policies and structures to support and reward curricular improvements.
http://learndat.tech.msu.edu
Matrix, the Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at Michigan State University, is devoted to the application of new technologies for teaching, research, and outreach. As one of the premier humanities computing centers in the United States, Matrix creates and maintains online resources, provides training in computing and new teaching technologies, and creates forums for the exchange of ideas and expertise in the field.

Matrix houses major digital library repositories including the African Online Digital Library (AODL), Detroit Public Television’s American Black Journal video archives, Historical Voices, and the Quilt Index.

Matrix partners with many units at Michigan State University and with external organizations such as museums, libraries and archives that hold collections of cultural resources important for public access and humanities research, teaching and learning. Matrix works with these partners to digitize collections, preserve digital resources and present them online for teaching and research purposes. Matrix has been involved in a range of training initiatives, notably with teachers in the Great Lakes region and with diverse groups in Western and Southern Africa.

In pursuing this research portfolio, Matrix’s academic staff has been guided by basic principles that have positioned the center as a national and international leader. First, we have been committed to the best practices of the academic digital community. Matrix staff members are directly engaged in wide-reaching national and international discussions of best practices and are pioneering the application of such practices to digital collections and projects. Second, our work reflects a commitment to collaboration with developing countries and poorly resourced partners. Matrix’s solutions are built upon open-source, inexpensive hardware and software and backed by our commitment to train and prepare partners for sustained use of these resources. Third, as scholars, publishers, and teachers we are both producers and consumers of digital objects; we are committed to the free flow of ideas and to respect for intellectual property. As a result, Matrix has developed a solid technological and organizational infrastructure that facilitates collaboration, project development and further research.
Matrix’s work is funded by Michigan State University and by external funding from many sources, including the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of State Office of Citizen’s Exchange, USAID, and the Ford and Mellon foundations.

Matrix now has fifteen full time employees. The staff includes a Director, three Associate Directors, five academic specialists, six administrative professionals, one clerical-technical staff member, and an annual budget of close to $200,000 for graduate and undergraduate student researchers and trainees.

A strong professional staff, a solid technological base, a proven track record for raising and managing research funds, and a project portfolio that stretches ahead for five years, all place us at the forefront of an exciting new field.
The ELI community is designed to facilitate the sharing of ideas and innovations among higher education professionals committed to advancing learning through IT innovation. Learn more >