PAPER

Title:

The Future of Scholarship: Data and Digital Scholarship Initiatives at NDSU

Keywords:

Data literacy

Digital scholarship

Data management

# Introduction

**Digital Scholarship augments the act of creating and sharing knowledge using digital technology to conduct research across disciplines to disseminate, access, or reuse it via primarily electronic methods. It is the application of digital technologies and content to enable new methods of inquiry, often involving large-scale manipulation of data. Digital scholarship uses digital tools to create, analyze, and disseminate scholarly products, thus enhances the teaching, learning and research.**

**Sections**

In response to the changing needs of students and faculty, the North Dakota State University is developing a new digital scholarship initiative. With a goal of creating a network of services to support researchers in all phases of the digital scholarship lifecycle, this collaborative initiative will incorporate new and existing services and resources within the Research and Creative Activity (RCA), Information Technology Services (ITS), and the Libraries, as well as strengthen and develop partnerships throughout NDSU. This paper will define digital scholarship in the context of academia, discuss the trends in higher education that set the stage for digital scholarship, and give an overview of how we are working to create a network of digital scholarship services.

Here are some of the main themes that will be covered:

### Sustainability, in the context of existing practitioners, to be able to take a more programmatic approach and to connect with other people doing the same work. Current practices reflect some traditional aspects of academic librarianship: guidance, stewardship and curation. New partnerships can help identify areas of need that add value to scholarly work, but the process of building these partnerships is not necessarily predictable. Library staff indicate a lack of technology staffing challenges and an unwillingness to commit to resource-intensive or possibly-unsustainable projects. Researchers fear for the long-term preservation of research artifacts.

### Communities of practice, in the context of researchers who would like access to collaborators.

The availability of collaborative space is critical but usage of these spaces in existing centers is generally low. Researchers and faculty believe that libraries are ideally suited to create communities and are already seen as leaders in this area.

Curriculum connection, in the context of faculty who want to use tools and methods in the classroom as part of their teaching while also keeping in mind that not all graduate student learning needs are met in the classroom.

Training and consultation, in the context of significant focus being placed on workshops and training tools and methods. While library staff also want to learn these skills, other commitments get in the way of learning new technologies or tools, such as time, funding, and lack of infrastructure. There is widespread demand for speakers’ series, colloquia and seminars and mentorship opportunities would be valuable.

### Centering students, in the context of graduate students who express a stronger interest in digital tools than faculty do as hands-on skills and experience for students will help them in their careers. Also, academic libraries are shifting to more of a student focus, with students seen as partners rather than patrons.

Existing digital scholarship centers are connected with a library while digital humanities centers tended to be departmental. The focus on libraries seems to have come with the shift towards the broader scope of digital scholarship and strong administrative support is key.

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