New Publishing Models: Persistence & Peer Review

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Fiesole Collection Development Retreat

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Building Blocks & Business Models

- Stanford Digital Repository
- Spotlight
- Center for Interdisciplinary Digital Research (CIDR)

- SU Press Digital Publishing Initiative
The Stanford Digital Repository

1,102 collections
204 million files
212 terabytes
articles, data sets, theses, photos, media, maps, manuscripts, books, and more...

SDR Deposit of the Week: Facilitating reproducibility

Many scientists are making the reproducibility of their research a much higher priority these days than they used to. But it's a time consuming task, which means that many are searching for tools and workflows to help facilitate their efforts.

Hatef Monajemi, a PhD student in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and his PhD advisor Professor David L. Donoho, have developed a new piece of software that can make reproducibility an easier goal to achieve. His new software is called Clusterjob (CJ). This software can be used to develop reproducible computational packages and make the generation of data for a research open-source software available on GitHub.
Breadth

EarthWorks
Geospatial Data

Spotlight
Exhibits

ArcLight
Archives

Web Archiving
Web captures

SearchWorks
Discovery

Mirador
Images
Evidence of Local Impact

“I'm coming up on the end of an NSF-funded project and my advisor wants us to archive it. He said there are some new initiatives at Stanford related to such efforts.”

“We would like to put together a repository for data generated by our current NSF grant, as a way to satisfy the data management plans dictated by the NSF.”

Quotes from recent researcher inquiries to the SDR
Spotlight

• Simplify the process for creating online exhibits
• Leverage the metadata work done for SDR

https://exhibits.stanford.edu/
Spotlight

• Almost immediately taken on as a tool for scholarly communication
• Adopted by the Registrar for student portfolios
What is CIDR?  
Center for Interdisciplinary Digital Research  

Digital Humanities,  
Computational Social Sciences,  
& related digital library  
and digital scholarship services
CIDR Service Profile

- **Academic Technology Specialists**
  - Technology specialists with deep subject-matter expertise embedded in departments
  - Liaison to library services

- **Technology development**
  - Competitive application process for support
  - Intensely collaborative, longer term digitally-enable research projects
  - Production of interactive scholarly works and publications

- **Centralized services**
  - Data provisioning
  - Workshops & consultations
Missing: Peer Review

- Journal and monograph publishing have established ecosystems of peer review and accreditation
  - Serve as benchmarks in the careers of scholars

- No parallel channels for “publication” or consistent “peer review” standards for digital projects.
Publishing Digital Scholarship

- Publishing for interactive, digital-born scholarship
- Validated, peer-reviewed process
- Maintain true-to-form digital formats
- Mellon funding
Publishing Digital Scholarship

“One goal for establishing a publishing methodology for interactive scholarly works is to provide a distribution channel that is held in the same high regard as the long-form monograph counterparts, . . . It is our intent to give scholars an opportunity to accumulate a digital publishing pedigree that provides the same consideration for hiring and tenure as traditional book publishing offers.”

Alan Harvey, Director, Stanford University Press
Program Objectives

• Establish interactive scholarly works as an integral part of a publishing program
  – Promote acceptance of the model within the academy’s traditional assessment structure
• Develop a replicable business model
• Develop procedures that assure the persistence of published digital objects
New Project Staff

• Digital Projects Editor
  - Friederike Sundaram

• Digital Production Associate
  - To be hired in the fall

“As editors, we guide the development of any project, whether print or digital, by conducting peer review and honing the concept and structure of a project’s argument. For digital projects, that means not only editing text, but also visual languages, and technological solutions.”
Enchanting The Desert

• Dynamically links photographs, narratives, and GIS-enriched maps of the Grand Canyon

• Readers examine historical and cultural spaces of this landmark

“Because of SUP’s prescient digital publishing initiative, the gap between what DH scholars are making and the established pathways of traditional academic distribution and accreditation is now much, much smaller.” – Nicholas Bauch (http://stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2015/01/the-digital-pilot.html)
The pipeline

• 2nd project has been signed
  - Built around a database of audio and video recordings of performances in Mahri, a language without a writing system

• 15 projects currently out for review

• Anticipate signing 1-2 additional projects during 2016

• Projecting 3 published projects in 2017; 5-10 in 2018
Technical Support

• SU Press supports authors in significant ways
  – user interface design
  – consulting on software & plugins
  – copyediting
  – content development

• But not coding
Platform Development

• Scholars are often looking for developers who can build platforms to support their arguments
• Platform development is part of the creative/research process for born digital works
Technical Review

• Originally planned technical review of the finished product

• Projects are arriving in relatively early stages

• Shift to consulting and shadowing authors as they develop the project
  – Providing letters of support for grant proposals
Business Model

• Focus on projects that are amenable to peer review
• For the moment, this remains effectively an open access publication
  – Potential to introduce fee-for-service approaches with future products
Thank you!

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