



The OU Libraries and Digital Humanities

Rick Luce

**Dean of University Libraries
and Associate VP for Research**

September 15, 2015

Roadmap

- DH observations from a Library perspective
- Resourcing: developing capabilities and building infrastructure
 - collections; expertise; facilities; enabling technologies
- Seeing possibilities: progress to date

15 minute rule

A Simple Management Principle

*if you want unusual results, you can't
expect that they will come from playing by
the usual rules*

Current state of the art

1. **Center focused:** organized around a physical location
many diverse projects, programs, and activities, offering different resources to diverse audiences
✓ (e.g., *UVA Scholars' Lab*)
2. **Resource focused:** organized around a primary resource, located in a virtual space, serving a specific group
All programs and products flow from the resource, individuals and institutions help sustain the resource by providing content, labor, or support services
✓ (e.g., Emory's *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database*)

Common Library Roles Supporting DH

1. **Develop digital collections:** via digitization and curation, and supporting data management infrastructure
2. **Discovery and dissemination** - aggregation of research outputs, OA publishing, and tracking impact (altmetrics)
3. **Managing Data** – *work collaboratively* to enable aggregating collections, re-purposing and organizing data for further analysis
4. **Digital preservation** - preservation of complex objects is complex and not straightforward

Digital Humanities “Infrastructure”

Technical and technology assistance and expertise:

- Metadata encoding, statistical analysis and/or geo-coding
- Digital resource design; digitization of images, text, audio, or video files
- Hardware/software infrastructure(s) for online communities
- Technology prototyping
- Internet services -- Web hosting, storage space, site mirroring, servers for scholars and organizations, archiving inactive projects,

Next Gen Library Roles in DH

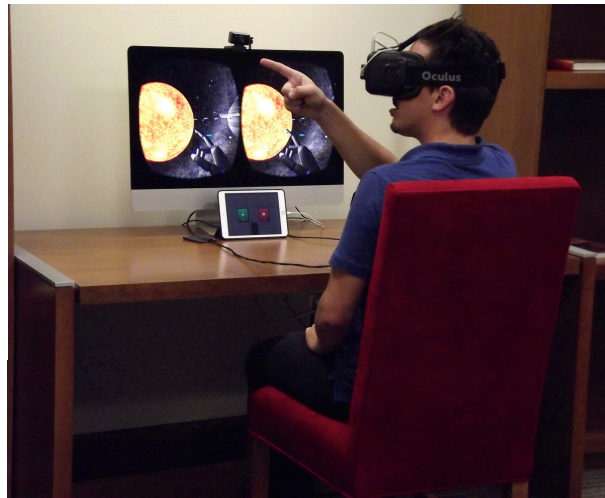
1. **Tools** for publishing research and organizing and analyzing data across disciplines (e.g., Zotero, Omeka)
2. Incorporating DH **computational techniques** into library systems and services (e.g., provide concordance services against all of the full text items in our collections)
3. **Creation of small corpuses** of library content:
 - provide n-gram services
 - entity-recognition services
 - parts-of-speech extraction service against results

Lessons from the Past Decade

- The 'structure' of digital humanities means that projects do not necessarily terminate in the 'fixed products of humanities'
- *DH in libraries is more than a service* -- by nature it is eccentric, unpredictable, highly customized, and prone to failure
- Need for DH training ground
- Successful 'library DH centers'
 1. In it for the long term
 2. Permanent staffing
 3. Physical space(s) to work, create identity
 4. Serving as a sandbox / idea incubator
 - some projects will succeed and some will fail

OU Libraries Today

Digital Scholarship Laboratory



OU Libraries: Digital Scholarship Lab

1. **Dedicated space** for faculty/post-grad/grad collaboration, cooperation & consultation
2. **Consultation** and assistance in the use of GIS, scholarly asset management, informatics, information handling, software, web sites, etc.
3. Record lectures, pod-casts, presentations
4. Connect with peers via video-conferencing

OU Libraries Supporting Campus Research/Creativity

RESEARCH
TOOLS

OPEN  ACCESS

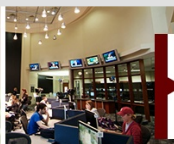


Edition Open Sources



SHAREOK.ORG

A central, open-access repository of research
by members of Oklahoma Higher Education



OUatio: *a celebration
for a victory*

A repository of open access, quality research and
creativity by University of Oklahoma undergraduate
students


COMMONS
**OPEN EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES**

(OJS) - Open Journal System

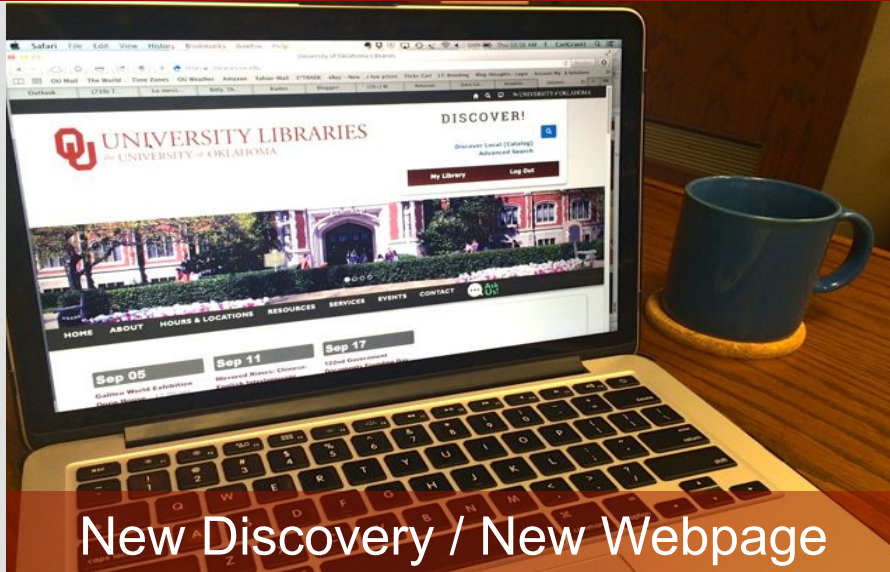
New DH-related Capabilities (past 3 years)

- **Research & data initiatives:** Digital Scholarship Specialist; GIS Librarian; Research Data Specialist; Informatics Specialist
- **Special collections:** Digi-lab coordinator; Registrar
- **Faculty teaching support:** OER coordinator
- **CLC:** 2 emerging tech librarians
- **Digital infrastructure team:** SHAREOK digital repository; *Discover!* search application; new web site
- **Joined HathiTrust:** 12M+ digitized titles

Facilities: Investment & Transformation

- DigiLab (high resolution digitization): Aug. 2013
- Collaborative Learning Center: Sept. 2014
- Bizzell Master Plan: Regents approval June 2015
- Special Collections 5th floor renovation: Aug. 2015
- Innovation **Edge** – Bizzell Main floor – Nov. 2015
- Innovation **Hub** (Research Park) – Spring 2016

OU Libraries Supporting Campus Research/Creativity



New Discovery / New Webpage



Digital Scholarship Lab
& Conference Room



Special Collections



Digitization Laboratory

OU Libraries Supporting Campus Research/Creativity

New ways of exploring knowledge: Exaptive, MooMat, NavApp ...

Galileo's World collection

Galileo's World

Galileo's World - An Exhibition without Walls
20 Exhibits • 7 Locations • 3 Campuses

In celebration of OU's 125th anniversary, Galileo's World is a series of exhibits, events, and programs at the Bizzell Memorial Library, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, the National Weather Center, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Headington Hall, the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library, and the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Library. Starting August 2015 through 2016, Galileo's World illustrates connections between science, art, literature, music, religion, philosophy, politics, and culture.

Explore the various collections related to Galileo's World. There are collections of exhibit highlights, collections of people, books, audio, inventions, terms and ideas, and much more.

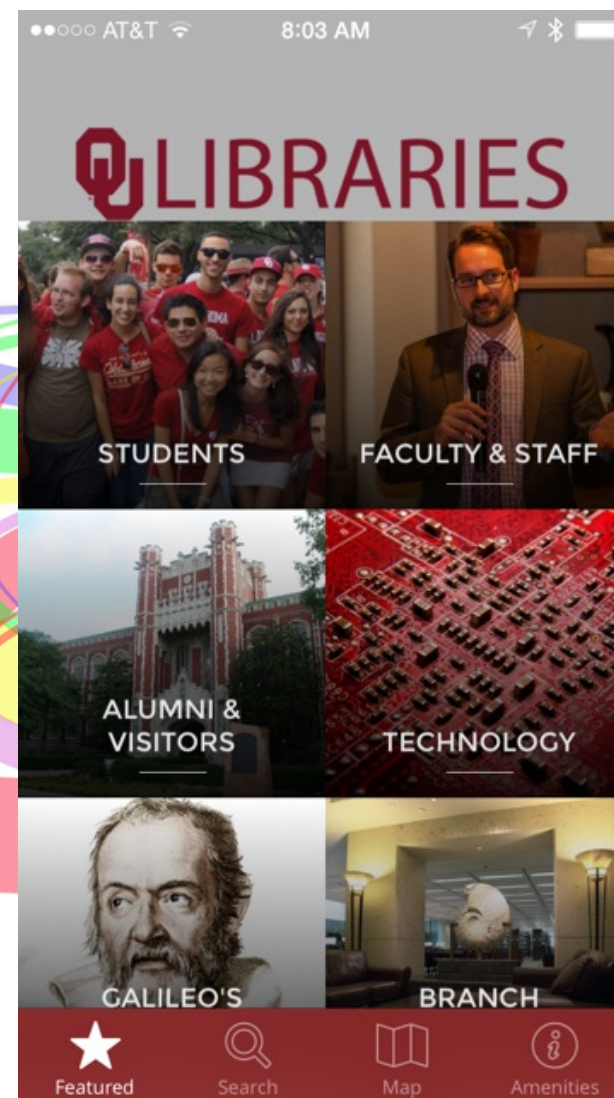
There are 1000s of items to explore and learn about. They all relate somehow to Galileo's World. Whether it's through influence, or a similar place of birth, or similar fields of study - everything is connected.

Have fun and browse the topics, people, places, books and documents, machines, scientific theories, and more. Explore the different ways that things connect. It's fun to get lost.

Topics

- Speech
- Command
- Clarity
- Literal
- General

My own notes



Key Challenges

- **Variability** (one size/solution won't fit all)
- **Resourcing and Scaling**
- **Sustainability** over the long term
- **Preservation** of complex objects

Key Opportunity

Digital scholarship promises to transform the university organizational structure itself, *particularly the university library*

1. Developing the ecosystem enabling interdisciplinary digital scholarship
2. Evolving a laboratory integrating digital scholarship research and production
3. Enabling a transition from Humanities → to Digital Humanities → to the Humanities

Thank you!

Rick Luce

rluce@ou.edu



**The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
LIBRARIES**

libraries.ou.edu