

# Leading the Way: Librarians as Facilitators of Undergraduate Research

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**Bucknell**  
UNIVERSITY

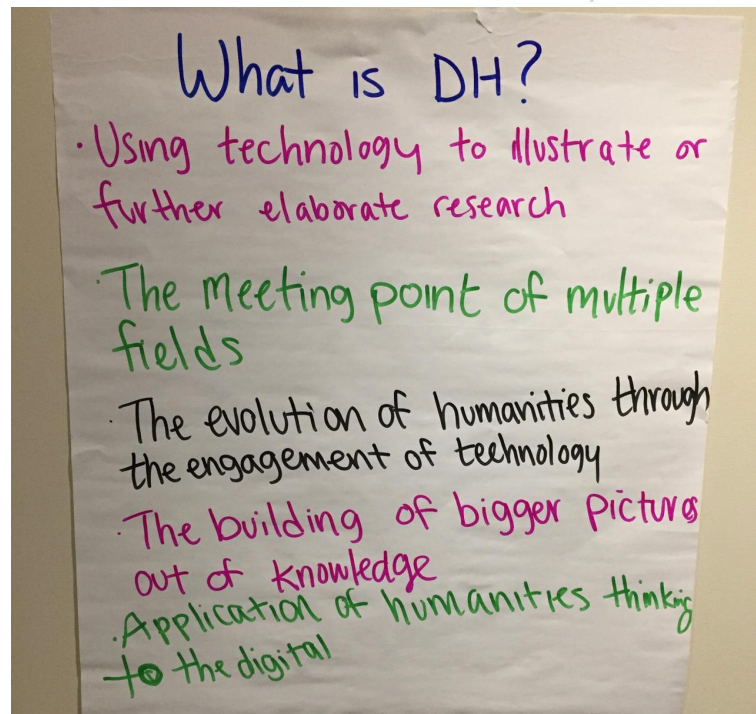
# Undergraduate Research and Librarians

“Undergraduate research presents opportunities for librarians to **extend their reach** on campus and **engage** a larger number and **broader range of students**, faculty, and disciplines....librarians must be open to **new and creative strategies** for contributing to education and scholarship. The result should be not only **greater involvement** but also **greater impact** in the academic community.” (Stamatoplos, 2009, p. 246)

The idea of **support** repeatedly comes up in the literature but few are discussing the librarian in the role of **mentor**.

# Program Overview

- Students design their own digitally-based research projects
- Balance learning about digital scholarship, methods and tools, and independent research time
- Eight week program using a cohort model. Students receive \$3000 stipend + campus housing



# Learning Outcomes



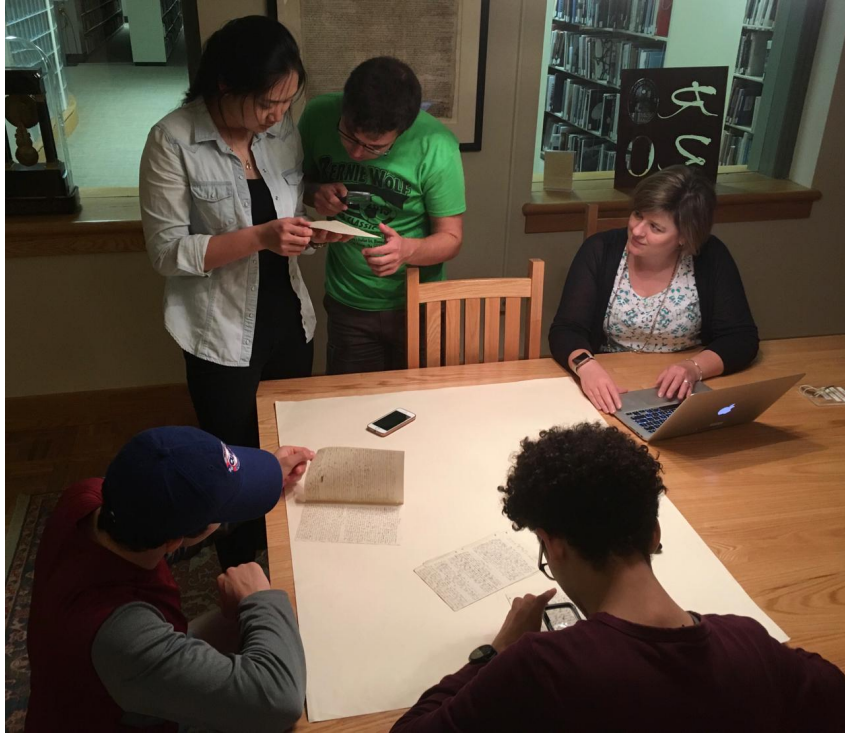
- Value the process of creating a digital project
- Develop research, writing, and public speaking skills
- Value openness and collaboration as exemplified in the digital scholarship community
- Build a community of practice

# Teaching Philosophy

- Hands-on and experimentation
- Group and individual success are intertwined
- Mentor-teacher model
- Making connections to real-world applicability
- Have fun!



# Curriculum



- Customize from year to year to meet student interests and potential projects
- Rely on expertise of colleagues to support areas of the curriculum
- Borrow (with permission!) from others + share materials



# Collaboration

## Within Library & IT

- Research Services
- Digital Pedagogy & Scholarship
- Data Analytics (data visualization)
- Special Collections / University Archives

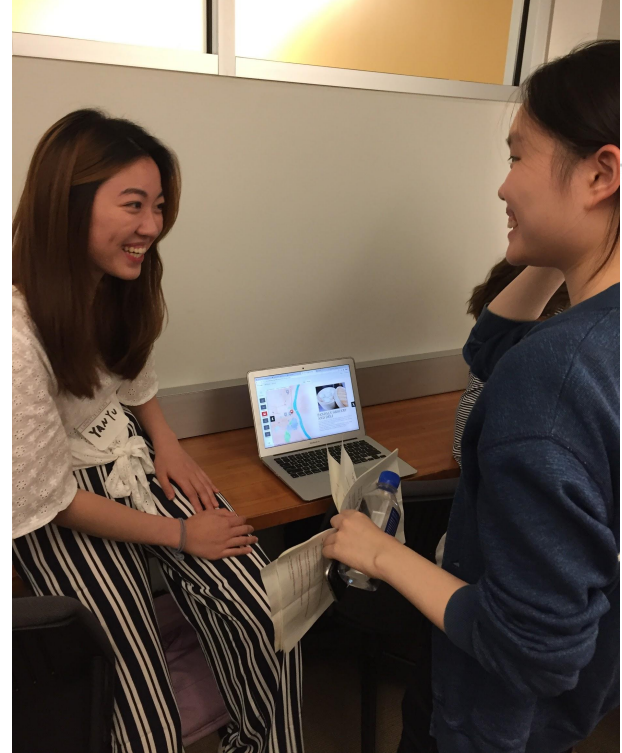
## Interinstitutional

- PCLA Consortial Collaborations
- Meet-ups with Gettysburg College students and staff



# Student Outcomes

- Serve as research assistants on other DS projects at Bucknell
- Showcase projects during job interviews
- Honors thesis work
- Pathway to graduate school in library science





# Assessment

- Administered a survey to address the learning outcomes and students' assessment of their own progress
- Student responses and reflections on digital scholarship:
  - DS can make research more accessible
  - Learned how to turn scientific reasoning into online writing
  - Importance of keeping an open mind when choosing tools for analysis and presentation of research
  - Developed skills in conceptualizing and narrowing down a research topic
  - Will apply digital tools to a personal research project



*"At the beginning of the program, I had little confidence and was not sure if my ideas are good enough. Courtney and Carrie and my peers created an environment that was very supportive and safe. We shared our knowledge across disciplines and valued any kind of feedback as well as criticism." -Lily Li, DSSRF19 scholar*



# Thank You!

Questions?

DSSRF 2017: <http://dssrf.blogs.bucknell.edu/>

DSSRF 2018: <http://dssrf2018.blogs.bucknell.edu/>

DSSRF 2019: <https://dssrf2019.blogs.bucknell.edu/>

Student Projects: <http://digitalcommons.bucknell.edu/dssrf/>

PCLA Digital Scholarship Programs: <https://pcla-dss.github.io/programs/>

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