SIG Activity Report

Special Interest Group (SIG):

Digital Libraries (SIG-DL)

Submitted by:

Alyson Gamble

SIG Office Title:

Co-Chair

Email

gamblea@simmons.edu

Phone

251-680-3099

Fiscal Year:

FY 17

Current Chair:

Alyson Gamble and Nushrat Khan

Other officers:

Danielle Pollock, Anna Maria Tammaro, Virginia Dressler, Lyne Da Salva, Anna J. Dabrowski, Eka Grguric, Christopher Cunningham, Karen Miller, Zachary Frazier

Do you wish to be considered for the SIG-of-the-Year Award?

Yes

1. Did your SIG hold a planning meeting at the last annual meeting?

Yes

2. Who represented your SIG at the SIG Cabinet meeting at the last ASIS&T annual meeting?

Christopher Cunningham, Alyson Gamble, and Ekatarina Grguric

3. Please list the names of the new leaders in your SIG who may be interested in getting involved in other areas of ASIS&T:

Nushrat Khan

4. Describe any efforts your SIG made especially designed to recruit new members or retain members (e.g., welcome letters, calls or visits, etc.).

SIG-DL members were once again very active in their efforts to recruit new members at the 2016 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Copenhagen. SIG-DL members staffed a table at the Welcome Reception/SIG Rush, where they successfully networked with potential new members as well as other ASIS&T groups. Several ASIS&T members joined the SIG-DL Executive Team. The annual executive meeting was broadcast and recorded using Google Hangouts. During the SIG-DL Digital Liaisons Panel, presenters networked with student chapters and other SIGs to recruit new members. SIG-DL

continued the Digital Liaisons Twitter chat, #SIGDLChats, throughout the year, which served as a recruitment and retention tool for SIG-DL members.

This year, SIG-DL focused on expanding the international inclusivity of the group. These efforts included scheduling executive board meetings when not only North American, but also European, members could attend, as well as hosting online events, including #SIGDLChats, with consideration to global time zones. The group is working to create a truly global atmosphere for the SIG-DL Twitter chat that allows for participation from all time zones.

SIG-DL continued to maintain an active listserv and cross-promoted webinars and other events across this tool as well as its social media accounts. SIG-DL has made a particular effort to maintain an active and consistent web presence. SIG-DL maintained a healthy presence on Facebook and Twitter, with less attention continued to be given to Linkedin this year. Following the update of Communications policies at ASIS&T headquarters, SIG-DL worked closely with Yolande Nanayakka to ensure the SIG was following protocol. As part of this effort, SIG-DL has been included in the ASIS&T Buffer account to help manage SIG-DL social media communications.

As in past years, SIG-DL has worked to recruit new members through the provision of webinars that use SIG-DL branding. We continued to provide webinars this year.

Membership was checked on at least a monthly basis. Emails were sent to new members by leadership to welcome them to the group.

5. What programs, including those presented at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting, did your SIG sponsor or cosponsor during the fiscal year? (e.g., continuing education programs, regional meetings, webinars, promotional activities for your SIG or ASIS&T, career guidance, ongoing services, etc.). Please list the name of the program, speakers involved, date and location, estimated attendance, revenue and expenses, a brief description of each program, and other participating organization or ASIS&T units, if applicable.

1) Webinar Series
SIG-DL continued to host a webinar series, with many of the webinars being offered free. For example:

A) From Digital Library to Digital Archive: Implementing Digital Preservation Efforts
May 18, 2017, 3PM (EDT).. Presented by Digital Lab Manager Elizabeth La Beaud.

Webinar description: The University of Southern Mississippi has been digitizing materials for almost two decades. Similar to other institutions, backups were considered "preservation" of digital objects. In 2013, we started learning what was really required to preserve our data. We slowly started testing methods, proving validity of tools, and implementing improvements – all with minuscule resources. After demonstrating years of data, projections for the future, and calculating the true cost – including staffing resources and time – we transitioned to a robust digital preservation system. Our journey from digital library to digital archive is not unusual and can be replicated. This session will outline the differences between a digital library and a digital archive and simple changes that can be made to get started with digital preservation. Using the University of Southern Mississippi as a case study, this session will cover digital preservation basics from identifying needs to tool selection, from piecemeal efforts to implementing a full digital preservation system. If Mississippi can do it, you can too.

Details on registration and more information on the program can be found here:
https://www.asist.org/events/webinars/webinar-from-digital-library-to-digital-archive-implementing-digital-preservation-efforts/

B) Exploring the Challenges & Uses of Linked Open Data for Digitized Special Collections
June 6, 2017, 2:00 PM EDT. Presented by Professor Timothy W. Cole, Alex Olivia Kinnaman, and Deren Kudek

Over the last 2 decades, libraries and cultural heritage institutions have expended resources digitizing their important special collections. However, many of the resulting digital collections exist on the Web today only as standalone silos of content, not well connected to related resources. This impedes discovery and limits available context when using this content. The core hypothesis of this University of Illinois research project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is that a Linked Open Data (LOD) approach to description could improve the connectedness of many digitized special collections. To begin testing this hypothesis, we are experimenting with LOD for 2 collections of theater-related images and 1 text-based collection pertaining to the life and works of Marcel Proust (~20,000 items in all).

In this webinar we describe outcomes to date, highlighting a few unique challenges in transforming legacy metadata into the more RDF-compatible semantics of schema.org and the automated and manual means we used to identify and add

links to item descriptions. We also will show how we have leveraged LOD to enhance end-user views of resource descriptions. Now when a user views images in context, JavaScript on the page reads embedded LOD and retrieves additional links and descriptions in real-time from external LOD services. Mustache.js templates are then used to dynamically add this related information to the HTML display providing additional context and clickable links regarding the people (authors, actors, directors, etc.), venues (theaters), plays and performances related to each digitized image. Project Website: http://publish.illinois.edu/linkedspcollections/

Details on registration and more information on the program can be found here: https://www.asist.org/events/webinars/exploring-the-challenges-uses-of-linked-open-data-for-digitized-special-collections/

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2) SIG-DL offered the Deborah Barreau Memorial Award again this year. The award honors ASIS&T SIG-DL members who have made significant contributions to the Digital Libraries Special Interest Group through service, projects, research or professional development initiatives that enrich the SIG-DL community. The award is intended to encourage active engagement of SIG-DL members, recognizing outstanding service to the SIG. In addition to recognition of exceptional contributions to SIG-DL, awardees also receive a modest monetary award which will be presented in a brief ceremony during the SIG-DL business meeting held at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting. Only ASIST SIG-DL members are eligible to be nominated, and current SIG-DL Executive Committee members are not eligible. A recipient of the award will be selected before the Annual Meeting.

Elizabeth Rolando was honored during a ceremony held during the SIG-DL business meeting at the ASIS&T Annual Conference on November 10, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2014, the award went to Christopher Eaker for his outstanding service in organizing the 2013 Digital Liaisons panel session at the ASIS&T Annual Conference in Montreal. SIG-DL expects to offer the award again in 2018.
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3) SIG-DL again offered the Student Engagement Award, intended to boost student participation in SIG-DL and ASIS&T. This award was created to help offset travel expenses to the ASIS&T Annual Meeting for students who are interested in learning more about the organization. The award requires submissions of a brief statement of interest by individuals currently enrolled students; executive members of SIG DL were not eligible.

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4) #SIGDLChats
Starting at the last annual meeting, SIG-Dl began hosting an open, virtual chat session on a monthly basis, using Twitter and the handle #SIGDLChats. Virtual chat sessions are an innovative way to connect established practitioners with less experienced students and professionals in supportive, collaborative environments. For example, the virtual chats #critlibs and #medlibs have been rallying points for practitioners, especially new information professionals working in libraries. Since not all students and early career professionals have the means to travel to annual meetings or interact with established members in the field, the virtual chat session aims to create a more inclusive space for mentorship and peer information sharing. Our Digital Liaisons Virtual Uncommons (DLVU) features leaders and new workers in digital libraries who respond to questions throughout a series of virtual chat sessions and an in-person unconference session. This space has created a place for informal mentoring and serendipitous networking. Each monthly session is composed of a series of Twitter chats under the hashtag #SIGDLchats, which will be examined at the Annual Meeting in a reflective panel structured as an attendee driven unconference in which panelists serve as moderators.

6. Describe the publications your SIG produced during the activity period (e.g., newsletters, technical publications, pathfinders, joint publications, etc.). Briefly describe those publications here, indicate the publication frequency and intended audience, and enclose a copy of each publication (or provide the URL) with this report.

1) SIG-DL Web Presence
This year SIG-DL has continued to maintain an active social media presence on its Facebook and Twitter accounts, and through the SIG-DL LinkedIn page. The Communications and Webmaster ensured that there were regular updates to the website and social media.
Website: https://www.asis.org/SIG/sigdl/
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/sigdl/ (293 members)
LinkedIn Page: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/ASIS-T-SIGDL-1209207 Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/sigdl (838 followers)
Wiki: http://www.asis.org/wiki/chapters-sigs/index.php/Digital_Libraries_(DL)

#SIGDLChats

Storify was used to collect #SIGDLChats.
For example, the Virtual Uncommons: Connecting Digital Liaisons: https://storify.com/Alybrarian/virtual-uncommons-digital-liaisons
And the April 2017 SIG DL Chat: https://storify.com/SIGDL/april-2017-sig-dl-chat-question-1

7. Describe your SIG's participation in other noteworthy activities during the period (e.g., participation in a public effort, such as, legislative hearing, standards committee, representation at meetings of other organizations, etc.).

SIG-DL members participated on other committees in ASIS&T.
SIG-DL members attended meetings at other organizations.
SIG-DL members participated in the SIG Conference Calls.
SIG-DL members assisted with developing SIG Training.
Nushrat Khan was selected as an ASIS&T New Leader.
Ekatarina Grguric and Alyson Gamble served as ASIS&T New Leaders. Ekatarina worked with Yao Zhang, Chair-elect SIG III, and Alyson worked with with Rong Tang, Co-chair Publications Committee.

8. Please include any other comments you would like to make about your SIG's activities during the period.

Our focus this year was on creating a more inclusive space for non-U.S.-based information professionals, especially those in their early career, to be active in discussing the future of digital libraries.

We have ample documentation of our efforts in this area, as we maintain a shared group Google Drive for all of our activities.

Thank you for your consideration of our Annual Report and for our group for the SIG of the Year Award.