2019

Digital Seed Grant Presentations Program

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The Digital Humanities (DH) committee, awarded grants to faculty members from across the university to advance their work using DH tools in their teaching and/or research. The seed grants support the integration of Digital Humanities in teaching and learning at Seton Hall University.

Digital Humanities represent the intersection of research and teaching with technology in the disciplines recognized as part of the humanities or liberal arts. Digital technology is energizing many fields of study across the academy, especially when the digital also engages humanities skills, such as critical thinking, analysis, storytelling, and text production.
incorporate philosophical, historical, literary, religious, and other perspectives into the process of addressing complex business challenges. In terms of this research seed grant, my focus will be on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (see for example, Boyer’s 1990 “Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate”. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching). In the past I have published several articles on tools and techniques used in teaching Management and Entrepreneurship. If funded, I plan to investigate how digital humanities tools can be integrated into a Business Humanities curriculum, and then integrate these findings into our implementation grant application.

Mary Balkun, Arts & Sciences, English Department
“Database of Scripture Citations in Jewish and Christian Theological Responses during and after the Holocaust”

I am a Professor of biblical studies who also specializes in Christian-Jewish Relationships. Currently, I am writing an article, “Revelation after the Holocaust,” for the Oxford Manual on Revelation. In the process, I have been composing a table of key themes in Jewish and Christian theological writings on the Holocaust. These include religious denomination; scriptures cited, questions asked; answers given, revelatory themes, relationship to Zionism. I have perceived a striking difference in the scriptures cited by Jewish vs Christian authors and have identified this as a theme for further research and scholarly presentations. I am providing a limited proposal, focusing on the anthology cited below for a Seed Grant which will help me develop a database, by mid-fall, of a leading anthology of Jewish theological writings (Biderman et al., cited below). Once completed, I would like supplement it with a similar database rooted in (a) Christian anthology/ies of such writings (initially focusing on Papal magisterial writing since these constitute a clearly delimited and most theologically authoritative texts). I need TLTC assistance in developing and formatting the database. The database and conclusions to be drawn will be of interest to people working in the area of Jewish-Christian interactions.
relations, including scholars on both sides. Since the research and the conclusions I anticipate drawing are original, I wish at this stage to keep the database and research private, and use it to apply for funding from, e.g. CBA, SBL, NEH. Concomitantly, I would like to explore the possibility of collaborating with our Institute for Jewish-Christian studies in hosting the database on an SHU-sponsored site, develop it via crowdsourcing, and use the results for further presentations in the above-listed forums.

Gregory Iannarella, Arts & Sciences, English Department
“Language Landscapes - First Year Writing”

To develop a syllabus that incorporates digital humanities theory and practice in the instruction of Seton Hall’s First Year Writing Courses, specifically through the theme of Race and Social Justice. The pilot courses will focus on teaching students to create and view their own “Language Landscapes” in the hopes of developing new and innovative ways to teach how language concerning social justice operates and evolves over time and through space. Language Landscapes will be visual representations of large changes, shifts or evolutions of language made possible by the powerful analytics tools that technology offers us. The courses will explore questions of digital literacy. They will allow students to consider themselves as digital citizens, asking that they visualize their source work to view a macro-context of their inquiry that will complement, not replace, close reading and traditional source use. Students will produce a portfolio of visual narrative projects concerning the language of oppression and social justice. The ultimate goal is for these projects to be collected and displayed in an online environment that will showcase multiple semesters worth of student generated digital humanities work.

Through this project, I will continue developing innovative ways to teach race discourse in my courses. I will also gain insight into the larger questions and practice of digital humanities that I can share with my colleagues who can use the same techniques in their own courses, regardless of theme. I plan to use this opportunity to collect specific data and experience concerning how digital tools can change our instruction of the humanities.

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Nalin Johri, Ph.D., MPH, School of Health and Medical Sciences 
“IHAD (ICPSR and Health Administration Datasets)”

I have signed a book proposal with Springer Publishing to author an application-oriented textbook on Health Care Research. This proposed text is titled Health Care Research and Analytics Using Excel: A Practitioners Resource and is scheduled for completion in Spring 2019. Integral to this text is the incorporation of datasets from health care facilities that will be utilized to develop both worked examples as well as exercises that will help students to demonstrate achievement of competencies in health care administration. Currently, there is a paucity of accessible datasets in health care administration that could be incorporated in this proposed textbook. The ICPSR database includes possible datasets from health care administration that could be searched, reviewed, shortlisted and then incorporated into this proposed textbook.

Currently, the ICPSR website has a topic classification on ‘Health Care and Facilities’ with 248 data series listed. Criteria, including access, relevancy, data format, variables, latest year available will be developed to research these data series to identify 15-20 data series that could be incorporated into the proposed textbook.

Finalized criteria will be developed into a survey tool within Qualtrics. This survey tool will be used to research the 248 ICPSR data series classified as ‘Health Care and Facilities.’ The results of this survey will be incorporated as an appendix into the proposed text and criteria-based short-listing of data series will be used to identify data series for use within the proposed text. Finalized criteria for researching databases will be developed into a survey tool using Qualtrics.

Elizabeth McCrea, Stillman School of Business 
“Integrating Digital Humanities Tools into the Business Humanities Initiative”

Dr. Abe Zakhem and I are currently working on a Business Humanities Initiative, which is modeled on the concept of the Medical Humanities. The project—currently in the very early stages—is a collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) and the Stillman School of Business. Our aim is to create instructional tools (e.g., case studies), provide cross-disciplinary faculty training to interested A&S and Stillman faculty, and develop undergraduate curriculum (starting with a certificate in Business Humanities) that support an integrated approach to teaching business. The goal is to