Digital Scholarship Initiative Steering Committee

Annual Report 2013-2014

Background:

The Digital Scholarship Initiatives Steering Committee is a standing committee of Library Council.

The Dalhousie Libraries provide collections, services, and facilities that expedite the access and use of all scholarly information; therefore the Committee will oversee the Libraries' planning, development, maintenance, promotion, and expansion of our digital library environment.

Membership & Meetings:

The membership of the Committee is prescribed in the Terms of Reference.

In 2013-2014 the Committee was chaired by Oriel MacLennan, representing the Killam Library. Also serving for the duration were Michael Moosberger, the University Archivist, Geoffrey Brown as the Digital Scholarship Librarian, Heather MacFadyen as the Scholarly Communications and Collections Librarian, Marc Comeau as the Director of Library IT, Sarah Stevenson as the Libraries' Web Publisher, Ian Colford representing the Sexton Library and Joseph Wickens representing the Kellogg Library. Mark Lewis represented the Law Library. The MacRae Library was first represented by Elaine MacInnis and then by Erin MacPherson, subsequent to Ms. MacInnis' appointment as Head of Killam and AUL Access Services.

Following his appointment as the Digital Archivist, Creighton Barrett was added to the membership.

From July 2013 through June 2014, the Committee met on nine occasions, roughly monthly; agendas and minutes were appropriately filed.

Activities:

1. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference document has been revised to reflect some changes in membership, and will be forwarded to Library Council for consideration. Pending adoption, it has been posted, as a draft, in the Share directory.

2. Task Forces & Standards

The standards task force, led by Creighton Barrett, wrapped up its activities in December 2013 when Library Council reviewed and approved the Guidelines for Digitization Project Planning. They are available in SharePoint, in the Digitization Working Group site, at:

> https://share.dal.ca/libraries/Libraries%20Shared%20Documents/Digitization%20Working%20Group/Dalhousie%20Libraries%20Digitization%20Project%20Guidelines.pdf

Also, a detailed Metadata Guide has been created to outline required and recommended metadata for items included in the institutional repository. Detailed guidance is available for: Books and Pamphlets, Articles, Archival Material, Still Images, and Scholars@Dal Profiles. The guidelines were prepared by Heather MacFadyen and revised in consultation with Creighton Barrett, Geoff Brown, Joan Chiasson, and Sarah Stevenson. The Document is also stored on SharePoint in the DalSpace Priorities area (DalSpace Priorities → Shared Documents → Metadata).

3. Technology

The University Archives purchased two Epson DS-6000 sheet feeding scanners for the Elisabeth Mann Borgese Project.

LITS pursued Islandora as a platform to support Virtual Research Environments. An instance was implemented, but it was subsequently discovered, as of September 2, 2014, that there are issues with the platform that make it unsuitable for our local context. Other platforms are being explored.

LITS has migrated most of its infrastructure to a virtualized environment to better support future projects and growth.

4. New Initiatives & Outreach

University of the Air. The University Archives contracted Media Preserve to digitally re-format 11 obsolete 2 inch videotape which have been stored on the Digi Server. Viewing copies will eventually be placed on the Archives' YouTube channel.

WWI project/s. Under a collaborative CAUL initiative, the University Archives will be creating a number of projects related to Dalhousie University's involvement in World War I. These include the digitization of 13 volumes of newspaper scrapbooks compiled by C.F. Longley, a digital collection highlighting the No. 7 Stationary Hospital, and an interactive map showing where Dalhousie students served during the War.

EMB project. The University Archives received a major private donation to digitize the complete holdings of former Dalhousie faculty member, Elisabeth Mann Borgese. This bequest will be used to

hire contract workers to digitize the material and then imbed the digital objects into the Archives' AtoM holding system.

This has also been an active year for new publications the Open Journals Systems service. The *Dalhousie Medical Journal* is in full production with DOI assignment in progress. Backfiles for the *DMJ* dating back to the 1930s are also being added to DalSpace. In addition, we've done introductory sessions with students on a number of other journals expected to move into production in the upcoming year. These include:

* *Hinge: A Journal of Contemporary Studies*

* *Tooth & Claw*, published annually by the History of Science and Technology (HOST) Society at the University of King's College

* *SPIN: Student Publications in Nursing*

There has also some success attracting faculty-run peer-reviewed journals. In the Faculty of Law there are interesting projects taking shape with *The Dalhousie Law Journal* and the *Canadian Journal of Law and Technology*. In the Faculty of Medicine we are working with an editorial group who is hoping to establish a brand new journal called the Canadian Journal of Advances in Hospital Medicine. Finally, in the Faculty of Engineering, the OJS staff have been working with an editor to establish a new journal called the *International Journal of Geohazards and Environment*.

Other collaborators have also approached the Libraries to leverage the journal hosting platform for non-journal projects. In December 2013, there was an official launch for the Nova Scotia Museum publications project held at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The collaboration between the Nova Scotia Museum, the Provincial Library and the Dalhousie Libraries was acknowledged during the ceremony. In addition, we have been working with DSI member Mark Lewis on the Knowledge@SchulichLaw project. This project features both textual and video content created by members from the Faculty of Law and links out to the works on YouTube and the Social Science Research Network.

In addition to the journal and related projects noted above, there have been some opportunities to work on ebook projects. In the fall of 2013, a collaboration was launched with David Stuewe from the Faculty of Management to provide post production and hosting in DalSpace for *Issues of the ends of life*, an ebook by Terry Waite, Jocelyn Downie, Karen Lebacqz, Harvey M. Chochinov, Genevieve Thompson, Allan E. Blakeney, Eric Beresford, Innis Christie and David Stuewe. In addition to the main text, the submission in DalSpace contains an audio version of the Terry Waite chapter. Another exciting opportunity on the ebook front is an upcoming collaboration with the DSI chair, Oriel MacLennan, to produce MCB-bib 2.0. This will be an updated and enriched work based on the original analogue text *Marie-Claire Blais: an annotated bibliography* (published in 1998).

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has created a Digital Humanities working group, with a view to promoting interest in the discipline and its possibilities within the faculty, including invited lecturers, collaboration with the Faculty of Computer Science, a summer institute next year, and, in time, some regular course offerings. Oriel MacLennan is a member of this initiative.

5. Continuing Projects

WK Kellogg Health Sciences Library

The past year saw the completion of several digitization projects at the Kellogg Library. This list includes: *Dalhousie Medical Journal* v.7, n.1 (1954); v.12, n.2, (1959); v.22 (1969) *Nova Scotia Dental Association News* v.1 (1968)-v.3 (1971) *Nova Scotia Medical Bulletin* (v.1 (1922)- v.66 (1987)) – Completed *Nova Scotia Medical Journal* (v.67 (1988)-v.72 (1993)) -- Completed Geis, William J., (1926). *Dental education in the United States and Canada; a report to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*. New York: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The completion of the *NS Medical Bulletin/Journal* is particularly gratifying, capping as it does a 5-year effort funded in part by a grant from Doctors NS making this important historical resource available to all.

The "Geis Report" is also is an important addition to digital scholarship. This document, significant in the shaping of the character of dental education in North America was sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation; they did not have a digitized copy available and were pleased to receive a copy of the one that we created.

In addition to these historical projects we have entered into an arrangement with the Nova Scotia Dental Association to host issues of their journal, *The Nova Scotia Dentist* (v.30 (2013)) in DalSpace on an ongoing basis.

Sexton Design & Technology Library

Staff at the Sexton Library continue to work on the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada journal digitization project, which in 2013 received $25000 from Canada Council and $5000 from RAIC. The project is approximately 30% complete and has used about 2/3 of the initial funding. In 2014 the Sexton Digital team expects to receive a further $5000 from RAIC and is making a case to Canada Council for the additional funding needed to bring the project to completion.

MacRae Library

Erin MacPherson, Jennifer MacIssac and Emily Colford (student intern) continue to work on digitizing the *Maritime Students Agriculturalist*. This initiative is funded by Project Ceres, a collaboration of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC), and CRL; a grant of $3125 was received to support the project. The sponsors award funding for small projects that preserve print materials essential to the study of the history and economics of agriculture, making those materials accessible through digitization. At time of writing metadata and scanning are well advanced, with a target for completion of June 2015.

6. IR Faculty Profiles Project

Two students were hired in September 2013 to work ~10hr/week on the Faculty Profiles project. By the end of March 2014, they were able to add approximately 410 profiles, to a total of ~740. This completes all of the Faculties except for Medicine and Law. MLIS Interns at Kellogg, Killam, MacRae and Sexton were involved in the project over the summer of 2014. In response to concerns from some faculty members, the Scholars@Dal community was converted to a closed community in June 2014 until profiles have been vetted by the faculty. The vetting process is expected to begin during the July or August 2014.

During the past year, the training documentation for this project has been revised and expanded. The tracking system within Sharepoint has also been revised. New processed (XSLT transforms) have been developed by Heather MacFadyen and Margaret Vail to batch import additional citation types (conference proceedings, book chapters and books) to DalSpace. The team is working with the new installation of the DIGI server to transfer files to LITS for the batch uploads.

The Scholars @ Dal project was presented at "Libraries Unzipped" Day, as well as to Faculty of Science Council (February meeting) and DRAC (June meeting).

Michael Moosberger, Donna Bourne-Tyson, Marlo MacKay and Sarah Stevenson are working on a communications plan for the project to prepare faculty for the vetting process.

7. Grants & Donations

As noted above, major support was received from a private donor to enable digitization of the Elisabeth Mann Borgese fonds held in the University Archives.

Oriel MacLennan secured 100 hours' student support from her upcoming sabbatical grant, to assist in scanning and clean-up on the Marie-Claire Blais 2.0 project.

NSAC received support, as also noted, from Project Ceres (a CRL Agriculture Partnership) for the Maritimes Students Agriculturalist digitization initiative.

8. Space

Staffing and equipment have now been consolidated in the Digital Scholarship Initiatives Centre on the fifth floor of the Killam Library.

9. Staff Training and Development

Heather MacFadyen and Oriel MacLennan presented at the SSHRCC-supported Digital Humanities Day – Image on Text, Text on Image 1450-1789 at Mount Allison University in Sackville NB 23 August

2014 – "Historical Record or Digital Ephemera? Early Humanities Computing & Institutional Repositories."

Creighton Barrett attended the Digital Libraries Federation Forum in Austin TX in November 2013.

Various University Archives and LITS staff received training in CQ5 and in Islandora this year.

When possible, attendance at/participation in SSHRCC-supported events locally such as Cross-Currents I & II and Connecting Cultures was maintained. In addition, on-going awareness of digital humanities scene, and, to a lesser extent, "Big Data", per resources such as the Humanist list is sustained.

Concluding Remarks:

With considerable creativity and ingenuity we continue to make advances in this challenging and fast-evolving discipline in archives and librarianship. All concerned are to be thanked for their dedication, diligence, creative energy, and support. We look forward to progress in consolidating our position at Dalhousie and in developing exciting new projects in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Oriel MacLennan
Chair 2012-2014
Digital Scholarship Initiatives Steering Committee

September 2014