Staffing and Digital Scholarship at WU Libraries

Harriett Green
ARL-CNI Digital Scholarship Planning Workshop
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My Background

- Previously at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as English and Digital Humanities Librarian, then Head of Scholarly Communication and Publishing

- IMLS- and NEH-funded projects, research on user needs for digital humanities tools

- Joined Washington University Libraries in September 2018 as Associate University Librarian for the Digital Scholarship and Technology Services division

Washington University: By the Numbers

- Urban, private university in St. Louis, Missouri
- ~15,000 students
- Over 3800 faculty members
- Vice-Provost and University Librarian, Denise Stephens
- $29 million in Libraries expenditures
- ~150 staff members
- 5 divisions: Collections and Access Services, Digital Scholarship and Technology Services, Research and Academic Collaboration Services, Administrative, Special Collections

Digital Scholarship and Technology Services Division
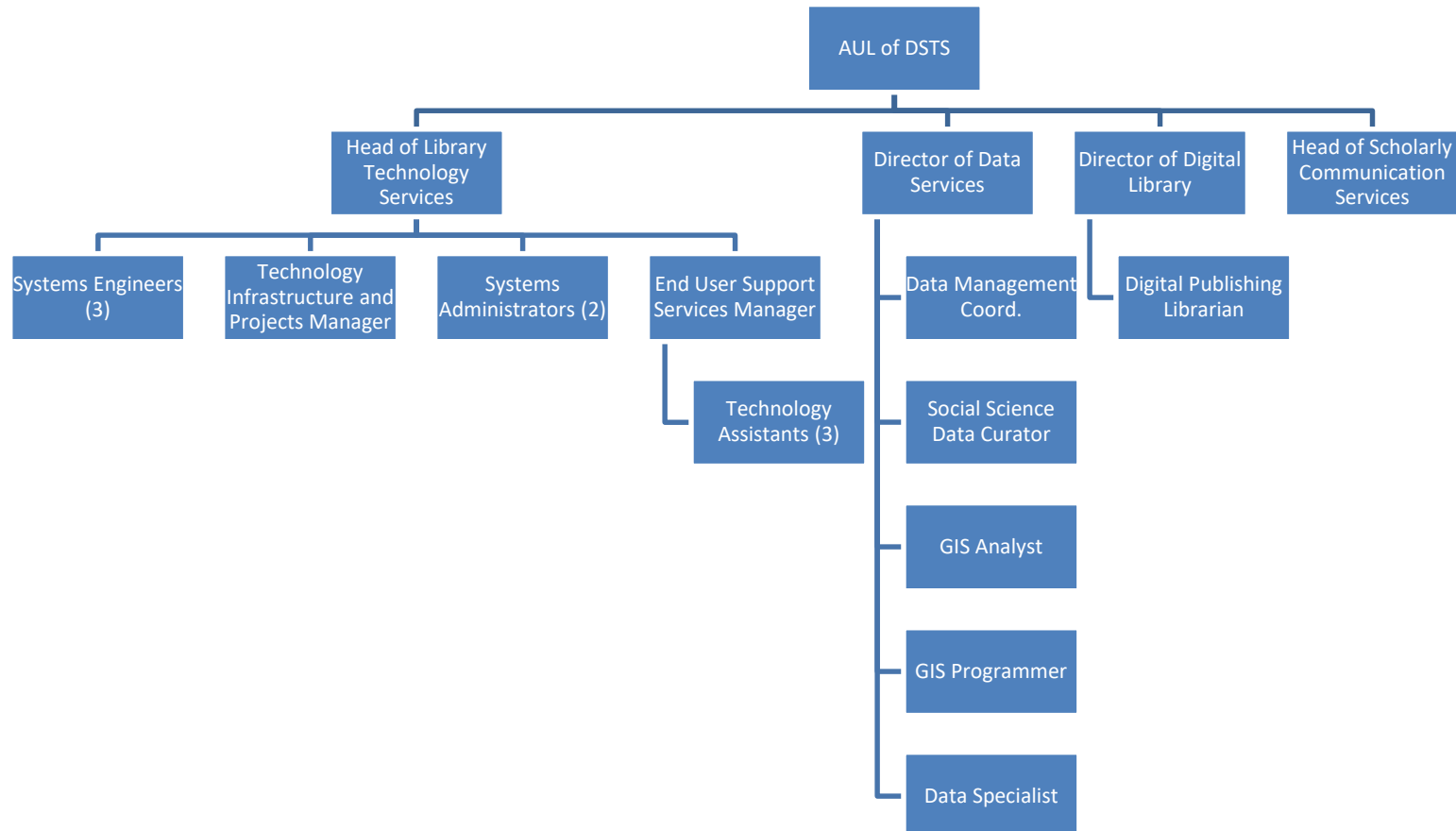
UNITS IN DSTS

- **Library Technology Services**: 1 department head, 3 developers, 1 infrastructure manager, 2 system administrators, 4 end user support assistants

- **Data Services:** 1 department head, 2 data curation specialists, 1 data analytics specialist, 1 GIS analyst, 1 GIS programmer

- **Digital Library Program Services:** 1 department head, 1 digital publishing and preservation librarian

- **Scholarly Communication Services**: 1 program head

Existing Approaches to Working on Digital Scholarship

- Independent collaborations of staff to carry out digital projects

- Workshops for research tools and methods, esp. GIS, data analytics, and data management

- Staff collaborations with faculty-led courses and students on digital tools

- Publishing of digital projects in repositories and Omeka

- Decentralized work with and for digital scholarship across Libraries units

Digital scholarship Training and Outreach

- *Data Specialists*: Taught workshops on data analytics tools and collaborated with HDW

- *GIS Analysts*: Taught workshops on ArcGIS, StoryMaps

- *Subject Specialists*: Participated in Humanities Digital Workshop fellows program to collaborate and support faculty digital projects

- *Digital Library Services:* Previously held XML and TEI workshops

Data Services

Key Project Roles:

- GIS Specialists
- GIS Librarian and Data Project Manager
- Data Specialist

COLLABORATORS:

- Curator of Local History
- American Studies Librarian
- Humanities Digital Workshop

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis

1945 - 1992

http://thedividedcity.com/mapping-lgbtq-st-louis/

Creating the Federal Government

Digital Library Program Services

- Director of Digital Library
- Digital Publishing and Preservation Librarian
- Collaborations with faculty and Humanities Digital Workshop
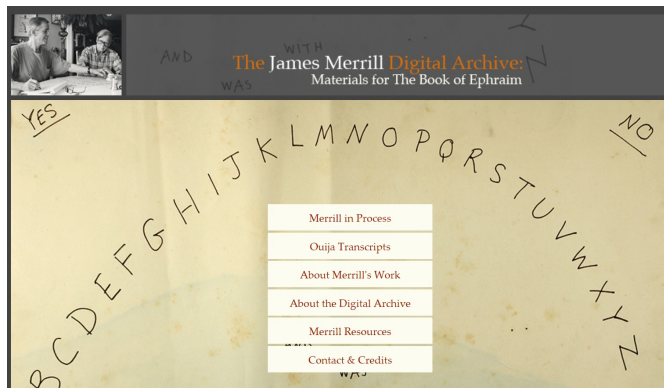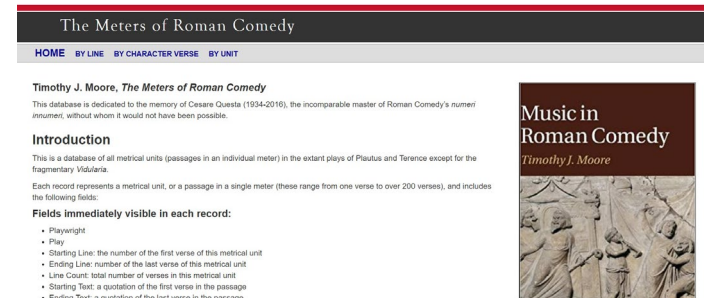
Library Technology Services

- Head of Technology Services + 3 Developers
- Advise on technical requirements for projects
- Central to the development of Samvera-based Digital Gateway

Special Collections

- Film and Media Archive - Won multiple NHRPC grants
- Curator of Local History
- Special Collections Curators
- Digitization Manager

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Special Collections

Campus Partners

- Humanities Digital Workshop
- Center for the Humanities and "Divided Cities" initiative
- Student Technology Services
- Departments: American Culture Studies, History, Architecture, School of Visual Arts and Design
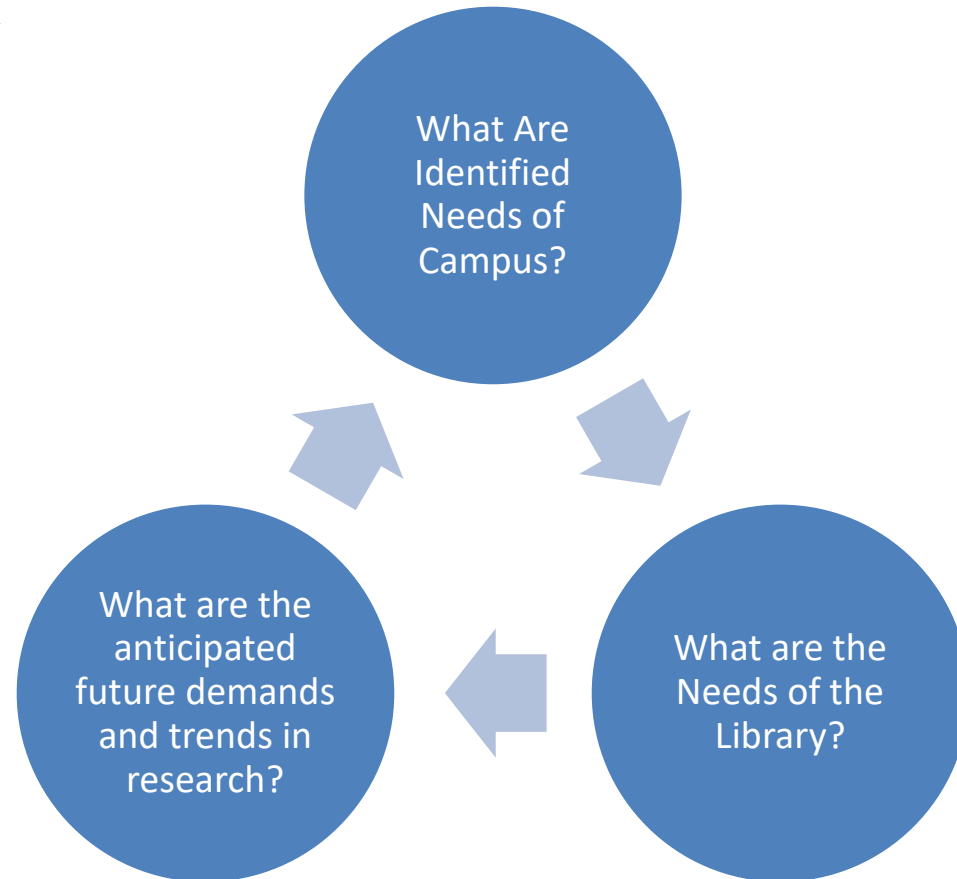
What are staff roles as liaisons? How are liaison librarians involved?

Assessment

Tools and resources

Library Strategic Planning → Internal scan → Consultants → Digital Library Task Force
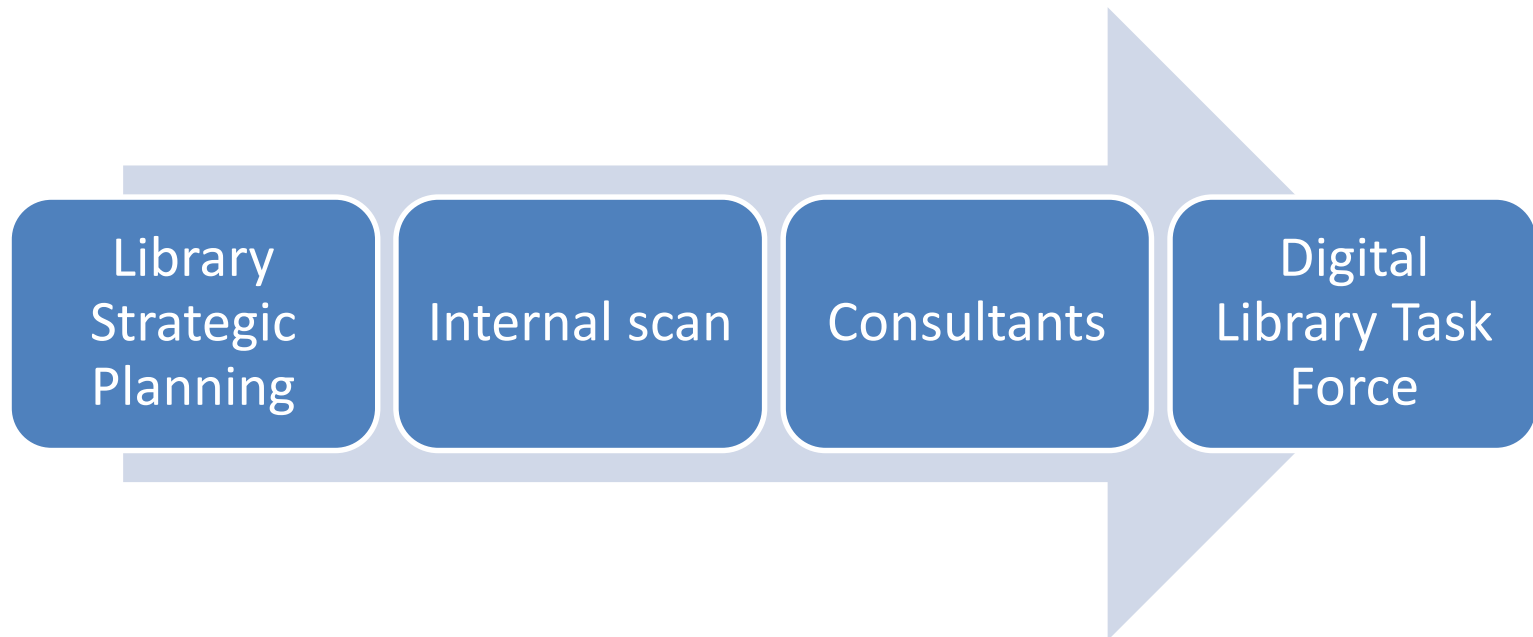
Key Strengths

➢ Collaboration already embedded among staff and across campus

➢ Intersecting interests and expertise

➢ Strong campus recognition of Libraries' staff expertise

➢ 2018 renovation offers new spaces for digital scholarship services and collaboration that are changing staff roles already

Challenges

- Coordination of project efforts

- Scope of staff roles and services provided

- Understaffed in certain key areas of expertise

- Policies and Logistics: Needs for project management skills, policies for project development

Strategic Opportunities

- Expanded services and partnerships on new modes of publishing and research dissemination

- Development of digital repository for digital curation and support of digital research work

- Expansion of staff expertise for digital scholarship and data-driven research

Future Vision and Strategic Plans

STAFFING FOR:

- Digital Library Applications
- Metadata
- Digital Preservation
- Scholarly Publishing
- Digital Scholarship
- Data Visualization and data curation

ACTIVITIES:

- Rethink Service Models
- Outreach Strategies
- Leverage diversity of spaces in renovated library
- Enrich internal and external collaborations

Questions?

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