

The following Motions and Documents were considered by the GFC Academic Planning Committee at its Wednesday, October 24, 2018 meeting:

Agenda Title: New Academic Centre - Digital Scholarship Centre

CARRIED MOTION:

THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from GFC, approve the establishment of the Digital Scholarship Centre, as proposed by Learning Services and as contained in attachment 1, to be effective immediately.

FINAL Item: 4

For the Meeting of October 24, 2018

FINAL Item No. 4

Governance Executive Summary Action Item

Agenda Title: Proposed Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC)

Motion: THAT the GFC Academic Planning Committee, under delegated authority from GFC,

approve the establishment of the Digital Scholarship Centre, as proposed by Learning

Services and as contained in attachment 1, to be effective immediately.

Item

Action Requested	
Proposed by	Dale Askey, Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Chief Librarian
Presenter(s)	Dale Askey, Vice-Provost (Learning Services) and Chief Librarian
	Geoff Harder, Associate University Librarian

Details

Responsibility	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific)	To seek approval for the establishment of the Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC).
Executive Summary (outline the specific item– and remember your audience)	The DSC will conduct, advance, and support research relating to and about digital scholarship. Appropriate resources and budget have been identified and established within the Libraries existing operational structure in order to ensure principles of sustainability and excellence in mission are achieved. Substantial consultations and due diligence in conforming to the Centres and Institutes policy have been followed in order to plan for and create an important and viable campus resource, one which will help support and encourage digitally-based research and collaboration.
	Designation of the DSC as an academic centre is important for many reasons, including the potential for it to become a centre of excellence nationally and internationally in conducting research and support for digital scholarship. Centre status will also help ensure that those researchers and teams affiliated with the Centre are well positioned to attract and receive grant funding. Due to the centre's interdisciplinary nature and its physical location being in central interdisciplinary space, the DSC has the potential to be a tremendous incubator and connector for research partnerships.
Supplementary Notes and context	

Engagement and Routing (Include meeting dates)

Consultation and Stakeholder Participation (parties who have seen the	Those who are actively participating:
proposal and in what capacity)	Those who have been consulted:
proposition and in the same supplies	Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC)
<for governance<="" information="" on="" p="" protocol="" see="" the=""></for>	 Randy Goebel, Associate Vice-President Research/Academic and Chair, Centres and Institutes Committee (CIC)
Toolkit section Student	Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs)
Participation Protocol>	 Sarah Forgie, Vice-Provost (Learning Initiatives)
	Wendy Rodgers, Deputy Provost

GFC ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

For the Meeting of October 24, 2018

Item No. 4

	 Andrea Patrick, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) Brian Stewart, Deputy CIO, Information Services & Technology Edith Finczak, Director, Academic Budget & Planning
Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)	GFC Academic Planning Committee – October 24, 2018

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Alignment	_
Alignment with For the Public Good	OBJECTIVE 11: Advance the University of Alberta's reputation for research excellence by pursuing fundamental and original questions and ideas, pushing the frontiers of knowledge, inspiring creative experimentation, driving innovation, and advancing society.
	OBJECTIVE 13: Enable University of Alberta researchers to succeed and excel.
	OBJECTIVE 16: Enhance, increase, and sustain reciprocal, mutually beneficial community relations, community engagement, and community-engaged research and scholarship that will extend the reach, effectiveness, benefit, and value of our university-community connections.
	OBJECTIVE 17: Facilitate, build, and support interdisciplinary, cross-faculty, and cross-unit engagement and collaboration.
Alignment with Institutional Risk Indicator	Risk: Research Enterprise Risk statement: If the university does not effectively manage and support its research enterprise it will be unable to fulfill its mission and academic goals as an internationally recognized research-intensive university.
	Risk: Reputation Risk Statement: If the university does not protect and enhance its reputation, it could fail to achieve its academic mission and goals.
	Risk: Relationships with Stakeholders If the university does not establish and maintain constructive relationships with its key stakeholders, it could fail to achieve its academic mission and goals.
Legislative Compliance and jurisdiction	Post-Secondary Learning Act Centres and Institutes Policy (UAPPOL) GFC Academic Planning Committee

Attachment:

1. Attachment 1: Proposed Digital Scholarship Centre

Prepared by: Andrea Patrick, Portfolio Initiatives Manager, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), apatrick@ualberta.ca; Geoff Harder, Associate University Librarian, Libraries, gharder@ualberta.ca.

University of Alberta Template for Proposals to Establish New Academic Centres and Institutes

Proposers will complete and submit this template to the Office of the Provost for approval in accordance with UAPPOL Policy. This template may be used in two ways:

- 1) As a cover document attached to a completed proposal which has already been approved by the University for submission for external funding. In this case, the template must present the academic arguments for establishing an academic centre or institute, and provide required information that is absent from the original proposal.
- 2) As an expandable template to be completed. In this case, the completed template may be up to 8 to 10 pages in length (not including letters of support or other appendices relevant to the proposal).
 Before developing a proposal and completing this template, please contact the Office of the Provost to discuss the scope of the proposed initiative and to discuss steps for review under the UAPPOL Centres and Institutes Policy, as well as associated procedures for academic centres and institutes www.uappol.ualberta.ca.

1.	Faculty Dean Signature	
	Signature: Dul S Ash	Date:
	Kathleen De Long, Intering Chief Librarian and Vice-Provost, Learning Services	April 2018
	Dale Askey, Chief Librarian and Vice-Provost, Learning Services	Rev. Aug 2018

2. Name of the Proposed Centre or Institute

Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC)

- 3. Academic Justification for Establishment of a Centre or Institute
 - Define the vision and purpose of the proposed unit
 - Demonstrate that the proposed Centre/Institute does not duplicate other efforts at the University
 - Document the emerging or established excellence of the group of faculty involved, and describe how the proposed
 Centre or Institute will position the University of Alberta as a national and international leader

Vision statement: The Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) provides University of Alberta researchers and students with an inspiring physical space where together, working with common interests and shared expertise, we explore new digital technologies, tools, and methodologies that help us transform and advance research and scholarship, and the sharing of those experiences openly within our community.

Purpose and function: The DSC leverages growing interest and investment in digital research support, programming, services, and partnerships that are present at the University of Alberta, creating a focus on developing and enhancing new networks of digital scholars and a community of expertise who will drive research forward at all levels of the university, from undergraduate to professor. As a hub for turning ideas into academic outputs and actions, the DSC is a welcoming space that lowers barriers to entry for those who need and want to become more digitally fluent and capable in their approach to research, learning, and scholarly communication practices. The Centre not only supports research but it actively performs research into innovative and critically important ways to sustain digital scholarship, from "cradle to grave," from the inception and management of digital projects to the long-term stewardship and preservation of disseminated research outputs and the data that was generated, managed, and used in those processes. To achieve its vision, the DSC delivers: inspiring, collaborative spaces; easy-to-access services, consultation and robust referral networks; a breadth of

new technologies to use, create, and to experiment with; research programs that will explore areas of interdisciplinary collaboration and digital scholarship practice as a field of study (e.g. data curation, research data management, digital preservation, innovation in digital scholarly communications, digital literacies, data analysis and visualization, openness and IP, digital citizenship and information literacy); a showcase for innovative approaches to digital scholarship activities; a growing network of experts and interested learners who together support and enhance digitally-based research, training, and experiential learning opportunities for all University of Alberta community members. As an academic centre, the DSC is well-positioned to support and attract grants further generating and enabling research making use of, related to, and about digital scholarship.

Defining digital scholarship: "Digital scholarship" is a label which has come to mean many things but one which historian and researcher Abby Smith Rumsey, former Director of the Scholarly Communications Institute at the Univ of Virginia defines as, "the use of digital evidence and method, digital authoring, digital publishing, digital curation and preservation, and digital use and reuse of scholarship." In its simplest form, it is scholarship that critically appreciates and makes use of the affordances of our evolving digital environment. Extensive stakeholder consultations conducted by the Libraries reveal significant barriers for many researchers and students, both graduate and undergraduate, in becoming digitally fluent and gaining access to the means to take greater advantage of the digital environment that is too easy to take for granted. These same themes surfaced during a series of planned discussions and events organized by the Digital Synergies group (faculty and librarians) who met regularly through 2014-2016, leading to a DigiDay event which included a strategy meeting with Dr. Chad Gaffield, former President of SSHRC.² Despite a wealth of expertise on campus, there was a feeling that the sum of our parts would be greater if opportunities to raise digital fluencies across more of our university community could be found. Even within faculties and departments, interviews with professors and students indicated all too often that even when expertise or equipment was known to be nearby, it was often out of reach and unavailable to them for use. The DSC helps with this problem by creating a "storefront" for digital-scholarship related support, providing both fledgling and more experienced digital scholars an opportunity to succeed and advance their research ideas.

Distinguishing characteristics: The DSC is unique to other technology facilities on campus as its goal is to serve as a centrally-accessible (i.e. not housed in any single faculty) open community hub - one where people are as important as the surrounding technology. Leveraging the strength of campus partners and expertise, the DSC can be a wayfinding agent for directing and connecting people to the front doors of digital scholarship and related campus services, both within and outside of the Libraries. As a hub, the DSC provides a welcoming common ground, or a "digital scholarship commons," for coupling the expertise and experience of library staff with other experts from across the university community, in order to better support areas of emerging interest in digitally-based research and scholarly communications, including knowledge transfer, training, and access to new research related to the tools, methodologies, and hardware to be used. Physically, the DSC offers

¹ Over the course of 2016 and 2017, University of Alberta Libraries conducted many information gathering meetings, including over 40 hours of targeted stakeholder meetings with a cross-section of faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students. This was in addition to performing extensive environmental surveys and convening other meetings with various teams, committees and centre leads within the university and beyond, e.g. ARC, ACE, Cybera, Compute Canada.

² The need for a DSC-like space or "hub" was strongly expressed by the Digital Synergies Group that was originally convened by Dr. Heather Zwicker in 2014, which culminated in: the hosting of a DigiDay; a generated list of self-identifying Digital Scholars; and a letter sent to President Turpin expressing support for the idea of a physical hub and a network for digital scholars (see Appendix).

much desired group and individual work space, which has been designed to support interdisciplinary collaboration. This "library lab" environment includes a wide array of hardware and software, with a goal of providing easier and more evenly distributed access to technologies than is currently available to general campus.

Research and training: It is expected that the DSC through its workshops, partnerships, and physical presence on campus, will serve as a place to showcase the strengths of digital research happening across disciplines and across the university. The DSC is positioned to shine spotlights on the production and dissemination of digital research, and help to support any digitally-focused signature areas that align with the University's and the Libraries' strategic directions. As a research-generating and supporting centre, the DSC considers the full lifecycle of digital research from early engagement with proposal and project planning, including data management and technology identification - to mid-points of helping to support or make connections to actual tools and supports for conducting and disseminating research - to longer-term considerations related to stewardship and sustainability planning, including sunsetting and archiving of digital research projects and important outputs. The Academic Director will help guide the research programs undertaken by the centre and those associated with it, with the opportunities for postdoctoral fellowships, internships, and other experiential learning opportunities. Research agendas may shift over time but the centre has the unique opportunity to address disciplinary gaps in fields such as data curation, research data management, digital stewardship and preservation, and even the study of digital scholarship itself. 3

Physical environment: The Centre offers a central location in order to serve all disciplines and to be multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. Located on the second floor of Cameron Library, co-located with the Digital Initiatives unit of the library, the space will be well defined but open and inviting to students and faculty of all disciplines. The enclosed but welcoming glass-walled space will contain collaborative areas supporting group research, project design and execution, spaces for workshops and training, and a teaching area. A data visualization and analysis area will be constructed which will include a large high resolution, interactive visual display which can be used for a range of research activities, including GIS and map study, demonstrations, multi-document examinations and thesis defense. The space will borrow the best ideas from the Makerspace movement and include tools for experimentation and production such as digitization equipment, 3D printers and a 3D scanner. The intended audience is faculty, researchers, and graduate students - not just experts but also those curious and new to digital methodologies and tools. Undergraduates with research interests related to the DSC will also be welcomed.

Examples of supporting technology and services include:

- Digital publishing
- Data visualization and analysis Web archiving and analysis

Digitization

- Digital preservation
- 3D printing and scanning

- Research data management
- Spatial data and mapping
- Video games/game studies

- Metadata design and use
- Project management

- A/V curation

VR and AR

- Coding workshops
- Data mining & text analysis

³ The Libraries previously competed for and hosted two successful two-year CLIR Postdoctoral Fellowships in Data Curation https://www.clir.org/fellowships/postdoc/. One focused on the treatment of human-subject data in long-term preservation environments; the other involved the study of web archiving tools and methodologies, undertaken as a joint collaboration with the support of HuCo. G. Harder and Dr. G. Rockwell co-supervised this work.

Opportunities to Lead: The University of Alberta DSC builds on early iterations and experiences of digital scholarship organizations in the US and abroad taking the commitment and support to a level that positions it to be a national and international leader.⁴

4. Provide a statement of the priority of the proposed centre or institute within the overall priorities of the Faculty and/or the University of Alberta. Include a <u>statement of benefits</u> the University of Alberta could expect to receive through creation of the proposed centre or institute, including benefits to students.

Digital scholarship brings together digital media and traditional methods of academic inquiry. Through collaboration, expertise, shared spaces, and cutting edge technology, the DSC has been prioritized by the Libraries as a strategic area that will directly benefit and have significant impact on research, teaching and learning at the University of Alberta. The University of Alberta's Strategic Plan highlights the objective of supporting emerging areas of research and teaching, while also ensuring the transfer of "knowledge and technology...to ensure that society can realize the benefits of intellectual capital arising from research and creative endeavours." Benefiting these supported initiatives, the DSC will be a hub for research-generating ideas, enabling technology, a collaborative place to explore challenges and opportunities, and a venue and forum for sharing and showcasing.

The DSC's operations are fully funded under the Libraries' base operation fund and as such, do not tie its survival to external grants or other forms of one-time funding. Leveraging existing investment, the DSC extends service and partnerships already in play and continues the transformation of what Libraries do to advance and support academic research at the UofA. Importantly, the DSC will become its own hub for generating and performing research in new areas related to digital information management, production, organization, curation, study, and dissemination. Outside of operational funding, it is hoped that the DSC, as it builds its community and partner-base, will support grant applications and attract other funding opportunities as may be pursued by users of the Centre, or via the Centre itself.

The DSC's physical space provides common ground for cross-faculty, interdisciplinary research, including opportunities for expanding upon local, national and international partnerships - all aspirations of the University of Alberta strategic plan. The centre will cultivate and provide access to expertise and technology for in-demand areas such as data visualization, text mining, data management, and 3d printing and scanning, and long-term preservation and stewardship of digital scholarship projects and assets. Hardware will be offered alongside expertise, training and outreach so scholars at all levels can discover, access, and innovate with new technologies. Brown bags, seminars, hands-on workshops, and other learning opportunities will be offered out of the venue in order to support signature programs, and encourage research partnerships both at the local and

⁴ The Association of Research Libraries is strongly supportive of Libraries becoming more engaged in digital scholarship and has recently published a series of profiles of digital scholarship related centres and activities at various universities, see: http://www.arl.org/focus-areas/scholarly-communication/digital-scholarship/digital-scholarship-support. See also: CLIR's report, *Building Expertise to Support Digital Scholarship: A Global Perspective* (2015).

https://www.clir.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2016/11/pub168.pdf. Educause's Report of a CNI-ARL Workshop: Planning a Digital Scholarship Center 2016 shares findings from the workshop the several UAlberta library staff participated in. https://library.educause.edu/topics/libraries-and-technology/digital-scholarship>

international level. The Centre will generate, encourage, highlight, and support a wide range of digital research and cross-disciplinary sharing of experience.

The Centre expands upon work already happening to sustain digital assets and research outputs, helping to bring attention and awareness to library partnerships, consultation, and services already in place. This much needed promotion for the sustainability and stewardship planning of research projects and outputs ensures the protection of public investment and the mitigation of risks to the long-term access of digital scholarship and its record for future generations.

The DSC acknowledges the growing technological diversity of contemporary research, and will help to address the need for software, storage, expert advice, and fostering welcoming environment for recruiting and retaining students and staff. The DCS will showcase scholarly innovation at the University of Alberta, especially as attributed to affiliation with the Centre, and will reflect well the digital research that can happen - and is happening - at the U of A.

Potential campus partnerships (as consulted not limited to):

- Arts Resource Centre (ARC)
- Kule Institute for Advanced Studies (KIAS)
- Advanced Man Machine Interface Laboratory (AMMI)
- Technology and Learning Sciences Lab (TALS)
- Technologies in Education: Support and Solutions
- Information Services & Technology (IST); Academic Computing
- Digital Imaging Facility, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Arts Collaboration Enterprise (ACE)
- Copyright Office
- Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
- Learning Services, including University of Alberta Press, Technology Training Centre, Museums and Collections Services
- The Shack (Engineering)
- Sound Studies Institute (Arts)

There are many opportunities to leverage and build upon external collaborations and partnerships related to digital scholarship and innovation. Examples of existing partnerships which might serve as springboards for collaborations include:

- Internet Archive
- HathiTrust Digital Library/HathiTrust Research Center
- Public Knowledge Project
- A network of member institutions of CARL and ARL organizations that have in place or will look to develop digital scholarship centers and/or related programs
- 5. Provide a description of the proposed centre/institute governance structure/reporting lines.

 Include a diagram of organizational structure.

Diagram:

https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/178Gnk2mMzGqqake53GKiXbsVNahMhXe7GiBZFmHiXFY/edi

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a) Who appoints to the Board?

The DSC will utilize an Advisory Steering Committee (ASC) whose members will propose and reflect on strategic directions, recommendations, and areas of opportunity and assessment. The ASC provides advice to the Administrative and Academic Directors on ways and means for the DSC to best realize its mandate and potential. Advisory Steering Committee members are appointed by the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian and will have a staggered term of service.

- b) What is the role of the Board?
 - The ASC serves an advisory role around strategic planning, academic direction, service development, facilities and operations but it does not provide budgetary and operational oversight given the Centre is administratively centred within the Libraries. The Advisory Steering Committee provides important insight and feedback to the directorship, both Administrative and Academic, and may help facilitate the creation of working groups to assist with planning for specific initiatives and areas of interest, e.g. data visualization facilities and capacity.
- c) Provide a statement of the role and qualifications of the Chief Officer(s) of the proposed centre or institute

Administrative Director

This role will fall to the Associate University Librarian for Digital Initiatives, responsible for major projects and research support involving digital repositories, research data management, digitization, archiving, digital publishing, and other related digital scholarship areas. The responsible AUL will ensure all aspects of the administrative operation of the centre are being well-managed. The role of Administrative Director may be reassigned at the discretion of the Chief Librarian and Vice-Provost, Learning Services.

Academic Director

To be appointed by the Chief Librarian and Vice-Provost on a 3-year term, renewable at the recommendation of a sub-committee of the Advisory Steering Committee. The Academic Director focuses attention on engaging academic faculties and developing and supporting research programs enabled by the Centre. The position desciption for the Academic Director is available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mYowlFO_aGSF7WhRdCHaLkYdEpCFuyuT/view.

Provide a statement of the role and qualifications of the centre/institute lead of the proposed centre or institute.

Administrative Director: Geoff Harder, Associate University Librarian, leads the strategic development of Digital Initiatives, Maps, Bruce Peel Special Collections and Archives, the University of Alberta Archives, and a dotted line report of the University Records Office (under General Counsel). Areas of oversight and research interest include: research data management services; digital repositories; maps and spatial data; library publishing and production services, incl. large-scale digitization; Open Educational Resources; digital scholarship services and partnerships. Also included in his role is

oversight for the University of Alberta Research Data Centre, one of a network of centres located across Canada through partnership with Statistics Canada. Harder serves on a number of national and international organizations, including the Board of Directors for the Consortia for Advancing Standards in Research Administrative Data (CASRAI), the Executive and Board of Directors for the CLOCKSS preservation network (based out of Stanford), Advisory Committee for Public Knowledge Project (PKP; based out of Simon Fraser University), Steering Committee for the Canadian National Heritage Digitization Strategy (Library and Archives Canada); Steering Committee for Portage Network, Canadian Association of Research Libraries' (CARL) national research data management program. Harder has been leading University of Alberta's partnership with the Internet Archive, overseeing the growth and development of UA's digitization and web archiving programs since 2007. He was recently invited to join the Board of Internet Archive Canada in 2018. He co-chairs CARL's Open Repositories Working Group and also serves on its Digital Preservation Working Group. He was one of a small number of organizers to establish ORCID Canada (ORCID-CA), a national consortium based around the internationally-used ORCID identifier. Most recently, Harder is serving on a task force to create a national Trusted Digital Repository for all Canadian Resource Knowledge Network (CRKN) licensed scholarly journal content. He is also a 2018-19 Association of Research Libraries(ARL) Leadership Fellow.

Academic Director: Harvey Quamen is an Associate Professor of English and Digital Humanities, teaching interdisciplinary courses on Digital Humanities, cyberculture, posthumanism, and 19th- and 20th-century literature. He has been a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College, London, and has participated in several large collaborative research teams, including Editing Modernism in Canada, the Canadian Writers Research Collaboratory, and the Implementing New Knowledge Environments Project. He also teaches annually at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria. His research interests include "big data" humanities, including text mining, social network analysis, and humanistic data visualization. Recent publications include essays in Making Canada New, Editing as Cultural Practice in Canada, and the "Databases" entry in Doing Digital Humanities, published by Routledge. He and collaborator Jon Bath will soon be publishing Relational Databases for Humanists as part of the "Programming for Humanists" series from Texas A&M Press.

Head, Digital Scholarship Services: Lydia Zvyagintseva, Head, Digital Scholarship Services, holds Masters degrees in Humanities Computing, Library & Information Studies, and French-Canadian Literature from the University of Alberta. She was formerly the Digital Scholarship Librarian - Humanities at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She has also worked for Edmonton Public Library as a Digital Exhibits Intern Librarian and most recently as the Digital Exhibits Librarian in 2017, bringing a wealth of experience in advocating for and supporting digital scholarship tools and approaches, and the engagement of researchers and students in this area. Notably, her work at University of Toronto Scarborough Library focused on digital curation, metadata management, mapping, and digital preservation.

Other notes around qualified personnel:

The U of A Libraries has a strong track record of partnering with research teams, both internal and external to the U of A. This includes: Dr. Susan Brown, Canada Research Chair in Collaborative Digital Scholarship. UAL was an early partner on the CFI-funded Canadian Research Writing Collaboratory (CWRC), and continues to serve as the preservation steward for this important digital scholarship project. The greater team of the Libraries brings a wide variety of technical and subject expertise to digital scholarship endeavours and is excited by the prospects of creating further opportunities for building collaborative communities.

7. Employees

- a) Provide a statement of the employment status of employees (i.e., are they University of Alberta employees?)
- b) Specific source(s) of any "University funding" must be identified
- c) Personnel expenditures must include adequate provisions for benefit costs, salary settlements, and other escalating factors.

The University of Alberta Libraries, as parent organization for the DSC, will employ all workers in the Centre using the University's existing academic and non-academic agreements. The Centre will involve staff from across the Libraries (e.g. Digital Initiatives unit) and will follow existing practice for the recruitment and hiring of any new professional or non-academic library staff, including casual staffing appointments for graduate students to support the operating hours of the centre and its related services.

b) Specific source(s) of any "University funding" must be identified

The Centre operates using existing or reallocated library operational funds. It does not expect new or additional funding from the University to support the Centre. It is envisioned that the Centre will be in a position to attract some external funds via grant partnerships, as has occurred with the Libraries' existing digital initiatives.

c) Personnel expenditures must include adequate provisions for benefit costs, salary settlements, and other escalating factors.

It is expected that the Academic Director position will involve covering the costs of two HCE (Half Course Equivalents) to the cooperating faculty. A research allowance of \$5K/year in the role will also be offered. The Administrative Director role is assumed to be a set of responsibilities that fall within the role of the responsible AUL and as such carries no additional expense.

8. Financial Plan

- a) Include key sources of operating funds, and include revenue sources and expenditures for [ideally] 5 years projected.
- b) State specific source(s) of any "University funding"
- c) Provide a plan for the sustainable funding of the operation of the centre or institute (salaries, equipment and maintenance, IT support [data management, web design, etc.)
- d) Escalation factors must be built into expenditure projections (i.e. escalation due to inflation, future salary settlements, etc.)
- e) If in-kind support is identified, the specifics of that support must be listed separately.

Summary: The DSC's core operation is funded through the Libraries operational budget as a unit within the Libraries, which mitigates risk associated with any reliance on outside revenues in the form of grants, donations, sponsorships, or other time-limited sources of funding. A detailed breakdown of the DSC budget for the first 5 years has been included as an appendix to the proposal. The areas addressed include:

- 1) Facility Approx. \$3.3 million is set aside within Learning Services flex funding budget for one-time renovation, furnishings, and technology purchases to outfit the space in its start-up phase. Facilities and Operations are currently in a design phase, with a contractor selected and undertaking construction in summer/fall 2018. Furnishing and facility budget in years 2-5 are not anticipated to be significant.
- 2)Personnel All staff newly hired or involved with the DSC will be recruited as employees of the Libraries within its strategic recruitment framework. Budgeting is based on full consideration of entitled benefits. Additional grant and advancement funding may be used to support non-permanent appointments, e.g. postdoctoral fellowships. Note: Cost breakdowns have been included as an appendix item.
- 3) Technology Evergreening of equipment has been budgeted for \$100K per annum. These expenses are factored into the Libraries IT technology planning and budgeting process. One time startup costs for the centre are fully funded using the Libraries' flex operational funds, as budgeted, reported, and discussed with university administration (Provost) and central planning.

9. **Space Requirements.**

Space required? Yes□ No x
If "No" selected, where is current space? Cameron Library, 2nd floor (adjacent to Digital
Initiatives)
If "Yes" selected, complete the following:
☐ On-site at the University of Alberta
☐ Awaiting allocation
☐ Rent/lease required

Address the following questions:

a) If rent/lease or license is required, what is the University of Alberta's commitment?

If rent/lease is required, has this been budgeted for? Yes□

Is funding required? Yes□ No x Reasons: Existing Library space

b) If new space or modifications to existing space are required, has Facilities and Operations been contacted and has this been included in the budget?

UAL is repurposing space formerly occupied by the Math Library, 2nd floor Cameron Library, adjacent to the Digital Initiatives unit. The space provides an ideal, central location for the DSC and has proximity to the staff and facility of the Digital Initiatives Unit is sensible. The Department of Mathematics supports this reuse of library space. Libraries have been working closely with Facilities & Operations and HFKS Architects, as awarded, to proceed with design and renovation of the space. Expected timeline for completed construction is fall 2018 with the opening of the centre in January 2019.

10. Potential Risks to the University of Alberta

- a) State any reputational, financial, and/or operational risks to the University of Alberta.
- b) Outline plans to mitigate/manage those risks.
- c) Risk Management Services may be consulted.

Personnel/Staffing

Similar centre's emerging at other institutions, there may be intense competition to attract and maintain people with the right skills. Plan within university policy, strive to fairly compensate and retain key individuals through a strong collegial and supportive environment. Ensure new

non-librarian individuals are welcomed into our organization and viewed as full partners in our library organization and culture.

Accessibility

Location on the second floor of Cameron Library, or technology could create accessibility barriers.

Create accessibility plan for the centre, while working with the Libraries and campus accessibility supports. Facilities/equipment need to be truly accessible - not only for booking, but for all faculties (regardless of skill) to be able to use. Support booking system and being able to keep up with the needs of the University Community.

Competition with faculties and centre's doing similar work on campus. Complement, not compete. Highlight the centre as an open, central facility building collaborative and supportive relationships with groups doing any similar research and activity. Perform extensive stakeholder consultations and maintain strong communication channels.

Services and facility under/over utilized. Perform extensive stakeholder interviews and create engagement opportunities, ensuring that interest is peaked for the centre. Maintain a strong andproctive communications plan, particularly around programming, e.g. workshops. Demonstrate value to users and monitor capacity through assessment and regular planning.

Rapid technological change risk technology/facility that will degrade and require replacement. Aim for maximum flexibility in facility design in particular with regards to system controllers, swappable screens, wiring capabilities/potential. Initial design requires maximum technological and facility flexibility. Plan for evergreening budget. Assess physical location for upgrade potential and design accordingly.

11. Annual Reporting and Strategic Review: In accordance with UAPPOL Policy

- a) State a provision for annual reporting to the Reporting Dean
- b) State a provision for annual reporting to the Office of the Provost
- c) State a provision for strategic and operational review by the Reporting Dean (or delegate) at no less frequency than every five years.

To ensure the DSC's continued contribution to the University of Alberta's strategic goals and planning, the DSC commits to completing annual reporting and the strategic review of the Centre's operations. This will be communicated through the Chief Librarian & Vice Provost, Learning Services, to the Provost. Continuation of the Centre will be reviewed annually with a fulsome strategic and operational review of no less than every 3 years from the date of approval.

12. Intellectual Property (IP) and Copyright

- a) Will any copyright or patentable IP be created, and if so, how will it be handled?
- b) How will ownership and commercialization of IP be handled?

Copyright and any potentially patentable IP is managed in compliance with existing UAPPOL policies and procedures. DSC will collaborate closely with the Copyright Office to provide information and awareness training around good practices for licensing and supporting attribution, credit, and reuse of digital assets and projects.

13. <u>Termination Plan/Provisions</u>

a) Exigency plan for termination: If physical and/or financial resources will remain upon termination, a plan for consultation with donors or agencies associated with the centre or institute must be included in the dissolution plan.

	If terminated, DSC-related facilities, assets and staff would be redirected as appropriate towards
	supporting university and library goals, in accordance with library operational practice, policy and
	audit compliant processes.
14.	Letters of Support: Attach letters from relevant on- and off-campus sources
	Dr. Deborah Burshtyn, Vice-Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta
	Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell, Director of KIAS; Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta
	Dr. Sean Gouglas, Director, Department of Humanities Computing, University of Alberta
	Dr. Susan Brown, Canada Research Chair in Collaborative Digital Scholarship, University of Guelph; Visiting
	Professor in English and Humanities Computing, University of Alberta
	Dr. Lesley Cormack, Dean of Arts, University of Alberta
	Dr. Eleni Stroulia, Professor, Department of Computing Science
	Dr. Denilson Barbosa, Associate Professor, Dept of Computing Science, University of Alberta
	Dr. John Simpson, Digital Humanities Specialist, Compute Canada
	Dr. Toni Samek, Director, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta
	Brewster Kahle, Founder, Internet Archive
	Kaitlyn Grant and Laura Gerlitz, Co-Chairs, Digital Scholars Student Group, University of Alberta
15.	Provide, if applicable, any agreements and/or memoranda of understanding between the University
	of Alberta and its partner(s) to establish, fund and operate the proposed academic centre or
	institute.

U:\AD02\CEN\CIC FORMS.Templates.Examples.checklists\Proposal Templates - CURRENT\CURRENT-CIC Academic centre establishment FORM-27Nov2014 PROPOSED REVISION.docx

Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) Advisory Committee (DRAFT)

Purpose:

To serve as a sounding board and provide stakeholder perspective for the ongoing planning of the DSC with relation to research agendas, services, programs, facilities, technologies, people, and other related elements. The Advisory Committee of the DSC is a consultative committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations to the Academic Director, Administrative Director, and Head, to support the DSC in becoming a nationally recognized centre which promotes digital scholarship and collaboration.

Role:

The Advisory Committee is responsible for making recommendations on the following matters:

- 1) Development of strong research agendas which advance digital scholarship practices and position the university as a national and international leader
- 2) Digital scholarship support services that are multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary
- 3) Facilitation of university-wide digital scholarship leadership, including:
 - a) Communication of effective digital research and dissemination practices, identifying gaps and possible solutions;
 - b) Building networks and relationships, profiling digital scholarship excellence across the institution
 - c) Ensuring public engagement with digital scholarship through the development of partnership opportunities, e.g. Edmonton Public Library, Internet Archive
 - d) Support for experiential learning opportunities for graduate students, including paid work opportunities within the centre
 - e) Opportunities for postdoctoral fellowships in areas that advance digital scholarship, e.g. data curation and stewardship, digital scholarly communication
- 4) Opportunities to showcase digital scholarship being done within the U of A community, and beyond. and to highlight and inspire individuals to pursue new approaches and collaborations in their research

Committee members are expected to help communicate and promote the vision and goals of the DSC as a valued campus asset for enabling digital scholarship research and services to flourish and find success.

Method of communication:

Email and sharing of documentation via Google Teams. Meeting minutes to be recorded and shared via Google Teams.

Meetings:

The Advisory Committee will meet at least two times per year during the academic year.

Committee Membership

Academic Director (Co-chair)
Administrative Director (Co-Chair)
Head, Digital Scholarship Services, Libraries
Chief Librarian and Vice-Provost, Learning Services
Director of KIAS

Deans/dean delegates, departmental chair (FGSR; other)
3-4 faculty member representatives
IST Research Computing
Graduate Student representative (GSA or Digital Scholars Graduate Student Group)
Undergraduate representative

External representation (by invitation; preferably individuals who have national or international credentials in Digital Scholarship)

Inaugural members include:

Susan Brown, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Collaborative Digital Scholarship John Simpson, Compute Canada

Method of Operation

All members are encouraged to identify issues and to propose them as agenda items (with the necessary background/support documentation) for review and discussion.

Other experts will be invited when required.

Members express opinions openly and respectfully and identify any potential threats so that risks are mitigated.

Digtal Scholarship Centre - 5 Year Budget

Description

Total

2021-22

Faculty	150,000
Librarians	759,700
Other Academic Assistants	372,900
Total	1,282,500
Continuing Support Staff	267,600
Temp Support Staff	283,900
Total Support Salaries	851,500
Total Salary Expenses	2,134,100
Employee Benefits	292,100
	2,426,200
Supplies Serv & Sundries	•
Repairs & Maint Equipment	3,340,000
Total Non Salary Expenses	
Total Expenses	

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<u>E</u>	100,000	100,000	75,000	20,000	•
	543,200	530,800	568,600	556,700	226,900
<u> </u>	67,300	65,800	64,300	62,800	31,900
	475,900	465,000	504,300	493,900	195,000
	220,400	215,300	210,300	205,500	•
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3	146,900	143,500	140,200	137,000	
_	255,500	249,700	294,000	288,400	195,000
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2	159,000	155,400	151,900	148,400	145,000
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Notes

- Head, Digital Scholarship Centre
 Academic Director, 3 Year Term, Jan 2019 Start Date, Course Release and Research Funding
 Post-Doc Fellowships
 Public Service Assistants
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 Casual Starl

Prepared by Kerni Kufvor-Boakye, CPA, CA, CIA | Senior Financial Officer, Learning Services



School of English and Theatre Studies

May 4, 2018

Kathleen De Long Interim Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian University of Alberta

I am pleased to write in strong support of the University of Alberta Libraries' application to establish a Digital Scholarship Centre. I am well acquainted with the Libraries' digital initiatives with regards to advanced research computing in the humanities, having been seconded to the University of Alberta for several years related to leadership of the Orlando Project and the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory. In this capacity, I have had the benefit of collaboration and consultation with members of the exemplary UAL Digital Initiatives team for about a decade.

The University of Alberta Libraries, a national leader in digital initiatives, has been doing a superb job over the past years of ramping up support for digital scholarship on a range of fronts including through digitization initiatives to support faculty research, collaboration with and support for research and infrastructure projects, and trail-blazing initiatives in archiving and preserving scholarly data.

The plan for the Digital Scholarship Centre is very well laid out, reflecting the substantial thought and consultation that inform into it. I am very glad to see it incorporates both an Academic Director and a head of Digital Scholarship Services and will operate under the talented direction of Geoff Harder with the advice of a Steering Committee. The array of staff, equipment, and services is enviable and reflects the extent to which the UA Libraries has its fingers on the pulse of digital scholarship, and in particular on the outcomes of recent experiments in how libraries can best support technologically-enabled research and learning. The floor plan looks ideal in offering a wide range of space types for different activities. The fact that the Centre will be established and funded through existing operating funds positions it for sustainability and continued innovation.

The proposed Digital Scholarship Centre makes eminent sense as a next step for the University of Alberta. It builds on the already very strong work being done by UA Libraries to support digital scholarship, providing a high-profile service point that will be linked to other related initiatives on campus. Its infrastructure and services will expand the capacity of the institution and position researchers at the University of Alberta as leaders in the next wave of innovative digital inquiry.

This beautifully designed Digital Scholarship Centre will further cement the University of Alberta's position as an innovator in harnessing technology to advance scholarship.

Yours truly,

Susan Brown

Professor and Canada Research Chair in Collaborative Digital Scholarship

Project leader, Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory

Director (technical), The Orlando Project

President, Canadian Society for Digital Humanities/Société canadienne des humanités numériques

sbrown@uoguelph.ca | 519-824-4120 x 53266

Tel: 519-824-4120 Theatre Studies: Ext. 53147 English: Ext. 56317



6-33 Humanities Centre Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E5 Tel: 780.492.ARTS Fax: 780.492.7251 www.arts.ualberta.ca

April 30, 2018

Dr. Kathleen De Long Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian 5-07 Cameron Library University of Alberta Edmonton, AB, T6G 2/8

Dear Dr. De Long,

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts I am pleased to offer our support for the formal establishment of a Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) at the University of Alberta. The vision articulated for this new Centre is both timely and appropriate. As more of our researchers and students engage in data mining and text analysis research, as we see an increased demand for support for digitization and digital preservation projects, as research in fields such as video games and virtual and augmented reality expand, and as digital publishing becomes more common, UAlberta needs a centrally coordinated multidisciplinary hub for scholars to connect, obtain services, and network.

The DSC will provide a valuable physical and community-building space for researchers and students engaged in digital scholarship. It will, moreover, serve as a focal point for partnerships with existing units engaged in supporting digital research, including Arts-based units such as the Kule Institute for Advanced Studies (KIAS), the Sound Studies Institute (SSI), the Arts Resource Centre (ARC), and Arts Collaboration Enterprise (ACE).

The Faculty of Arts is currently working to extend and institutionalize our commitment to research and teaching in the digital humanities and media studies. Our new Academic Strategic Plan emphasizes support for interdisciplinary collaboration and new initiatives to profile research. The vision our application outlines for the Digital Scholarship Centre is directly compatible with these priorities. We see considerable potential for interest in the workspace, workshops, training, networking opportunities, and other supports, services, and activities of the DSC.

We have appreciated your consultative approach to developing the proposal to establish the DSC. I wish you and your team success as your plans progress.

Sincerely.

Lesley Cormack
Dean, Faculty of Arts

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3-37 Arts Building, University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E6 www.kias.ualberta.ca | kias@ualberta.ca 780.492.6436

April 26, 2018

Geoffrey Rockwell
Director of the Kule Institute for Advanced Study
Professor of Philosophy and Humanities Computing
Email: geoffrey.rockwell@ualberta.ca

Kathleen De Long Interim Vice Provost and Chief Librarian 5-07 Cameron Library

Dear Kathleen De Long,

It is with pleasure that I write in support of the proposed Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC). I have consulted on this project and have been following it with interest. It is a tremendously important project at the University of Alberta in terms of the impact it will have on digital research and training activities. I unreservedly recommend this to the General Faculties Council's Academic Planning Committee for its transformative potential. Here are some of my reasons.

The DSC will be able to coordinate digital research projects, especially those with digital preservation needs. Currently the Kule Institute for Advanced Study had partnered with Digital Initiatives to offer annual CRAfT grants (Creating Research Archives for Tomorrow) that encourage researchers to collaborate with the Library to create digital research archives following best practices. The DSC will be able to take support for digital research archives to the next level with the space and staff to train and support projects. Researchers will be able to partner with the DSC making their proposals to funding agencies more competitive. We hope to work with the DSC to continue to provide grants in this area.

Digital methods like machine learning and visualization have become important across the humanities, social sciences and arts, but there are few places where graduate students and researchers can get training and support for new methods. The DSC provides the perfect combination of infrastructure, staffing and support. A researcher doing visualization work would be able to use high-end infrastructure unavailable elsewhere on campus. They could partner with the DSC in a grant proposal which utilizes and extends the infrastructure.

While there are resources across campus for digital scholarship, there is little coordination. The DSC will provide students and researchers a "commons" where they are welcome and can get access to specialized equipment like 3D-printers. The DSC won't replace other labs and resources, but it can

partner with them to provide an "on-ramp" to digital methods. The DSC will provide a central site that can involve others (like KIAS) to connect the breath of expertise we have on campus.

Finally, I should mention that the DSC could be transformative for senior undergraduates and graduate students who don't have the same level of research support that faculty have. The DSC has the capacity to train students interested in learning digital methods and to them give them opportunities to engage others. The University of Alberta has the potential to become a leader in informatics with this Centre.

In sum, I strongly recommend this proposal to the General Faculties Council's Academic Planning Committee.

Yours,

Geoffrey Rockwell

MMM



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING SCIENCE **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

2-21 Athabasca Hall Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E8 Tel: +1 780.492.2285 Fax: +1 780.492.6393 info@cs.ualberta.ca www.cs.ualberta.ca

To: GFC Academic Planning Committee

Re: establishment of the Digital Scholarship Centre

Dear Prof. Dew,

I wish to express my strong support for the proposal to establish the Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) at the University of Alberta before the GFC.

Digital technologies have long become essential to education and research, and for good reasons. Proficiency with such technologies is a requirement for academic success. Moreover, the ever changing nature of technology exerts pressure on the members of the University community to continuously hone their skills, which means that having a dedicated space and team of experts for training and assisting the university community on digital scholarship has to be one of our highest priorities.

The Digital Scholarship Centre will offer the university community a dedicated and functional space for digital scholarship that will serve and educate our community, acting as a catalyst towards higher Digital Scholarship on our campus. Moreover, the Centre builds on and recognizes the high-caliber existing expertise on digital scholarship within the University of Alberta, particularly within our Libraries. It is worth mentioning this team has an enviable track record in supporting high-caliber research often in collaboration with other institutions across Canada.

In summary, I urge the GFC Academic Planning Committee to approve the creation of this centre.

Sincerely,

Denilson Barbosa Barbosa

Digitally signed by Denilson

Date: 2018.04.26 03:59:50 -06'00'

Denilson Barbosa Associate Professor denilson@ualberta.ca





Environmental Studies

Game Development (Certificate)

Humanities Computing

International Studies

Peace & Post-Conflict Studies (Certificate)

Religious Studies

Science, Technology & Society

Writing Studies

Suite 400 Arts & Convocation Hall Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E6 Tel: 780 492 9557 Fax: 780 492 9787 ois@ualberta ca

30 April 2018

Kathleen De Long Interim Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian 5-07J Cameron Library 11231 Saskatchewan Drive NW Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2J8

Dear Dr. De Long,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) at the University of Alberta. Given my experience with the establishment of graduate and undergraduate programs in digitally-enabled research and teaching, I believe the DSC will meet a pressing need amongst students and researchers. The need for digital fluency is significant, pressing, and constantly evolving.

The establishment of a centre to serve the specific needs of the university community is innovative and cost-effective. Centralising technical expertise that will serve as a hub for campus-wide research will prevent duplication of technical training and allow for the development of competencies as demand changes and evolves.

I fully support this initiative.

Sean Gouglas Professor Dear Kathleen De Long, Interim Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian,

I am writing to express my support for establishing a Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) at the University of Alberta.

As Compute Canada's Humanities and Social Sciences
Specialist and a contributing author on *Building Capacity for Digital Humanities:*A Framework for Institutional Planning, an Educause report, I see a need for centres like this at institutions of higher education not just within Canada but globally. If the University of Alberta is able to move forward quickly on the current proposal to create a DSC it will be a double boon to faculty, staff, and students. First, it will put in a single location a range of technologies and expertise that are emerging as important elements of contemporary digital research. Second, it

Suite 302 155 University Ave Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 1-416-228-1234

computecanada

computecanada ca

will do this ahead of most other institutions that the University of Alberta might compare itself to, giving its members the benefits of early adoption and laying a foundation that will have a lasting impact on digital literacy and the production of highly-qualified persons for years.

In particular I see a deep need for three combinations of technology, service, and training that the proposed DSC will provide:

- Data Visualization. As both the variety of data that is being collected and the volume of data available for analysis increase the need to interrogate such data, even in very preliminary ways, is also increasing and the most powerful, generalized approach to this is data visualization. Unfortunately, most humanities and social sciences disciplines do not have the requisite skill development integrated into their current course offerings.
- 2. Research Data Management. Handling data in ways that appropriately account for privacy, security, reuse, sharing, preservation, licensing, etc. is something that typically falls outside of the skill set of most modern faculty members, let alone students.
- 3. Project Management. Modern research that uses digital methods often intersects with a wide range of tools and teams, each with their own workflow, language, and assumed skill set. Stitching everything together can be a significant undertaking in its own right and is something that many research projects will not have the ability to effectively manage at the outset.

In each of these cases the proposed DSC stands to be an important central place to provide guidance, expertise, and access to technologies that might would otherwise be more difficult to obtain.

For these reasons I am hopeful that the Academic Planning Committee will see fit to approve the proposal for a Digital Scholarship Centre that is before it.

Sincerely,

John Simpson

Regional Partners
ACEnat
Calcul Québac
Compute Ontario
WestGrid



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Killam Centre for Advanced Studies 2-29 Triffo Hall, University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E1 Tel: 780.492.3499

> Fax: 780.492.0692 grad.mail@ualberta.ca ualberta.ca/graduate-studies

Kathleen De Long Interim Vice Provost & Chief Librarian 5-07 Cameron Library University of Alberta

April 30, 2018

Dear Dr. De Long

I am exceptionally pleased to write this letter in support of the Digital Scholarship Centre.

The proposed Digital Scholarship Centre embraces the full spectrum of what Digital Scholarship encompasses. From my point of view, virtually all researchers are now engaging in digital scholarship whether they realize it or not. The advent of the digital world has changed how we research, publish and interact with data. Raising the literacy and the sophistication by which our scholars engage with digital media is necessary and timely.

I see the proposed centre as having tremendous impact for graduate students in particular. They will benefit a dedicated space to pursue training and services offered in areas such as data mining and text analysis, web archiving and analysis and research data management, to name just a few. Graduate students are keen to push the envelope and the digital research centre will provide pivotal support for scholarship in the rapidly changing digital landscape. The creation of a common accessible space in the heart of campus will not only provide a venue for training and support, but it will also allow the intermingling of minds spanning the academy and the formation of new cross-disciplinary ideas and endeavors. The highly visible location and design of the centre will entice onlookers to learn more about digital scholarship on campus and to investigate the supports the centre will provide.

We already have formal academic strength in the area of Digital Scholarship through the MA program in Humanities Computing, soon to be renamed Digital Humanities. I expect new, unique and avant garde programs in a wide range of fields will develop with DSC as a foundational piece. I applaud the Libraries for bringing this idea to life, and I look forward to collaborating with you, the Digital Scholarship Centre, and with various partners from across the academy to build new interdisciplinary programs that capitalize on the expertise and supports offered by the Centre.

Sincerely,

Deborah Burshtyn, PhD

Acting Dean - Vice-Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research



Department of Computing Science 2-32 Athabasca Hall Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T&G 2E8 T: (780) 492-2285 F: (780) 492-6393

W: www.cs.ualberta.ca

Dr. Kathleen De Long
Interim Vice Provost and Chief Librarian
5-07 Cameron Library
University of Alberta Libraries
University of Alberta

April 29, 2018

Dear Dr. De Long,

I write to indicate my strong support for the Libraries' proposal to formally establish a Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) under the Centres and Institutes policy of the University of Alberta. It is imperative that our university continue to invest in strategies that support researchers and students to successfully engage in digitally-based research and study, and to better understand the potential uses, and impacts, of digital technologies. The Libraries' well-considered proposal to create a centre moves the University closer toward this goal. The centre will provide an accessible, central suite of digital scholarship resources, including space, technologies, training, and networking opportunities — all of which contribute to academic success and better research outcomes.

As someone who has worked on many interdisciplinary teams, I can speak first-hand to the importance of collaboration, and the particular value that is co-created when communities of practice with different knowledge collaborate through technology: technologies become more explainable and more usable, and methods in non-technical disciplines become more systematic. As the Libraries have expressed in their proposal, a level of "digital fluency" is becoming increasingly important for people to achieve, particularly as our interactions with technology continue to escalate. There can be wide variation in digital sophistication within faculties and departments, and also within our student body, in terms of preparedness to use and to understand the digital environment in which they function. Strategic investment by the library and by the university to "level the playing field" in technology access and expertise can help improve the readiness of our learners to effectively use digital methodologies. The DSC is well positioned to play a critical supporting role for training, development, and experiential learning. It will also create opportunities for supporting new areas of research and training in interdisciplinary spaces, such as data curation, preservation, exploration and visualization, which touch computing science, information studies, law, and other disciplines. The development of postdoctoral fellowships to conduct research in these areas are but one of the many examples that I am looking forward to.

I offer my strong support for the DSC proposal. I look forward to the creation of this centre and the significant impact that it will have for students and researchers at the University of Alberta.

Best regards,

Eleni Stroulia

Professor, Computing Science

Project Director, Integrated Strategic Data Systems, Faculty of Science



School of Library & Information Studies

3-18 Rutherford South Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J4 Canada Tel: 780 492-3932 Fax: 780 492-2430 toni.samek@ualberta.ca

Kathleen De Long
Interim Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian
University of Alberta

29 April 2018

Dear Kathleen,

Please accept this letter as a statement of strong support for the Digital Scholarship Centre. I am confident the Centre is imagined in service of the public good and that the University has the capacity to be successful in realizing its important aims. Collaboration and digital fluency are conditional to impactful scholarly communication and knowledge mobilization. This Centre is designed to foster digital fluency as an open task for the whole community, one that transcends boundaries. The design to operate on a shared governance model drawing on expertise, consultation and community building and pioneering models for intercultural stewardship of knowledge bodes extremely well for a most exciting opportunity for the University of Alberta. The Centre would maximize sustainable use of diverse resources in efficient and innovative ways with clear and tangible benefits for the long term.

Please know the School of Library and Information Studies is committed to supporting the Centre and its aims. Indeed, the Centre is right in line with our purpose. SLIS a thriving academic home to intellectually curious people pursuing graduate education and careers in the global information professions. Our well-regarded alumni hold diverse titles in contemporary society, such as Open Data Coordinator, Information Management and Records Analyst, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Community Services Librarian, Law Librarian, Digital Services Librarian, Information Literacy Librarian, Access and Privacy Advisor, Senior Advisor for Research and Analytics and Document Control Administrator. The School works to continuously earn recognition as: an effective and important player in library and information studies (LIS) research and scholarship, a stimulating model for educational advancement, and an intercultural hub for professional cooperation with a vibrant LIS community. The Centre would greatly benefit our public directly. A 2017 Association for Information Science & Technology paper (https://irenelopatovska.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/asist17-corecurriculumrequirements-poster-final.pdf) on a job ads analysis evidences "a strong desire from employers for applicants with strong collaborative skills and digital fluency." These skills are exactly what the Centre will promote. We endorse that critical endeavor!

Antonia Smele

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Toni Samek Professor and Chair April 30, 2018

Kathleen De Long
Interim Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian

Dear Kathleen De Long,

We are the collective presidents of the Digital Scholars UA (DSUA) and the Humanities Computing Students Association (HCSA), and we represent our respective student groups as we write to express our enthusiastic support for the Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC). As graduate students at the University of Alberta, we are excited at the prospect of the DSC and believe it will positively impact the education process at the university.

The DSUA is an interdisciplinary graduate student group that strives to create opportunities for students to learn about digital tools and techniques, and foster collaboration across disciplines. The HCSA represents Humanities Computing students, who are engaged in a wide range of digital scholarship activities and would benefit greatly from access to the DSC's resources, physical space, and capacity as a center for digital scholarship on campus. As student groups, the DSC will offer us opportunities to:

- Promote events
- · Offer workshops
- · Showcase digital scholarship and projects
- · Participate in computational training
- · Access computing tools and resources
- · Engage with students and scholars from across many disciplines

Since the planning stages of the DSC, the DSUA has been involved in development consultations that sought to gather feedback from student stakeholders. The planning committee regularly asked for our input and considered our needs when developing the space, which highlights the high regard for student involvement in the DSC.

We believe the DSC would be an ideal venue for our students to meet and host events. Both groups run popular student conferences, including the DSUA's On the Benefits of Failure and the HCSA's HuCon, that would benefit from access to a well-equipped venue. The HCSA and DSUA often partner to host events and workshops together, and the DSC would be an ideal hub to link students from across campus to share their enthusiasm for digital initiatives. Using the DSC as our home base will make it easier to reach out and collaborate with other student groups. It will also provide further legitimacy to our groups.

As graduate students, we hope the DSC can provide resources and assistance with our digital research and projects. In particular, the DSC will offer us unique resources to explore and develop research, such as high performance computing stations to crunch big data, meeting space for project teams, and the tools, resources, and training to visualize research data. Support and expertise from librarians and tech experts will also provide valuable guidance. Lastly, the DSC will facilitate combining traditional scholarship with digital approaches, as well as offer students practical experience with tools and technology not available elsewhere.

We are proud to represent student support for the DSC, and believe that it will benefit our colleagues, as well as the entire university community.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Grant

Kattern Draw

Co-President, Digital Scholars UA

Laura Gerlitz

Co-President, Digital Scholars UA

K_____ &__ Kenzie Gordon

President, Humanities Computing Student Association



April 30, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to express support on behalf of Internet Archive for the formal establishment of a Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) for the University of Alberta.

Internet Archive and Internet Archive Canada have had rewarding relationships with University of Alberta and many other Canadian Universities from coast to coast, since 2004. Together, we have brought more than 560,000 books and micro-reproductions into the digital public domain and archived millions of web pages in collaboration with Canadian institutions, university librarians and academics. There is untold value in these collections for research and learning. Digital scholarship, and a focus on the enhancement of digitally-based resources in a DSC will not only support access and tools for researchers, but will enhance learning for all Canadians and users around the world.

University of Alberta has been one of our biggest champions and strongest university partners in Canada. Internet Archive is committed to maintaining and growing this long term relationship and supporting the Digital Scholarship Centre in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Brewster Kahle Digital Librarian Internet Archive





Dear President Turpin,

Thank you for your invitation to join in the institutional strategic planning process. This letter is from an interdisciplinary group of digital researchers and support staff broadly representative of digital activities on campus. The letter addresses three key focus areas raised in your consultation call: facilitating cross-disciplinary initiatives, experiential learning and teaching excellence, and defining standards of excellence. In this era of Big Data, there is an ever-increasing need and demand for research into all facets of "the digital." The University of Alberta (UAlberta) is already an internationally recognized major player in this sector. But we can and must do more.

UAlberta has a mandate to be a world-class leader in Digital Humanities/Social Sciences (DHSS) (p.27, U Alberta Strategic Research Plan). Research into "the digital" encompasses issues in the analysis and preservation/digitization of text, images and data, digital production, dissemination and visualization of information, digital teaching and learning and digital culture (see Appendix A). UAlberta has established a broad base of researchers, infrastructure and specialized facilities in this sector. In the last five years, over 40 digital projects at UAlberta have generated approximately \$4 million dollars in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and over \$2 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). 92 humanities and social science researchers on campus have self-identified as digital researchers (see Appendix B). Increasing demand for research into all aspects of "the digital" is reflected in SSHRC's Future Challenge areas: New Ways of Learning in Higher Education and Leveraging Emerging Technologies for the Benefit of Canadians and in the CFI's commitment to fund excellence in the areas of Humanities and Social Science.

Through departmental, faculty and central administration contributions, UAlberta has invested in the development of excellence and leadership in these fields. UAlberta advanced \$790,000 to support infrastructure for four successful CFI projects: Orlando Project, Text Analysis Portal for Research-1 (TAPOR), Alberta Land Settlement Infrastructure Project (ALSIP), and Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory (CWRC). In addition UAlberta provided infrastructural support for many of the SSHRC projects mentioned above including one in the Research Development Initiative programme; a second in the SSHRC Presidential Initiative, Knowledge Synthesis Grants in the Digital Economy competition; and a third in the Digging into Data programme, an internationally collaborative competition to promote innovative humanities and social science research using large-scale data analysis. Moreover both the Digital Learning Oversight Committee (DLOC) and the Provost's Digital Learning Committee (PDLC) were established to disburse funds for MOOC development and blended delivery development across our campus.

UAlberta has strategically recruited five junior DHSS researchers within the Faculty of Arts as well as three senior faculty members: Geoffrey Rockwell; Peter Baskerville, a Research Chair jointly in Humanities Computing and the Department of History and Classics; and Susan Brown, a cross-appointment with University of Guelph. The university also established Canada's first interdisciplinary humanities computing M.A. program, and a Ph.D. is under development. Infrastructure investment has underpinned the Arts Resource Centre, and the Visualization and Information Technologies Laboratory for the Arts and Digital Humanities Research Studio labs. The School of Business has created a committee to focus efforts on digital teaching and learning, including thinking about new teaching strategies, new technologies, new space and changes in School of Business programs. The committee is led by Terry Anderson, who recently retired from Athabasca University, and includes Christina Mashruwala, Michelle Inness, Yu

Ma and Gary Smith. Additionally, UAlberta has secured John Simpson, Digital Humanities Specialist for Compute Canada.

Within the Faculty of Education, MEd and PhD degrees are offered in the specialization of Educational Technology and the faculty is implementing a Digital Learning Certificate for Alberta's K-12 teachers. The faculty and students within these graduate programs have been part of collaborative research with Computing Science, Engineering and the Health Sciences at UAlberta as the integration and evaluation of technology in postsecondary teaching is critical in all faculties on our campus (e.g., MOOCs (Drs. Lia Daniels and Cathy Adams), Blended learning (ten faculty members), learning management systems and innovative, emerging technologies for teaching such as virtual environments and augmented reality). To support research in digital teaching and learning, the faculty invested heavily in three significant areas: the Research Innovation Space in Education (RISE) along with \$75,000 equipment funding from the University; the Technology in Education: Support and Solutions unit, providing support for research and teaching activities; and the Learning Assessment Centre, a large-scale computer-based test generation and exam delivery facility (Dr. Mark Gierl, CRC). The Department of Educational Psychology, developed The Technology and Learning Sciences lab (Drs. Patricia Boechler and Mike Carbonaro), a collective of students and faculty engaged in educational technology research. The University has invested in two exceptional junior hires in this field. In the School of Library and Information Studies, all of the faculty members conduct research into various aspects of the digital.

UAlberta Libraries (UAL) offers a best-in-class digital repository, with significant investment in the digitization of research and historical materials (texts, photos, newspapers, maps, and much more). UAL is a national leader in providing digital scholarship support. Areas of strength and expertise include: digitization, research data management, digital preservation, GIS/spatial data, digital repository services, web archiving, digital publishing, metadata, digital project planning, and more. Research partnerships include agreements with Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory (CWRC), Editing Modernism in Canada (EMiC), Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI), the Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) and many others. UAL is actively working with the Internet Archive, HathiTrust, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, Public Knowledge Project (PKP), Canadian Polar Data Network (founding member), Research Data Canada and Portage (Compute Canada/Canarie/CARL joint initiatives) and many other project and service partners. UAL provides valuable infrastructure and services through its Digital Initiatives unit, which consists of a mix of expert personnel from a variety of backgrounds. As a team they advance the development of new digital library, scholarship and archiving services and support mechanisms. These services ensure long-term access to and preservation of numerous project outputs and their data. For example, UAlberta is the long-term custodian for data and research outputs originating from both CCRI and the Alberta Land Settlement Infrastructure Project (ALSIP). The Libraries have also committed to serving as the preservation archive for the CFI funded Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory.

In sum, 20 years of infrastructure and research excellence investment has established UAlberta as a nationally and internationally competitive institution that leads in DHSS, with real collaboration across the information sciences, social sciences and humanities. The projects and research groups described above represent a robust but diffuse collective that needs further commitment to expand its national and international profile of excellence. To this end we invite you to discuss with us ways in which we can unify the diversity of digital strength that is currently part of the University of Alberta so that it can continue to be a world leader in digital teaching and research initiatives.

As initial considerations for such a discussion we suggest:

- Strategically plan for the development of excellence in digital teaching and research that can be shared across the campus, across disciplines, departments, and faculties.
- Support the collection and storage of data relevant to ongoing research and teaching while additionally providing a means for researchers to archive completed work.
- Invest in the ongoing development of digital learning and the research required to guarantee that they are both effective and cost efficient.
- Ensure that the university has the resources and training that students and staff need to achieve national and international excellence.
- Partner with other institutions of higher learning and extra-institutional bodies like Compute Canada,
 CANARIE, CHCI and WUN so that development of digital initiatives maximally benefits all stakeholders.
- Take a leading role in the development of a national strategy on digital research infrastructure.
- Establish a central hub for the synergistic management of digital scholarship initiatives at UAlberta.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Baskerville, Chair Modern Western Canadian History

Patricia Boechler, Associate Dean (Research) - Education

Adam Dombovari, Program Coordinator - Kule Institute for Advanced Study

Maureen Engel, Director - Canadian Institute for Research Computing in Arts (CIRCA)

Geoff Harder, Associate University Librarian - Information Resources and Digital Initiatives

Michael O'Driscoll, Associate Dean, Research - Faculty of Arts

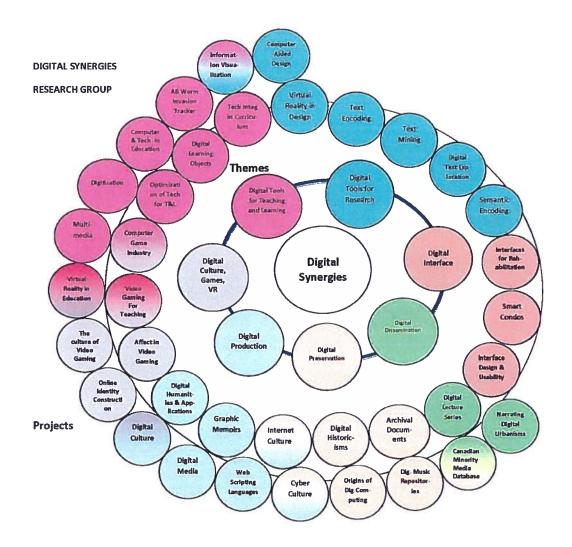
Geoffrey Rockwell, Professor of Philosophy and Humanities Computing

Oliver Rossier, Senior Officer - Arts Collaboration Enterprise

John Simpson, Digital Humanities Specialist - Compute Canada

Heather Zwicker, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Appendix A: Digital Research Areas in the Humanities and Social Sciences



Appendix B: Self-Identifying Digital Humanities and Social Science Researchers

Researcher Name	Department
Adams, Catherine	Secondary Education
Adria, Marco	Communications Technologies
Arazy, Ofer	Management Info Systems
Archer, Walter	Communications Technologies
Argo, Jennifer	Marketing
Arlene Oak	Human Ecology
Arppe, Antti	Linguistics
Barker, Thomas	Communication and Technology
Baron, Jaimie	English & Film Studies
Baskerville, Peter	History & Classics Humanities Computing
Beal, Deryk	Com Sci & Disorders
Binkley, Peter	Digital Initiatives Technology
Boechler, Patricia	Educational Psychology
Branch, Jennifer	Elementary Education
Bremault-Phillips, Suzette	Occupational Therapy
Brown, Cary	Occupational Therapy
Brown, Susan	English & Film Studies
Buck, George	Educational Psychology
Campbell, Katy	Communication and Technology
Campbell, Melanie	Com Sci & Disorders
Carbonaro, Michael	Educational Psychology
Cleary, Stuart	Com Sci & Disorders
Cobb, Russell	Mod Lang & Cult.Studies
Coleman, Beau	Drama
Cummine, Jacqueline	Com Sci & Disorders
Derdall, Michelle	Occupational Therapy
Devereux, Cecily	English and Film Studies

Dunn, William	Secondary Education
Engel, Maureen	English & Film Studies Humanities Computing
Ewanyshyn, Peggy Sue	Digitization - Libraries
Feisst, Debbie	Digitization - Libraries
Frank Tough	Native Studies
Frishkopf, Michael	Music
Gajewski, Cezary	Art & Design
Gierl, Mark	Educational Psychology
Gouglas, Sean	History & Classics Humanities Computing
Gow, Gordon	Communications Technologies
Gustafson, Brenda	Elementary Education
Harder, Geoff	AUL Digital Initiatives - Libraries
Haykowsky, Mark	Physical Therapy
Hayward, Denyse	Educational Psychology
Humphrey, Chuck	Research Data Management
Kawchuk, Gregory	Physical Therapy
Kelly, Gary	English & Film Studies
Kim, Esther	Com Sci & Disorders
Laforest, Daniel	Mod Lang & Cult.Studies
Laliberte, Larry	Geospatial Data/ Historical GIS
Langevin, Marilyn	Com Sci & Disorders
Lederer, Robert	Art & Design
Leung, Ada	Occupational Therapy
Liu, Lili	Occupational Therapy
Loveless, Natalie	Art & Design
Mackey, Margaret	School of Library and Information Studies
Magill-Evans, Joyce	Occupational Therapy
McNally, Michael	School of Library and Information Studies
Messinger, Paul	Marketing

Misiaszek, John	Occupational Therapy
Montgomery, Amanda	Elementary Education
Moore, Sarah	Marketing
Mounsef, Donia	Drama Faculte St. Jean
Nocente, Norma	Secondary Education
Oliphant, Tami	School of Library and Information Studies
O'Driscoll, Michael	English & Film Studies
Pegg, Jerine	Elementary Education
Pei, Jacqueline	Educational Psychology
Pente, Patti	Elementary Education
Pracejus, John	Marketing
Qasim, Umar	Digital Preservation Libraries
Quamen, Harvey	English & Film Studies Humanities Computing
Rak, Julie	English & Film Studies
Rao, Sathya	Mod Lang & Cult.Studies
Rathi, Dinesh	School of Library and Information Studies
Rieger, Jana	Com Sci & Disorders
Rockwell, Geoffrey	Philosophy Humanities Computing
Rowe, Aidan	Art & Design
Sadler Takach	Art & Design
Samek, Toni	School of Library and Information Studies
Shi, Weiwei	Digital Initiatives Technology
Shiri, Ali	School of Library and Information Studies
Smallwood, Scott	Music
Smith-Prei, Carrie	Mod Lang & Cult.Studies
Stuhlmann, Andreas	Mod Lang & Cult.Studies
Supernant, Kisha	Anthropology
Tucker, Benjamin	Linguistics
Vanderjagt, Leah	Digital Repositories Libraries

Varnhagen, Stanley	Learning Solutions Unit Extension
Volden, Joanne	Com Sci & Disorders
Wallin, Jason	Secondary Education
Woodhouse, Linda	Physical Therapy
Yang, Jaynie	Physical Therapy
Zhang, Ming	Com Sci & Disorders
Zhao, Dangzhi	School of Library and Information Studies
Zwicker, Heather	English & Film Studies