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Brock's New Digital Scholarship Lab: Partnering and Collaborating for Success

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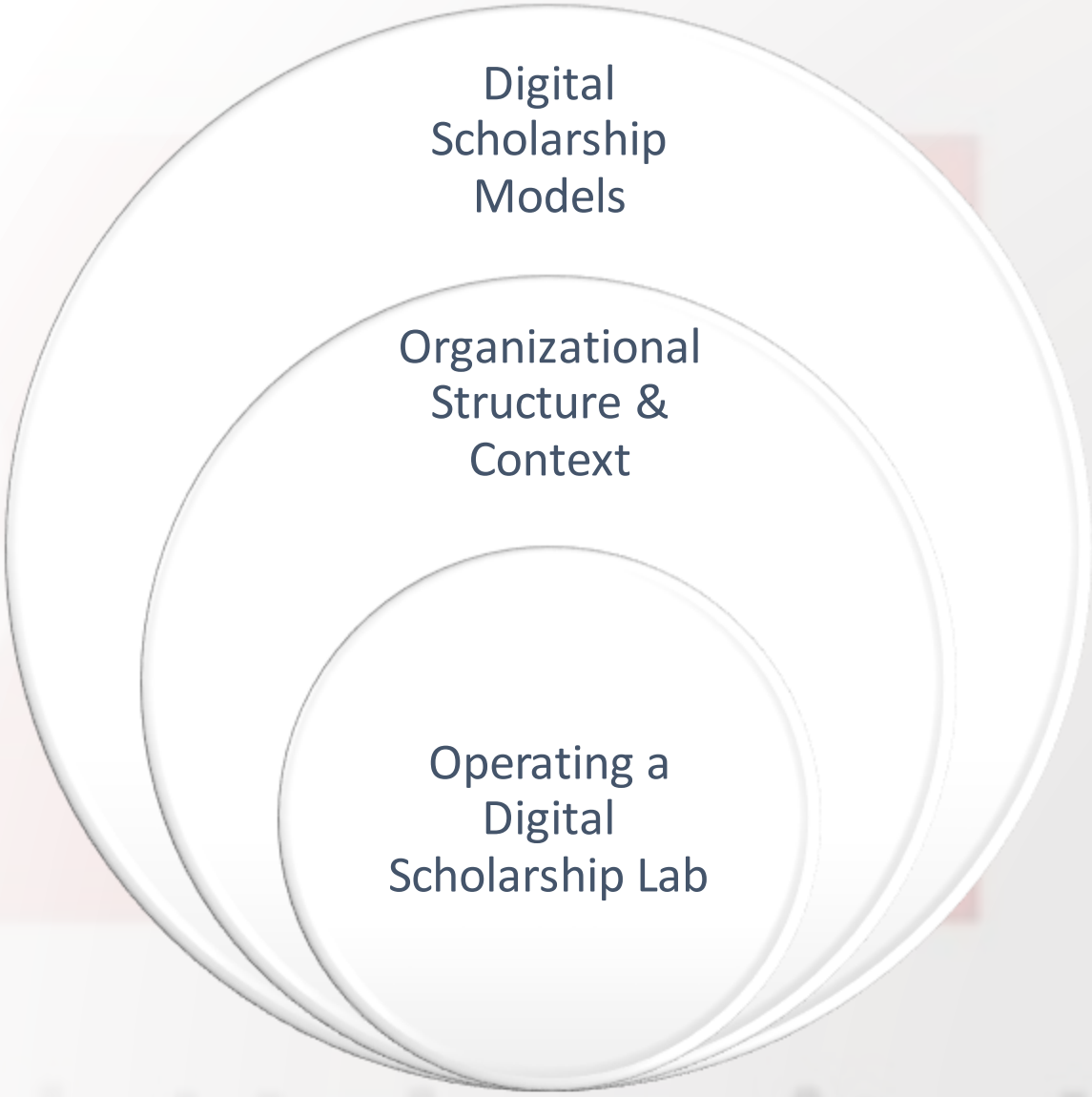
February 1, 2019

Presentation Overview



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One attempt at defining digital scholarship…

"Digital Scholarship is a mode of work that is at its core collaborative, typically project-based, prone toward openness, dependent on technological infrastructure, and predisposed towards new or emerging research methods."

Moritz, C. et al. (2017) De-centering and recentering digital scholarship: a manifesto. *Journal of New Librarianship,* 2(2).

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But what's a digital scholarship lab/centre?

"Imagine an ideal environment at Brock that will support your research in a digital context (eg. using digital resources, tools, methods). What would this environment or facility be like? What would be happening there? What could you do there? What would draw you to come there?"

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tutorials
programming
working
availability
dissemination
printers
hardware
specific
physical
opportunity
scholarship
server
project
clients
diagrams
analysis
prototyping
archiving
modelling
services
sites
student
web
making
equipment
database
knowledge
discussion
resources
area
building
community
courses
mentoring
person
sharing
help
training
place
annual
open
mapping
workshop
space
code
workshops
music
technology
tools
need
maps
monitors
opportunities
short
design
hosting
objects
tech
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accessible
expertise
support
use
one
sessions
draw
people
lab
internship
remote
etc
digital
technical
interdisciplinary
media
interface
team
model
environment
faculty
access
students
private
new
build
full
coffee
projection
allowed
production
data
video
expert
collaboration
library
online
teaching
software
staff
experts
projects
storage
content
creating
assistance
friendly
drop-in
consulting
research
computers
visualization
spaces
researchers
graduate
learning
like
format

Synthesis of focus group results

Tech infrastructure

- "Bedrock", "The Right Stuff"
- Computing, HPC, platforms, digital making

Expertise

- "Mike Holmes attitude"
- Consulting, partnering, connecting

Space

- "The Farm", "Kitchen Table", "Beehive"
- Modular, clusters, flexible, structured, collaborative

Programming

- "En-lightening"
- Sharing opportunities, workshops, conferences, demos, courses

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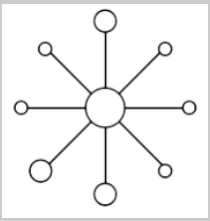
Competing Paradigms

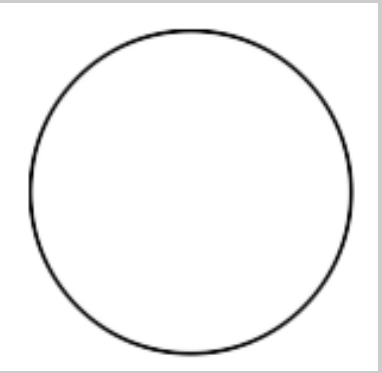
1. As Research Institute
   - Center for Digital Humanities (Brock)
2. As Centre
   - Center for Digital Scholarship (Brown)
3. As Distributed Practice
   - Hunt Library (NCSU)
4. As Collaboration
   - Sherman Centre (McMaster)



Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship

Brock University
Faculty of Humanities
Centre for Digital Humanities

NCSU LIBRARIES



Images from: Anne, Kirk M., et al. Building Capacity for Digital Humanities ECAR, 2017.

The Timeline

- Digital Scholarship Lab Proposal – Jan. 2015
- Development of Brock LINC Proposal - 2015/16
- Awarded SIF funding for Brock LINC – Nov. 2016
- Establishment of DSL Advisory Group – Fall 2016
- Brock LINC construction begins – April 2017
- Anticipated opening – March/April 2019

Organizational Structure & Context

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DSL Branding

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Archives & Special Collections

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Brock University Library
Makerspace

Brock University

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Digital Scholarship Lab

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Map, Data & GIS Library

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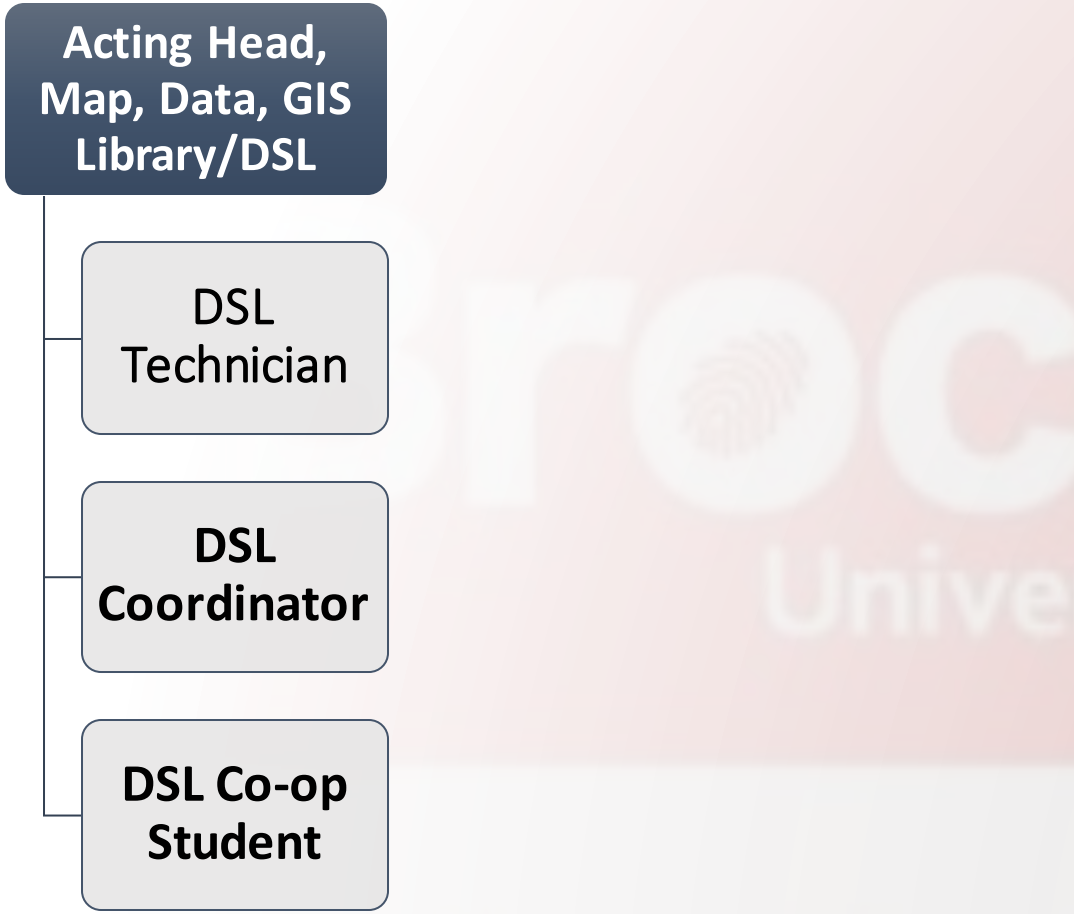
Brock University Library
James A. Gibson Library

Brock University Library Departments

1. Collections
2. Archives and Special Collections
3. Library Systems
4. Liaison
5. Access Services
6. Map, Data, GIS Library

Digital Scholarship Lab

Who Reports to Who



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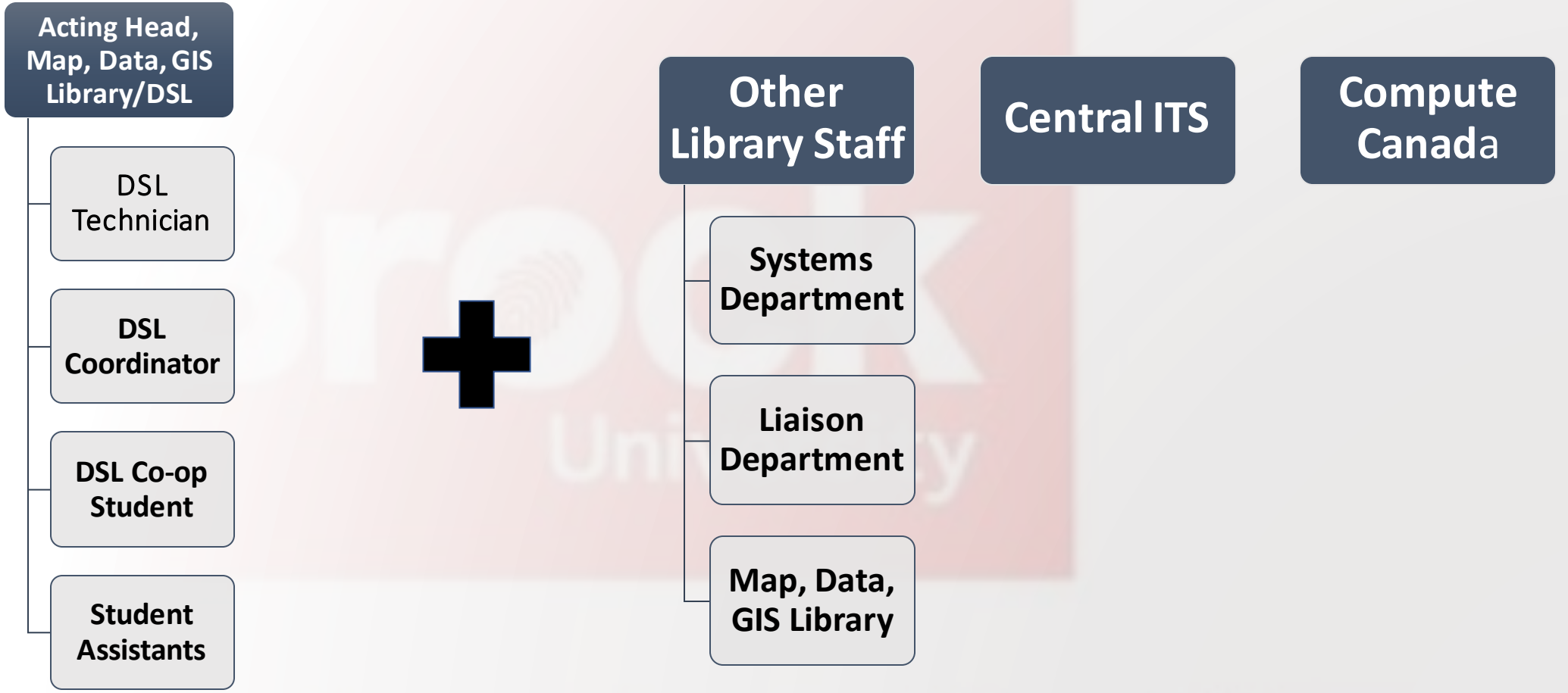
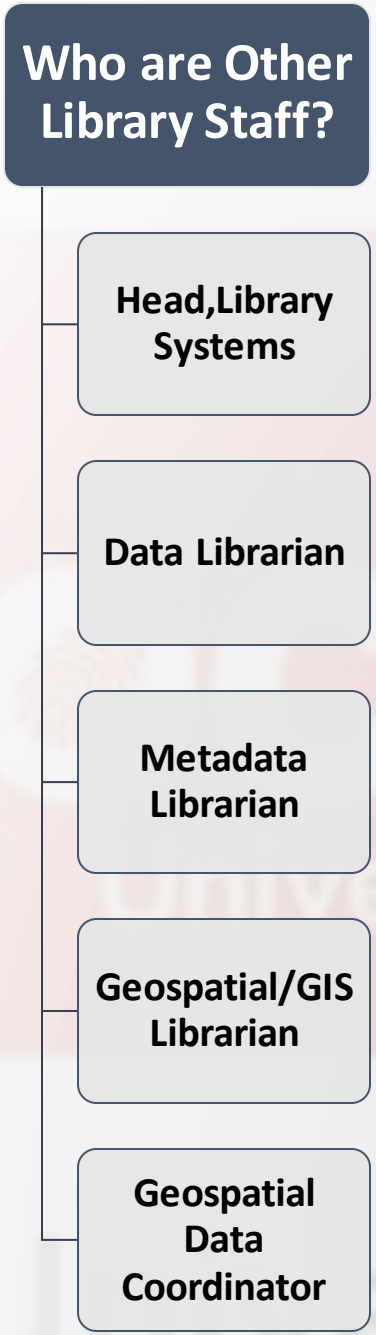
Service Point Staffing





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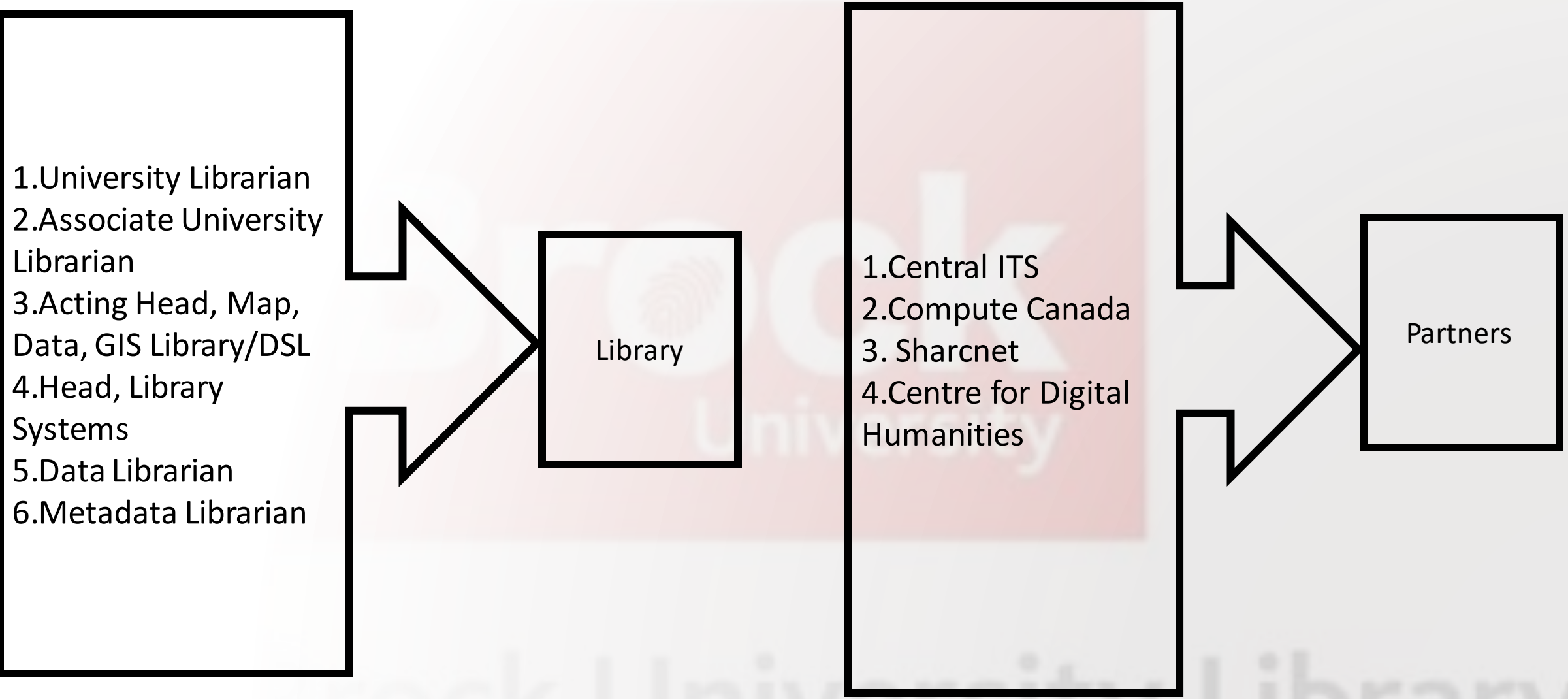
DSL Advisory Committee:



Summary: Organizational Structure Collaboration!

1. Acting Head Map, Data, GIS Library/DSL
2. DSL staff report through Acting Head
3. Staffing of the DSL space by:
    1. DSL Staff
    2. Library Staff
    3. Student Assistants
    4. Partners (Central ITS, Compute Canada)
4. Advisory Committee also has individuals from:
    1. Centre for Digital Humanities
    2. Sharcnet

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Why so much Partnering & Collaboration?

1. Programming requires diverse expertise
2. Skills lie in many people on campus, both in and out of the library
3. To be a part of the overall Digital Scholarship conversation across campus
4. Programming:
    1. Data Use & Reuse
    2. Research Data Management
    3. Data Visualization
    4. GIS & Mapping
    5. High Performance Computing

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More Collaboration: the Space

- The DSL is:
  - Physically going into the Rankin Family Pavilion
  - A part of the LINC Programming that will be housed in the Rankin Family Pavilion

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Rendering: Aerial View

Rendering: Front View

Rankin Family Building at Brock

1. LINC Programming:
    1. Learning
    2. Innovation
    3. Networking
    4. Collaboration
2. Multiple Brock Services points within this space – together make LINC Programming

LINC Programming within the Rankin Family Building

1. Digital Scholarship Lab (Library)
2. Makerspace (Library)
3. Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Sensory Reality Consumer Laboratory, known as R3CL
4. Career Zone
5. Venture Development (Incubator)
6. Goodman MBA Consulting
7. CIMEE - Centre for Innovation, Management and Enterprise Education (Goodman)

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Collaborating on LINC Programming

1. LINC OG (LINC Operations Group) - reporting to the Vice-President, Research
2. Building a LINC Operational Plan
3. Considerations: LINC-related Certifications & Experiences
4. Discussions on: hours, room bookings, security, student experience, tracking, assessment

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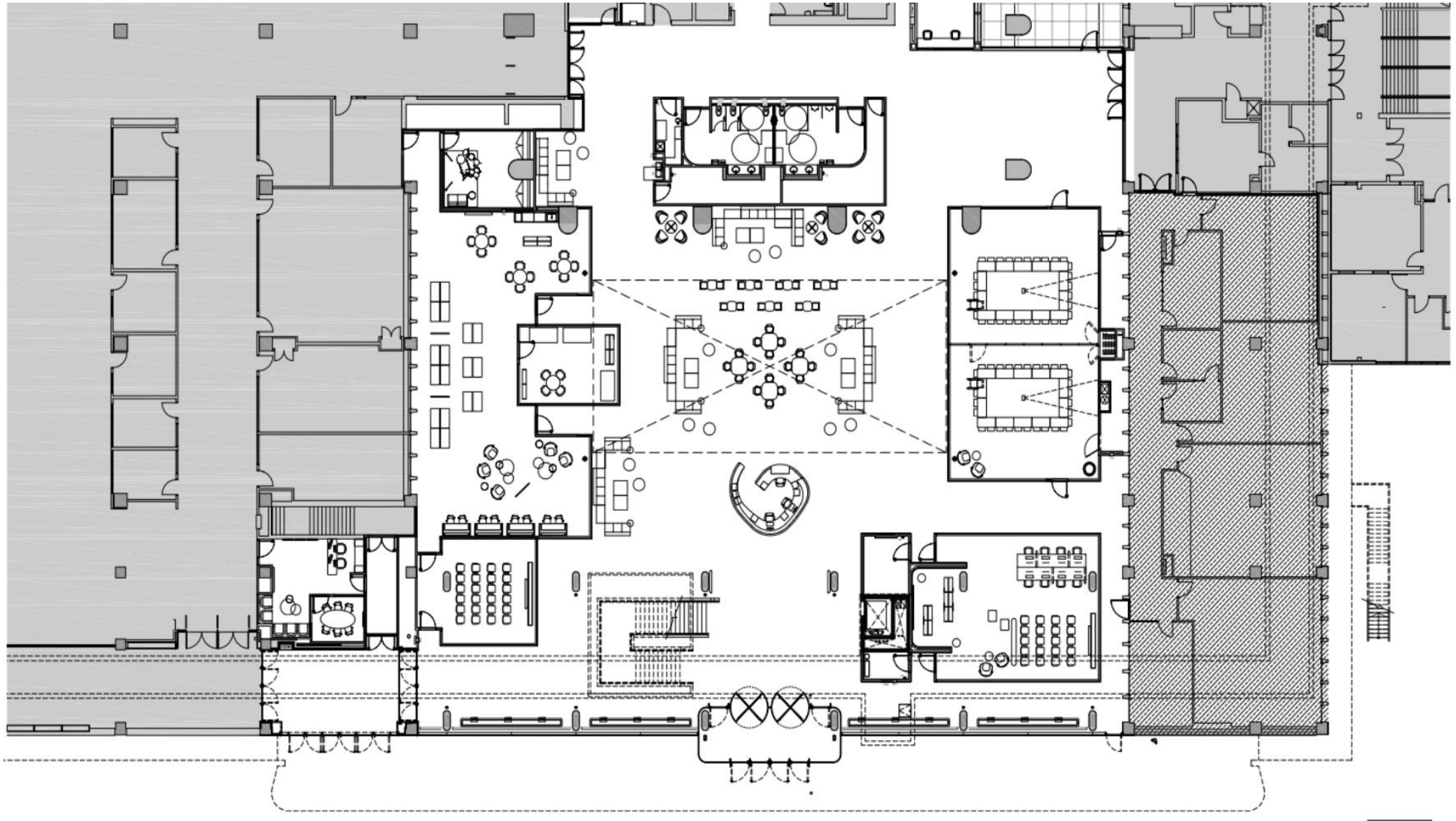
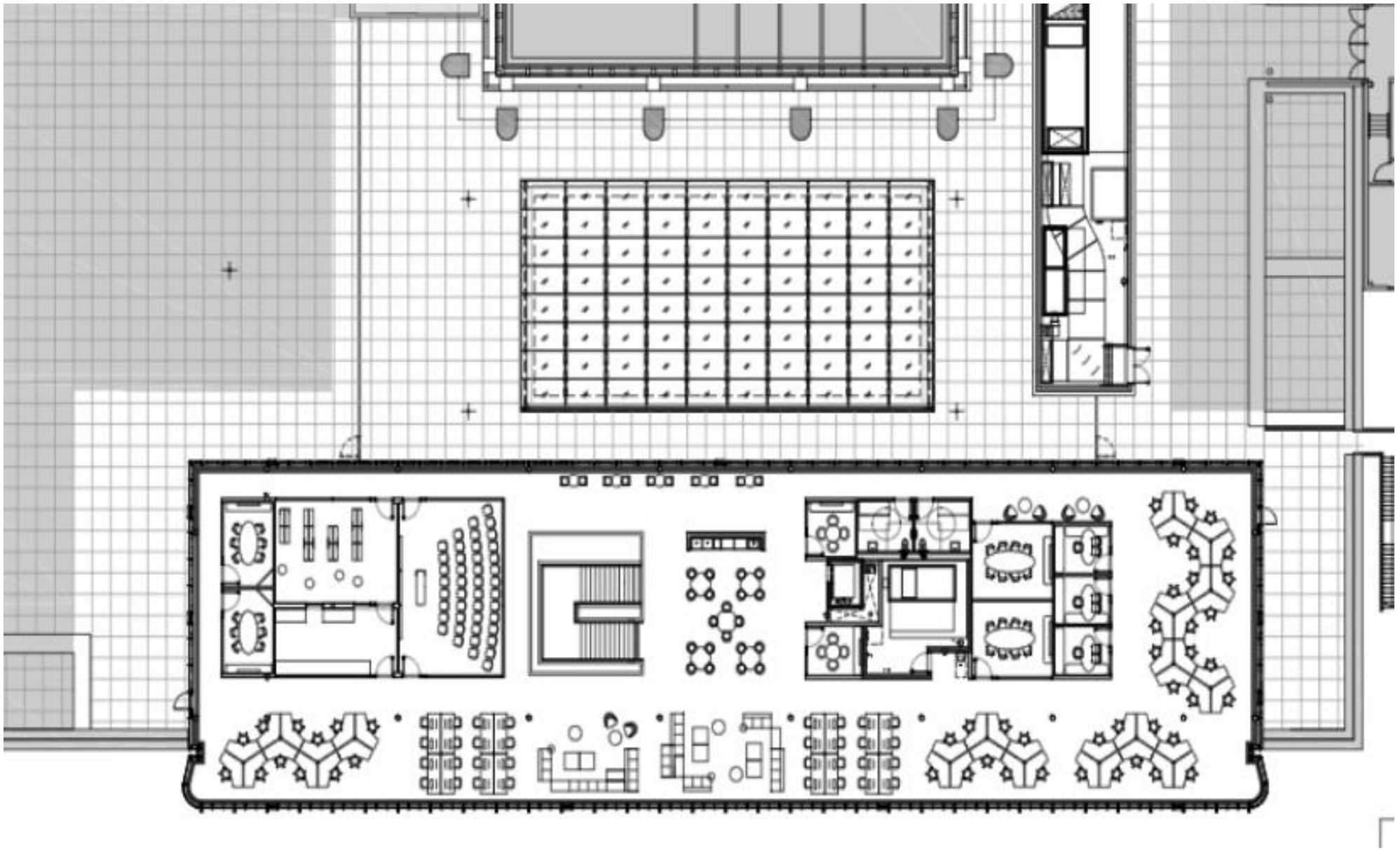
Rankin Family Pavilion Main Level



Rankin Family
Pavilion
Upper Level



Organizational Structure and Context: All about Collaborations and Partnering

1. DSL within the LINC on campus
2. Staffing the DSL
3. Supporting the DSL (Advisory Committee)
4. With the intention to be the campus hub for digital scholarship and research collaborations

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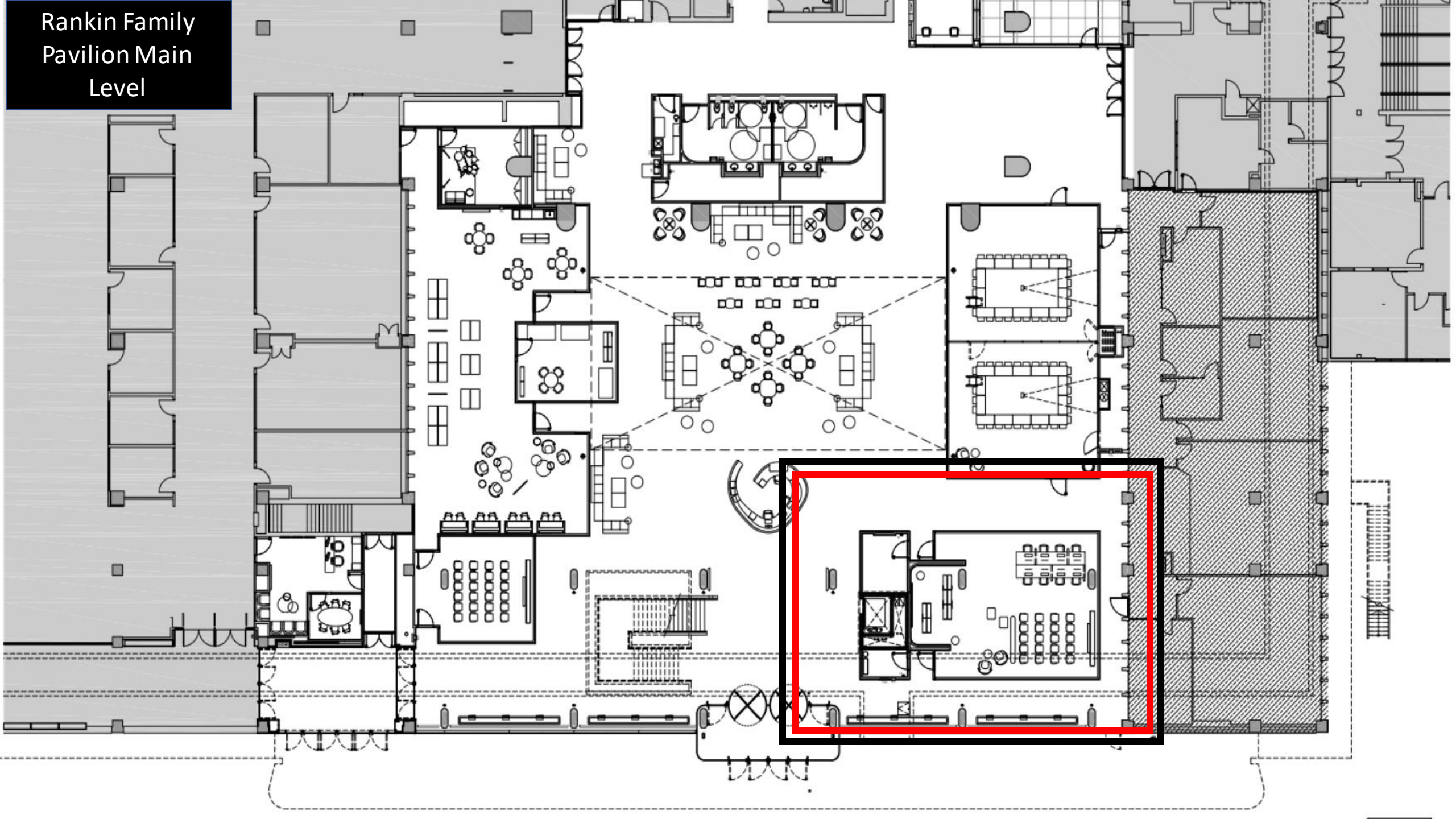
Rankin Family Pavilion Main Level

Operating a Digital Scholarship Lab

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How we do things

Tech infrastructure

- Jupyter
- Omeka
- GitHub

Expertise

- Drop in with local experts
- Consultations

Space

- 1100 SQ FT
- 8 Terminals
- Visualization wall

Programming

- Workshops
- Symposia
- Guest Speakers

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What does this mean in the day to day?

- We are in the business of cultivating ideas
- We can do interesting things in interesting ways
- Collaborations

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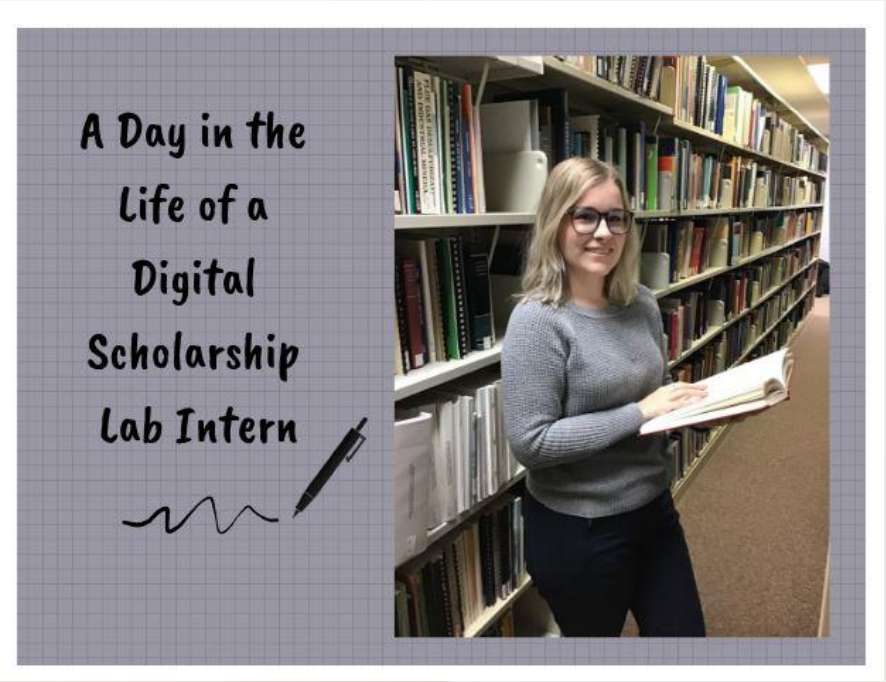
Cultivating Ideas

- Workshops, workshops, workshops
- Use social media *a lot*



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Interesting Things in Interesting Ways

- We are chronicling the opening of the space via a Podcast
- We are building large portions of our offerings with GitHub
- Flexibility of having everything as a Pilot project

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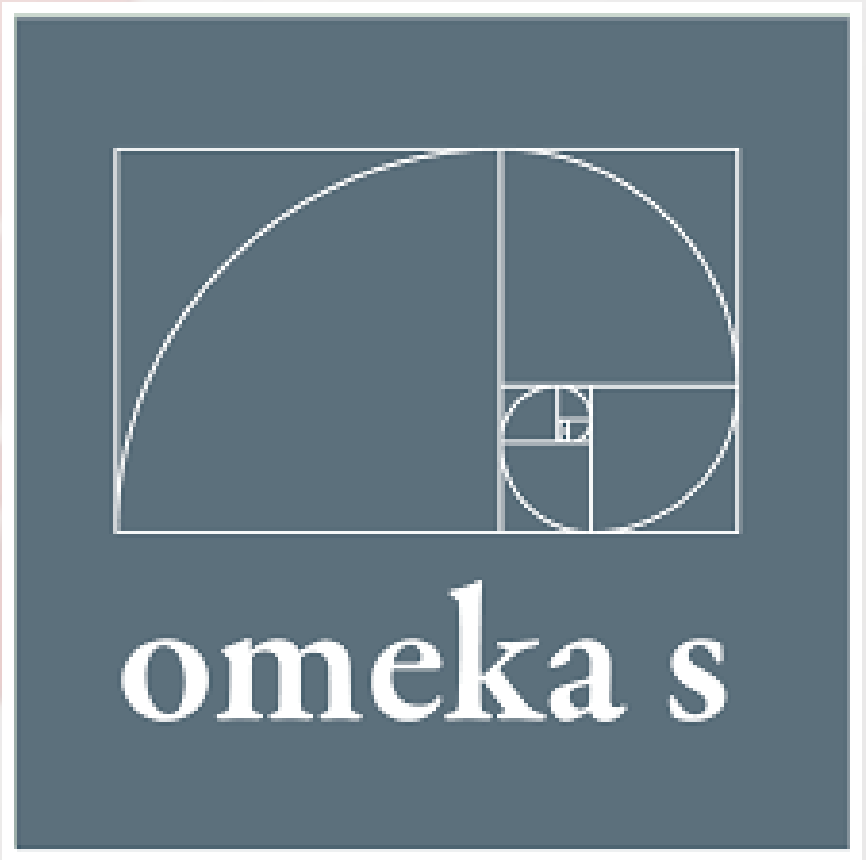
Collaborations

- Door aren't even open yet...
- Reputation precedes us, projects have begun in earnest
- We treat it like improv: **Yes and** v. **No Thanks**



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What's still to come

- Docker
  - Virtualized services specific to project work
  - On demand project support

- Jupyter
  - Computational Notebooks to teach everything under the sun
  - The vehicle of reproducible science

- Mini Cluster
  - Via Microsoft's HPC-Pack
  - Batch processing or true parallel computing

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Thank you! Questions?

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