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Documenting and Evaluating the DH Project

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Documenting and Evaluating the DH Project

How will you document?

- Analyze your contribution in each category by % or hours
 - Time spent on each aspect of the project
 - Have a physical paper format of your project (needed for long-term preservation)
 - Describe (in detail) the process of creation
 - Assess and describe the impact of your project to your discipline
- Research
 - Writing contribution
 - Time and effort spent in peer to peer review & editing
 - Design contribution (dynamic sites, exhibits, images)
 - Programming
 - Specialized content (timelines, charts, etc.)
 - Actual collaboration (planning, collaborative work time)
 - Logistics (equipment, interns, partners)
 - Document the publishing, archiving, preservation, and data storage processes
 - Achievements (funding, usage – users and adopters, acknowledgments)

Documenting and Evaluating the DH Project

Keep in mind that the development of web sites, the use of digital tools, software, equipment, and the creation of design elements are extremely labor-intensive and employ a diverse set of skills not found in the traditional research paper or journal article.

- ALWAYS evaluate a project in its native format!
- What is the scholarly question or argument and how well is it addressed?
- Originality: what gap in knowledge, visualization, research, does the project fill?
- Assess the impact of the project to the field.
- Give weight to the diverse skills and knowledge used to create the project.

- Read the MLA Guidelines for evaluating DH projects
- Review Emory College's Appendix D for evaluating DH projects
- Engage scholars knowledgeable in DH
- Develop a section that specifically addresses DH in tenure/promotion materials
- Provide education on DH research to all those who will be evaluators within an institution

- Delineate and communicate responsibilities

- Engage qualified reviewers

- Review work in the medium in which it was produced

- Seek interdisciplinary advice

- Stay informed about accessibility issues

Documenting and Evaluating the DH Project

Must-Reads!

- Novwiskie, Bethany. (2011) Where Credit is Due: Preconditions for the Evaluation of Collaborative Digital Scholarship. *The Modern Language Association of America*. <https://www.mlajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1632/prof.2011.2011.1.169>
- Fitzpatrick, Kathleen. (2011) Peer Review, Judgment, and Reading. *The Modern Language Association of America*. <https://www.mlajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1632/prof.2011.2011.1.196>

Resources:

- MLA Guidelines: <https://bit.ly/2RgsmXI>
- Emory College: <https://bit.ly/386VdUO>
- American Historical Association. Guidelines for the Professional Evaluation of Digital Scholarship by Historians. <https://bit.ly/2NonZso>
- Presentation: Byerly, Alison. (2012) Evaluating Digital Scholarship. Slideshare. <https://bit.ly/2FRqjUA>

Collaborators' Bill of Rights

<http://mcpres.media-commons.org/offthetracks/part-one-models-for-collaboration-career-paths-acquiring-institutional-support-and-transformation-in-the-field/a-collaboration/collaborators%E2%80%99bill-of-rights/>

1 All kinds of work on a project are equally deserving of credit. And all collaborators should be empowered to take credit for their work.

2 Credit should take the form of a legible trail that articulates the nature, extent, and dates of the contribution.

3 Anyone who collaborated on the project should be listed as author in a fair ordering based on emerging community conventions.

4 On websites there should be a prominent "credits" link on the main page with PIs or project leads listed first.

5 Your CV is **YOUR** place for articulating your contribution to a collaboration. Express your contributions honestly and comprehensively.

6 Universities, museums, libraries, and archives are locations of creativity and innovation. Credit for collaborative work should be portable and legible. Collaborators should retain access to the work of the collaboration.