

Learning from the Experts On-Site: A Short Term Digital Humanities Study Abroad Framework

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Technology, Humanities, and the Arts

4 weeks in June (2 in London, 2 in Edinburgh)

6-9 students (maximum capacity: 12)

Open to students in any discipline at any point in university studies. Study focuses on intersection of the cultural and the digital by bringing students into the field to speak with experts who work at cultural institutions or in the creative arts. Students create digital projects during the program and follow up with at-home projects and journaling activities.

All students take the same 2 classes, which includes a General Education course. Both classes count toward the Digital Humanities Minor. The General Education course is an attraction for students to join the program and creates a productive mix of backgrounds and areas of study.

Meeting with Experts in 2022

London

- Wellcome Collection
- London Metropolitan Archives
- University of the Arts London, King's College London, & London School of Economics
- Jewish Museum
- Museum in a Box
- Placecloud

Scotland

- University of Glasgow + Hunterian Museum
- University of Edinburgh (Witches Project + Library)
- National Library of Scotland



Students exploring the Antonine Wall exhibit's use of augmented and virtual Reality at University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum.

Students providing user experience feedback to the *Charles Booth's London* Project team at London School of Economics



On-Site DH Projects

Tours of Clerkenwell Neighborhood

- Used Curatescape setup for Omeka
- Small group project (groups of 3)
- Create themed walking tours, highlighting digital collections and including some audio to craft a coherent story

Challenges: onboarding Omeka and getting students to properly discover and cite historical digital collections and materials.

Creativity Through Audio

- Used Museum in a Box
- Individual project
- Create curated collections of sound around a theme with text description and accompanying images

Challenges: getting students to think like an artist or curator; large amount of instructor labor required to pull it together as a digital project.

Journaling

- Used StoryMap JS
- Individual Project
- Chronicle experience of study abroad

Challenges: platform doesn't allow collaboration so helping students troubleshoot is difficult; encouraging students to observe and reflect on nuanced cultural differences.

Takeaways

Embrace imperfection → the projects are going to have challenges when it's all new and there's very limited time

Work with students to learn as a community → encourage students to help each other and value their expertise and your limits as an instructor

Collaborate with the people and institutions on-site to bring energy, expertise, and humanity to study of technology and culture → these human moments are what make the most impact on students