Digital Humanities Publication for a Community Lab

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Scholars' Lab
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I'll Cover

• Who we are
• How we document our work, particularly re: teaching
• How a recent migration from Wordpress to Jekyll interacts with that
About

Scholars' Lab is the UVA Library's community lab for the practice of experimental scholarship in all fields, informed by digital humanities, spatial technologies, and cultural heritage approaches.

What is the Scholars' Lab?
How can the Scholars' Lab fit into my work? What does the Scholars' Lab do?
Can you build me a thing?
Can we collaborate?
What academic fields do you support?
What opportunities are available for students?
How does the Lab fit into the UVA Library?
Who are the scholars in "Scholars' Lab"?
I’ve heard that “people over projects” is a Scholars’ Lab motto. What does that mean? Do you do projects?
Where are you?
How do I contact you?
How was this website made?

https://scholarslab.lib.virginia.edu/about
Charter

This is not a manifesto. It's a statement of our core and shared ethos in the Scholars' Lab. It represents what we attend to here, and how we currently see ourselves. Some points in this charter are aspirational and some are firmly in place as part of the SLab's culture, but all are things we strive to remain mindful of in our day-to-day practice.

# We welcome everyone.

- Diversity and inclusion are not achievements; they are active and continuous strivings. We are working on this.
- We strive to make our projects and spaces accessible, in all meanings of that word.
- We make space for the whole person. Here, you are more than your job, your field, your role. The Scholars' Lab is open to avocations and quirks, hobbies and passions. We aim to be family-friendly and humane.
- Tacit knowledge: it's a thing. We work to provide space, time, and guidance for acquiring understandings that come best from doing alongside thinking. But we also try to help people articulate and share their knowledge, and to bridge the communications gaps that are inherent in praxis-based fields.

# We build up people and practices more than products.

https://scholarslab.lib.virginia.edu/charter/
Blog

Our thoughts, from rough new ideas to polished arguments. Scholars' Lab team and collaborators write about their scholarship.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Announcing 2019-2020 Fellows!**

We are thrilled to announce the 2019-2020 Scholar's Lab fellows for the Praxis Program and the Graduate Fellowship in the Digital Humanities. We are welcoming...

*Brandon Walsh* | April 15, 2019

**DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

**3D Content for Virtual Reality**

Designing the best virtual reality (VR) experience requires having the best 3-dimensional (3D) content that is suitable for your VR experience. Not all 3D content..

*Abhishek Gupta* | April 14, 2019

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

**Illumination Through Light Emitting Objects**

Illumination Through Light Emitting Objects in Unity 3D This exercise will show how to make objects inside a room emit light and the basics.

[https://scholarslab.lib.virginia.edu/blog/](https://scholarslab.lib.virginia.edu/blog/)
1. Year of Blogging ideas
   2. General prompts
   3. Individual prompts
      a. Prompts for Brandon
      b. Prompts for Amanda
      c. Prompts for Shane
      d. Prompts for Drew
      e. Prompts for Amman

2019 Year of Blogging ideas
- Start January 2019: a year of blogging, once a month, just aim for 750 words
- Let others know they can take part; could consider journaling instead of blogging, if not comfortable with blogging yet?
- Could assign each other prompts, that we just want to hear the other person talk/think about
- Could be mixture of "this is how we get stuff done" and "this is how to get stuff done while trying to help people and make a difference"
- Eventually like 20-25 blog posts, pretending to be a book
- Once we launch the new website, we could use the #lab-org channel to discuss prompts and encourage others to blog on things by letting them know what we want to know more about what they do

General prompts:
750 words on... (just a phrase or topic, not something long and involved)
- Joy
- Good teaching looks like Y
- Good collaboration to me looks like X
- Running a meeting
- What gives you energy during your work (thinking of Ronda’s life design class, tracking activities that leave you with increased energy afterward)
- Distill 1-3 motifs for how you work? Or around a particular work/life topic?
  - E.g. Amanda: give money to students; thinking hard + community = scholarship; treat folks as the experts they are, as human
  - What “give money to students” means to each of us?

Individual prompts
Prompts for Brandon
- How you prep for a session of a class you’re teaching
- Grading philosophy
- If you could give other (new?) teachers three pieces of advice/change how folks tend to teach in 3 ways

Prompts for Amanda
- Intro post on year of blogging, to publicly commit us?
- What is leadership / management to you? "Amanda Visconti, Thought Leader"

Prompts for Shane
- Salons work
- Dissertation writing marches (process of writing dissertation)
- Stuff you’ve fixed in the Makerspace
- Ideal Makerspace equipment/setup

Prompts for Drew
String Theory, or: Let's Explore Social Networks with String!

by Chris Whitehead on October 30, 2018

For the last few weeks, the Praxis Fellows have been workshopping workshops designed to render the digital humanities methods we use in our own research accessible (and useful) to undergraduates. If that sounds meta, it’s because it is! But the process has also helped distill some interesting digital humanities methods into their fundamental concepts. In this blog post, I will share the outline of an analog workshop to help convey the basics of social network analysis to undergraduates.

By the end of the workshop, the seminar room should look something like this:

Photo from “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows” (2011)

And students should look more or less like this:
Preface

(Note: We welcome feedback on this book! If you find an error, want clarification on a particular issue, or find deep problems with particular explanations, drop us a line on our GitHub issues page. We'll be grateful and list you in our acknowledgments!)

This workbook provides a brief introduction to digital text analysis through a series of three-part units. Each unit introduces students to a concept, a tool for or method of digital text analysis, and a series of exercises for practicing the new skills. In some cases, studies of particular projects are presented instead of tools in the third section of each unit.

The materials here are meant to form the basis for a digital text analysis course that does not require extensive training in programming and is written with student readers in mind. Originally developed for use in a course titled “Scandal, Crime, and Spectacle in the Nineteenth Century,” this workbook draws from these course materials for its datasets and prompts. The book is intended to be modularized enough that it could be used in conjunction with other courses either in whole or in part, as all of its materials are openly available on GitHub. The tripartite structure of each chapter means that sections can be easily removed and replaced with different tools or content. In particular, we envision our course-specific exercises in the third section of each chapter to be removable. For more guidance on how to remix the work for your own ends, see Adapting This Book.

The book is best viewed online using either Chrome or Firefox. You can also download it to read as a PDF here.

Enjoy!

Brandon Walsh and Sarah Horowitz

http://walshbr.com/textanalysiscoursebook/
Documentation and Teaching

• Teaching labor as professionally legible
• Process as an outcome in itself
• Documentation as a vehicle for teaching technical skills
• Puts the labor of learning on familiar ground
Converting Wordpress to Jekyll

• Non-trivial export from a modified version of https://github.com/thomasf/exitwp

• Pros
  • More control over product
  • More easily maintained (in one sense)

• Cons
  • Distributed labor
  • Raises technical barriers for contributors
This tutorial explains how to author and edit new pages and posts on ScholarsLab.org. You can easily get back to this page by clicking the "how to blog" link in the footer of every ScholarsLab.org page (lower right, under the "back to top" link).

Any questions you have while using this tutorial or while blogging can be sent to Amanda via SLab Slack or email; SLab affiliates are also welcome to join the SLab Slack #slab-org channel and post any questions or suggestions there. A future version of this documentation will cover how folks who are not Scholars’ Lab affiliates can submit blog posts for possible publication on this site.

We also maintain documentation for other needs related to the ScholarsLab.org website.

- Tutorial difficulty level
- Let’s get started!
- Branch and write/edit
  - Make a new branch
  - Add new content
    - Important alert: save your work
    - Add a new blog post
    - Add an event
    - Add a new page
- Edit existing content
- Move your writing to the main repo
  - Merging as an admin
- Cheatsheet
  - Concise set of steps
  - Commonly used terms

https://github.com/scholarslab/scholarslab.org/blob/master/docs/authoring-and-editing.md
Ramifications for Collaborative Authorship

• Requires
  • extensive documentation
  • safeguards and workflows
  • group buy-in

• Offers
  • Chance to reflect on our process
  • Process as another learning opportunity