Digital Humanities Praxis from the Classroom to the Library

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Structure of Presentation

❏ From CV-based thinking to skills-based thinking
❏ Skill-transfer: teaching has many contexts
❏ Skill-transfer: from instruction to higher ed administration
❏ Creating imaginative possibilities: DH skills in a library context
❏ Materials overview \ time for Q&A

The CV Version

Education

BA in English (2010)

MA in Humanities (2011)

PhD in English (Texas A&M, 2018)

Areas of Competency

Long eighteenth-century British literature; book history; digital humanities; feminist theory; Anglo-American women's movement

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of English (Cal Poly Pomona, 2018-23)

Associate Professor of English (Cal Poly Pomona, 2023-24)

English Education Coordinator (Cal Poly Pomona 2023-24)

Team Leader of Digital Scholarship, Kelvin Smith Library, Case Western Reserve University (2024 to present)

Expertise as "Golden Handcuffs"

(Some) courses I've taught: Milton, Shakespeare, Jane Austen in adaptation, Victorian lit, England and empire, critical theory, women writers, technical writing, freshman composition, advanced research methods

Most people come out of MA and PhDs with experience teaching or TAing semester-long courses like those. It can start to feel like:

How does teaching dead British authors to English majors prepare me to do anything else?

Is my ability to parse the bibliographic difference between serials and codices in the Western European print tradition a transferable skill?

I can grade a freshman essay; so what? Most people don't write essays.

Skill Transfer: Teaching Has Many Contexts

A lot of people in colleges and universities teach – but it can look different depending on the population and goals. Instruction within higher ed includes:

1. Libraries, special collections, and archives
2. Professional development courses for faculty, staff, and students (think office of grad research, tutoring, or career center)
3. Compliance and equity trainings
4. Continuing education courses (especially at community colleges)
5. Cultural centers (for ex, ally training)

Instruction is can be encountered as:

1. Asynch trainings on an LMS like Canvas or Blackboard
2. "One-shot" sessions where you have a group for an hour, or so, and that's it
3. Short series focused on a specific skill, like learning Python

Skill Transfer: Teaching Has Many Contexts

Imagine all the things you know to do as a teacher / student, and put them into these other contexts. Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength**?

You are asked to teach a 60-minute session on a topic you know a lot about for an audience of university staff who are casually interested.

Skill Transfer: Teaching Has Many Contexts

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength**?

You are a doctoral candidate creating a citation management module on an LMS for undergraduate thesis students in your home department.

Skill Transfer: Teaching Has Many Contexts

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength**?

You are a writing center tutor asked to do a one-session workshop on information literacy for a freshman composition course.

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Skill Transfer: Instruction to Admin

Instruction   translates to..   **Administration**

Grading and feedback   Working with direct reports: setting
Classroom management   expectations for performance;
                                                  level-setting team goals; scaffolding
                                                  leadership and mentoring opportunities;
                                                  writing annual reviews; documenting
                                                  progress; running meetings; scheduling

Positions who use this kind of experience can be found in any part of university structures where staff are–so most of them. A big change is from faculty, where everyone is like 17th century Italian city-states, to hierarchies of authority

Instruction   translates to..   **Administration**

Course design   Curricular design; assessing program learning outcomes; transfer credit and shared state-level outcomes

Positions who use this kind of experience can be found in: the registrar's office, undergraduate and graduate curriculum coordinators, general education coordinators, student success, advising, assessment officers, libraries, and more

Skill Transfer: Instruction to Admin

Instruction   translates to..   **Administration**

Diversity, equity, inclusion   Understanding how to creating spaces
Accessibility   where different people can thrive;
                                                      challenging structural inequality in
                                                      university systems (like hiring); retaining
                                                      valuable employees; assessing for gaps in
                                                      performance along socioeconomic,
                                                      ethnic, and other relevant lines

Positions who use this kind of experience can be found in student success, university
advising, office of equity (or similar), provost and president's offices, professional
development within HR, career center, and more

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So you want to be a librarian

First of all, fantastic life choice.

Secondly, there is good news. You have transferable skills!

This doesn't mean librarianship is a 1:1 with English advanced degrees *but* you have a foundation from which to build.

So you want to be a librarian

Some quick facts:

1. Librarianship is frequently a second career
2. Academic and/or research librarianship is the easier transfer for advanced degree participants, as your users will be people like you right now
3. It may require additional advanced degrees or certifications, such as a master's in library science (many people with these degrees get advanced degrees in their subjects, like English)

Digital Humanities in Libraries

Libraries use DH differently than in English contexts. You will find positions housed within:

1. Digital humanities
2. Digital scholarship
3. Digital teaching and learning
4. Data services
5. Scholarly communications

(Each has its nuances; happy to talk more in Q&A). **Often, people on the first four teams do not have formal library training.**

Job boards:
- DLF+CLIR
- Code4Lib
- Higher Ed Jobs

Web Spaces
- ACRL Digital Scholarship
- Council on Library & Information Resources
- Association for Computers in the Humanities
- Coalition for Networked Information

Explore: Job Boards and Listservs

Search for "digital" or related terms and look through job ads. Ignore titles, but focus on:

1. Required and preferred background; MLS *or equivalent* is your friend
2. Duties to be performed or job expectations

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength** for each of the following.

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength** for each of the following job requirements for a DH position:

Helps plan, and participates in, special events or programs (for example, a research boot camp or digital scholarship incubator)

Skill Transfer: DH Librarianship

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength** for each of the following job requirements for a DH position:

> Design and maintain instruction materials (e.g., research guides, websites, tutorials, handouts, and exercises) that effectively synthesize and demonstrate complex topics and that provide additional opportunities for self-guided learning.

Skill Transfer: DH Librarianship

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength** for each of the following job requirements for a DH position:

Using data and related technologies to support teaching or research

Skill Transfer: DH Librarianship

Ask yourself **what do I already know** or **how can I approach this from an area of strength** for each of the following job requirements for a DH position:

> Mentor and supervise library staff, works with staff to set goals and objectives; evaluate performance, recruit staff, and develop training programs for continuous improvements. Develop operational procedures and policies and advocate for staff and resources

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Linked Materials

In this folder:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-li3AYy44GKhFyS-iyLKuRB00bZCDX6f

Includes:

1. CV and Cover Letter for Team Leader of Digital Scholarship at CWRU
2. Job slides and script for Team Lead position; prompt was *what is the future of digital scholarship?*
3. CV and Cover Letter for an Assistant Professor of English with a focus on DH at UCSB from the same period as the other materials