



CalPolyPomona

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

English & Modern Languages

Kelvin Smith Library
Case Western Reserve University
1055 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106

16 October 2024

Search Committee Members:

I am writing to apply for the Digital Scholarship Team Leader position at Case Western Reserve University. I am an associate professor of English at Cal Poly Pomona, where I deliver instruction in Anglophone literature, digital humanities, and technical literacies and provide student support services through advising, curriculum development, and program assessment. At the heart of Digital Scholarship Team Leader position, I see a need for a forward-thinking strategist with experience in higher education administration and digital scholarship technologies and implementation who can shape policies for digital scholarship within the library and university. I have a background in digital scholarship tools for research and pedagogy, expertise in higher education leadership, and proficiency in assessment and evaluation that directly speak to the demands of this position.

My background in digital scholarship centers open-access feminist projects and recuperation of the lives and contributions of women and gender minorities. I am proficient in project development and management with editor positions at [BibSite](#), [ABO Journal](#), the [Women in Book History Bibliography](#), the [Women's Print History Project](#), and the [Stainforth Library of Women's Writing](#). My contributions are in digital asset cataloguing, designing information structures in SQL, incorporating stable vocabularies and authority records, and managing publication processes on an open-access platform. As a result, I have developed effective workflows for managing collaborative project teams of varying sizes and scopes and would be able to train and supervise library staff in best practices for digital project lifecycles. My approach would center an awareness of advances in scholarly communications and digital scholarship, such as an emphasis on linked and open data, funding structures for open-access publications, and access and copyright issues for text and data mining.

I have cooperated with interdisciplinary faculty and researchers at Cal Poly Pomona and within the California State University system to develop innovative centers and programming in digital scholarship and the interplay between digital and material making. These initiatives include the CPP Maker Studio and DH@CSU Consortium, where I contribute to operations duties including securing grant funding, maintaining budgets, managing websites with Cascade and WordPress, tracking evaluation and assessment, and helping train staff and student workers. The Maker Studio is a grant-funded workspace that blends traditional maker technologies like 3D printing and physical computing with fiber crafts and book arts. We followed the initial application with an unsuccessful but highly rated NSF grant and successful micro-grants to build training modules and incorporate a badging system. The studio is a partnership between the Library, Humanities, Social Sciences, Environmental Design, and Engineering, and I have successfully worked with this team to create a thriving and equitable environment that allows diverse students to innovate. We are currently expanding the Maker Studio's services to include grant-funded podcasting studios, including mobile "studios" that rely on whisper booths, and collaborating with local high schools to encourage informal STEM learning. Secondly, I am a leader in the DH@CSU's Mellon-funded grant focused on growing the capacity for digital humanities in the Cal State system, which brings together faculty



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from twenty-three campuses in the arts, humanities, and libraries. Our project includes garnering institutional support and funding for courses and centers on campuses, a virtual software lab, digital landing pages to promote faculty projects, and collaborative workshops across the system. This experience allows me to effectively communicate across disciplinary divides and different levels of familiarity with digital scholarship technologies and methodologies, both as an adviser for staff and students in the Center as an advocate for digital scholarship in the library and at the university level.

As Digital Scholarship Team Leader, I would rely on a background in equity-focused teaching of digital methodologies to a variety of populations including students and faculty. I have more than ten years of experience teaching in higher education with awards for creating high-impact learning opportunities, and I would use this expertise to help direct reports work with students and faculty clients who are learning new skills. Digital scholarship is a field of productive failures, and I would cultivate a growth mindset where a “failure pedagogy” gives direct reports and our clients the space to learn through discovery. As a supervisor, I emphasize clarity and consistency, meticulous documentation and information management, and flexible but structured timelines as the best methods for ensuring steady progress with the dynamic variables of digital project work and outside demands like infrastructure limits and deadlines for deliverables. Careful documentation also ensures we have the resources necessary to advocate for ourselves when budgets are squeezed and that the Center can ensure continuity of services if we lose personnel to illness, promotion, and attrition.

As someone with a literature background transitioning to library management, I am aware of the ways I need to evolve as a team member in new organizational structure and am excited about the opportunity to do so. I am interested in this position due to positive experiences I have with administration and on digital project teams, as well as research focused on the history of libraries that has helped me realize where my long-term goals lie. As Digital Scholarship Team Leader, I would want to continue to learn how to make digital scholarship legible and useful to a varied audiences including in different disciplines and in the larger public. I would rely on my background as a faculty member to advocate for the work of the Center within the university and through the networks I have created in digital and public humanities across the country.

I have included a CV as requested. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how my work fits with your program. If I can provide any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,
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