Funding Innovation: LYRASIS Catalyst Fund

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Catalyst Fund Lead and Digital Services Consultant
The Catalyst Fund is a membership benefit administered by the LYRASIS Leaders Circle. It was designed as a direct result of member requests for expertise, collaboration and perspective.

Projects resulting from the Catalyst Fund are shared at our Member Summit.
All proposals and ideas should be innovative and stimulate creativity

Robert Miller
LYRASIS CEO
Criteria for Consideration

- Innovative or creative solution to a well-defined problem
- The potential for broad impact in advancing an important objective of the library, archives and/or museum communities
- The plan of work and budget must be realistic and appropriate

Member Partners Think inclusive And be realistic
Community Engagement Projects
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Digital Collecting in Times of Crisis

The Process

Digital Collecting for Events and Emergencies Survey Analysis
https://doi.org/10.18130/v3-8p1n-5w09

Project Contact: Kara McClurken, Director of Preservation Services, kmm6ef@virginia.edu
Welcome to the Digital Collecting Toolkit!

What is this Toolkit?

This toolkit is designed to provide resources and instruction on implementing digital collecting strategies during and after rapidly evolving social events and/or community crises (like campus controversies, natural disasters and public emergencies). Emergency digital collecting requires a rapid response and poses a particular set of challenges not normally found in routine digital collecting initiatives. Photos, videos, and social media content are major components of these efforts. For this reason, this toolkit aims to provide clear instructions and step-by-step guides for handling these situations.
Results

- Online toolkit
- Templates
- Tabletop exercises
- Two-hour online class: Intro to Emergency Digital Collecting
“LYRASIS’s support for the video and the instructional modules truly served as a catalyst, and together with the IMLS project, it will allow Healey Library to leverage its standing as a national leader in participatory archiving toward the goal of expanding and enhancing the capabilities of all libraries, regardless of size or available resources, to engage in and lead these vital community archiving initiatives themselves.”

openarchives.umb.edu
The Process

• Formed their team
• Regular meetings and script development
• Instructional modules developed weekly
• Community review

Project Contact: Carolyn Goldstein, Ph.D. Community Archives and Public History Program Manager. Carolyn.Goldstein@umb.edu
Lessons Learned

Module 5: Video Station

Module 1: Welcome Station
Project Description

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Access to US Congressional Correspondence Data

Partners include Society of American Archives, UNLV and others…
The Process

• Assess Existing Functionality
• Develop User Requirements and Characterize Feasibility
• Justification and Roadmap
• Final Presentation and Discussion

Project Contact: Danielle Emerling, Congressional & Political Papers Archivist, Assistant Curator. danielle.emerling@mail.wvu.edu
Lessons Learned

- The tool is unique, and desired functionality is basic
- The data sets present significant promise and manageable challenges
- Access to the data and attachments is transformative for qualitative and quantitative researchers
- Resources in the community and its associated stakeholders are limited
- Partnerships are key moving forward
Results

- Work continues
- Tool development
- Access partnership
- Community engagement
Technology Projects
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Machine learning meets library archives: Image analysis to generate descriptive metadata

Project Contact: Harish Maringanti Associate Dean for IT & Digital Library Services harish.maringanti@utah.edu
The existing models that are available were developed with a focus on born-digital photographs of everyday objects and scenarios. E.G., a laptop vs. a piece of paper.

- Technical Platform setup:
- Data Preparation
- Training Model
  - Im2txt Caption generation model
  - Image Classifier (Single Label Generator)
  - Object Detection (Multi-Label Generator)
Results

- Developed NLP workflows
- Prototypes for image processing
- Prototype of a web application for content modification workflow
Project Description

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Data-Intensive Tools for Modeling and Visualizing Mass Reading: The ‘Reading Chicago Reading’ Project

Project Contact: John Shanahan, Associate Dean, Director of Liberal Studies, and Professor of English JSHANAH1@depaul.edu
The Process

- Collected CPL, city of Chicago, and social media data into a database
- Created and tested an interactive dashboard made with Bokeh
- Feature/text measures extraction and text measures
- Developed maps for dashboard interactions of CPL OBOC events and circulation for selected OBOC seasons
Lessons Learned

- Most important for researchers to understand is how
  1. the length of CPL promotional seasons has changed, and
  2. how the kinds of CPL community outreach have changed
- Attention to future archiving of cultural programming is important
Results

- Created a prototype dashboard with several major features:
  - Circulation time series
  - Circulation and Demographics
  - Circulation and events distribution
Educational Projects
Project Description

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Quantitative Research Institute for Libraries

Project Contact: Cathryn Miller, Social Sciences Librarian millerc12@duq.edu
Lessons Learned

- Live events are special events and event coordination is a job in itself
- The pace could be adjusted
Results

- www.duq.edu/quil

Quantitative Institute for Libraries: Course Materials

Session 1: Introduction to Quantitative Methodology

Content:
Types of quantitative research
Quantitative vs qualitative research
Research Design

- Introduction to Quantitative Methodology
- Handout: Identifying Research Design
- Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Resources
Catalyst Fund as Leverage

- UVA has developed a two-hour class
- UMASS Boston, IMLS National Leadership Grant
- WVUL pilot project
- University of Utah submitted an NEH grant
- DePaul continues to add data and interactive elements
- LYRASIS Learning is looking at the Duquesne institute to see if it might be adapted to an online format

https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/2018-Catalyxt-Fund-Projects.aspx
Looking Forward

- Simply apply! Bring your Proposals or Ideas
  - Applications will open in January
- Become a reviewer, to make recommendations for Leaders Circle consideration
- Last year we had 46 reviewers, if you are interested, contact me or register online
  https://www.lyrasis.org/Leadership/Pages/Catalyst-Fund-Reviewer.aspx
Mark Your Calendars!

- Friday, October 18: Digital Collecting in Times of Crisis
- Friday, November 1: American Contacts Congress
- Tuesday, December 10: Online Instruction for Participatory Archiving

2020 Dates

- Friday, January 10: Quantitative Institute for Libraries
- Monday, January 20: The ‘Reading Chicago Reading’ Project
- Friday, February 7: Machine Learning meets Library Archives

All webinars will be held at 1:00 eastern

Register here: https://www.lyrasis.org/services/Pages/Classes.aspx
And now, let’s hear from our recipients!