Centering Student Labor: a Practical Examination of Digital Library Experiences in the LIS Student Lifecycle

Grace Swinnerton
Visiting IVMF and Digital Repository Librarian
Syracuse University Libraries
Digital Library Forum, October 10, 2022
I would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous people on whose ancestral lands Syracuse University now stands.

I would also like to acknowledge with respect where we currently are: the ancestral lands of the Piscataway and Susquehannock peoples.
Authors Slide

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Presentation Organization

1) The unique, practical experience of working in metadata and digital library spaces while in library school

2) Establishing long-term, cross-campus partnerships

3) A model for persistent and future campus collaboration
Background

The Problem: Information Storage was unsustainable and disorganized.

The Solution: To create a digital library space to house IVMF Publications and Collections of externally curated materials for veterans, employers, military families, and other related stakeholders.

How did we get there?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metadata Application Profile</td>
<td>Dublin Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable storage for “Our Publications”</td>
<td>SURFACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ability to house/create collections with materials not published</td>
<td>Quartex for housing the metadata of externally created content &amp; our</td>
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<tr>
<td>(externally created) by the IVMF.</td>
<td>content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A user-friendly, in-house customizable interface</td>
<td>Quartex for a front-end user interface</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final Product
The Student Experience

“How often do students get to be involved in the creation of an entire library?”

Classroom: IST616; IST511; IST685; IST682

Content & Skills

Suggestions for a non-traditional digital library space
The Student Experience (cont.)

Accessibility  Collection Development  Cultural Competence  Information Organization  Reference Services
Long-Term, Cross-Campus Partnerships

Existing Outcomes
- Creation of Visiting Librarian Position
- Support for continued student employment & enrichment opportunities

Projected Outcomes
- Endowment of the librarian position
- Scholarship possibilities for graduate students
The Student Centric Model

1. Organization (or unit on campus) provides the funds, content, and vision.
2. Libraries/Librarians provide the guidance and consultation for library principles, methodologies, and additional needs.
3. iSchool provides student labor, with an emphasis on this being a student-led project.

1. IVMF – Bonnie Chapman Beers
2. Syracuse University Libraries - Deirdre Joyce, Suzanne Preate, and Patrick Williams
3. iSchool – Brie, Heather, Kamryn, and approximately 12 additional students
Student Centric Model Additions

- A written plan to ensure library principles are instituted and maintained to ethical standards.
- Providing library/student boundaries & capabilities up front.
- Clear project guidelines.
Post-Grad Success

Experience offered multi-disciplinary practical library experiences:
- Reference
- Outreach
- Metadata Strategy
- Accessibility
- Information Literacy
- Customer Service

Instruction and Outreach Librarian

Library Service Engineer at EBSCO

Data Librarian

Reference and Instruction Librarian
Conclusion
Questions? Thank You!

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