

# Opening Welcome & Digital Humanities Introduction

## Opening Welcome<sup>1</sup>

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us today.

Thanks to the Data Management/Curation Task Force for organizing the event today. The Task Force is a joint group with the Smathers Libraries, Research Computing, and the Office of Research.

I'm Laurie Taylor, co-chair of the Task Force, and I'm very pleased to welcome everyone here today.

The Task Force is working to assess needs, make recommendations, and develop support for the role of the Libraries in campus-wide data management and curation. We recently sent out a formal survey and the link is on the screen, in addition to a great deal of work where we've been supporting different focused discussions, trainings, and other formats for gathering information as well as for supporting immediate data needs. For instance, we've been working to ensure support for folks needing to write data management plans by setting up and providing training on using the Data Management Plan Tool for creating new plans. Hannah will do a lightning round on the Data Management Tool, and we'll be scheduling a hands-on workshop for that soon.

Speaking on lightning rounds: Today is a more informal, fast-paced event with lightning rounds, where speakers will present for about 10 minutes and then we'll move on to the next speaker. This is more of an appetizer for future workshops, trainings, and other events to support your data needs. So, in this informal setting, the main goals are:

1. Quick information and introduction to topics and resources  
and, more importantly,
2. Introductions to the resource experts in the Libraries and across campus who can help make it happen.

Today's event is very important for the connections to people who are experts who can help you formulate your questions and get them answered.

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<sup>1</sup> Opening slide with links to DataMgmt site, Research Data Assessment Survey, and Workshop evaluations display for the opening: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014835/00016>

Two weeks ago, I attended the Research Data Alliance in DC. Sayeed Choudhury from Johns Hopkins, and one of the core organizers for the Research Data Alliance, mentioned that he doesn't see Big Data in all of the V's: velocity, volume, and variety. While the Vs are definitely one very valid definition, he said we should also be thinking about whatever we can't handle. As soon as it's overwhelming, it's big data.

In that moment where you have the data, have your research questions or goals, and you don't know how to best proceed, that's where expert collaborators with new tools, attendant methods, and so much more are critical.

And, this is certainly where UF's incredibly large and diverse community as a comprehensive, public, land-grant really shines. We've got people from all fields, and we know how to work together.

For me, my early research was on video games—technology, visual display, interaction, and narrative. My research is now on developing socio-technical supports (people, policies, structures, and technologies) for digital scholarship; which is exactly in line with working with everyone here today and in the future with the Libraries and Data Management, Data Analysis, and more.

You've hopefully had a chance to meet some of the resource experts and more are about to present.

Please remember to complete the survey on your research data needs, separate survey on this event, and to be in contact with us through the Libraries' Data Management website, with all of the URLs on the screen.

We'll now have a lightning round, with Denise Bennett speaking about Finding Data. Thank you again for joining us!

## **Digital Humanities Introduction<sup>2</sup>**

I'm Laurie Taylor, UF's Digital Humanities Librarian.

One of the definitions of the Digital Humanities is the "humanities in the age of Big Data."

As Information Science expert Christine Borgman notes in *Scholarship in the Digital Age*:

"Humanists use the largest array of information sources, and as a consequence, the distinction between documents and data is the least clear." (Borgman, 214)

Borgman's statement helps illuminate how the Humanities do Big Data. The Humanities have focused a great deal of energy on Big Data projects for building text, multimedia, and other digital archives and supporting works like bibliographies, concordances, databases, and the like. This work in data collection is often tied to other data research, including new methods and tools -- from metadata creation, data harmonization, data notation, data visualization, analysis of heterogeneous data, data mining, and more.

At UF, Humanities Big Data research also called Digital Humanities is abundant.

The UF Digital Humanities Working Group started in 2011, this semester it is discussing Visualizing the Humanities. There's more on the group on your handouts.

Also, resources on UF Humanities Big Data research can be found on the websites from the Libraries, with these links also on the handouts.

I did want to mention some of the example projects at UF:

<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/DigitalHumanities/UFDigitalHumanitiesProjects.aspx>

As you can see from this very long list, UF researchers are doing lots of great work in Digital Humanities Big Data. These data intensive projects include:

- Vodou Archive
  - NEH grant funded digital archive building project to collect, transcribe, translate, interpret, and analyze text, image, audio, and video data
- Unearthing St. Augustine
  - NEH grant funded project to digitally aggregate various heterogeneous data sources within a geographic interface for scholars and curators to use in geo-rectifying multiple data layers in a robust, but visually simple interface
- [Freedom Summer](#)

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<sup>2</sup> DH site, UF DH projects display: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/DigitalHumanities/UFDigitalHumanitiesProjects.aspx>

- Library mini grant funded project on data curation, building from the SPOHP archives and a new oral history project and adding context creation, teaching, and research
- Pilot example for use in a larger CLIR grant proposal, which is currently under discussion and development with collaborators at other institutions
- Endangered Language Archives
  - Several UF researchers have proposed and been awarded the joint NSF-NEH grants for projects documenting endangered languages
  - <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/documenting-endangered-languages>
- And many more

I'm now going to turn this over to Blake who will continue on with Big Data Humanities Projects at UF and beyond, including the Digital Epigraphy and Archaeology Project from UF researchers.