

DIGITIZATION TEAM
Report prepared by Andrew Toulas

The digital team meets on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss :

1) Digital projects that are already in place :

Many of the digital collections underway at Stony Brook are available through the Special Collections web page <http://www.stonybrook.edu/libspecial/collections/digitized.html>. Currently we are evaluating how Content-dm and D-Space disseminates this collection. We are looking for ways to increase dissemination quality and back-up/preservation guidelines while at the same time cut licensing/server fees which we pay each year. Options include a migration to D-Space and developing an infrastructure at Stony Brook where it would be feasible for the library to host its own servers.

2) New digital initiatives :

We are looking to expand the digital collection – in order to do this we must first examine the strengths of the university. The most effective and useful digital collections are the collections which focus upon each school's unique attributes. Given that we are dealing with a fixed budget, it is recommended that we focus on digital projects that represent Stony Brook and serve a wide array of patrons. These projects tend to endure and create a solid digital collection which is often found at the elite digital collections throughout the country.

In order to do this I would like to meet with the heads of the branch libraries not on the Digital Team in order to discover new areas which help define the Stony Brook collection. After these collections have been identified the team can research ways in which these newly discovered areas can be digitally disseminated.

Although expanding the digital collection at Stony Brook is an obvious goal, there are many other digital initiatives that need to be researched. Some of these areas include ways in which to evaluate the digitization facilities found at this school, ways that E-reserve can be improved, and the research of digital technologies that effects copyright and library policy.

3) The job description for a digital librarian:

The team is constantly refining and developing the job description for a digital librarian faculty position. The digital librarian must be able to work with departments inside and outside the library in order to create a fully functional digital collection. The responsibilities of this position could range from the operation and supervision of an E-reserve staff to the administration of many digital collections. Although the team may argue the exact job description of the digital librarian, we are all in agreement that in order for Stony Brook to take the next step in digital dissemination, a unifying position of digital librarian must be created in the near future.

There are already two digital projects (Music, Maps) that have had to utilize people from Doit in order to establish an administrator for a server. Following this model, each new project that would arise would be responsible for recruiting a systems administrator for digital dissemination. It is imperative that there is a Digital Librarian in place before the responsibility and hardware for a complex digital collection are spread all over campus. The consensus of the team was that there must be an individual that is the liaison between the department producing the digital collection, the university network administrator, and a Doit representative who will act as the administrator for the server. All three of these parties must be involved when considering a digital project so that suitable back-up and server functions are maintained, and proper bandwidth guidelines are followed.