



William & Mary Arts & Sciences

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

18 August 2016

To: Department of English Associate Professors Liz Losh and Brett Wilson
Co-Directors of the Digital Scholarship Equality Lab
From: Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences Kate Conley *KC*
Re: Charge for the Digital Scholarship Equality Lab in Morton Hall 2016-19
cc: Provost Michael Halleran
Vice Provost for Research Dennis Manos
Deans Lu Ann Homza, Virginia Torczon, and Joel Schwartz
Chair of English Suzanne Raitt and Director of American Studies Charlie McGovern
Director of Administration and Finance Darlene Campbell
Dean of University Libraries Carrie Cooper
Associate Provost for e-Learning Michèle Jackson
Directors of Development for Arts & Sciences and Swem Gerald Bullock and Kim Separ

This charge builds on the previous one from 2014 for the Ad Hoc Steering Committee for the Digital Humanities, co-chaired by Associate Professors of Art & Art History and English Charles Palermo and Arthur Knight. That Ad Hoc Committee culminated in the Digital Humanities and Liberal Arts (at W&M) Symposium on 20 March 2015, for which Associate Professor Losh came to campus and played an leading organizational role, even though her joint appointment in American Studies and English, only started in the fall of 2015. Since 2015, Liz Losh has created a network of interested colleagues and students, working from lists of interested colleagues established by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Symposium. She has also identified “Digital Equality” as the first significant William & Mary Digital Humanities project for the newly assigned space in Morton Hall, the “Equality Lab: A Space for Digital Scholarship.” She is working on a William & Mary webpage dedicated to the lab. As of 5 April 2016, Associate Professor Brett Wilson has agreed to serve as Co-Director of this project and lab.

For the next three years, through FY2019 (2016-17; 2017-18; 2018-19), the Dean’s office commits to \$5000 a year for the Equality Lab and stipends of \$1000 each for three years to Associate Professors Losh and Wilson to support what could be broadly designated as the William & Mary digital scholarship initiative, supported by the Provost as well as Arts & Sciences. This effort involves leadership that includes you and others across disciplines as the bigger campus-wide conversation evolves.

This charge lays out expectations for the scope and activities of the Digital Equality Lab.

Partners

The Digital Equality Lab should work with existing partners on campus and contribute to campus-wide conversations about digital scholarship. I ask you to create a small committee of faculty and staff drawing from these partners, including Swem, the Center for Geospatial Analysis, the office of University e-Learning, and the Provost's e-Learning Committee. The committee should meet at least once a semester and should consider:

- Establishing a working definition of digital humanities/digital scholarship for William & Mary
- Best use of possible future shared space in Swem Library
- Best way to encourage and support new projects to come on line in digital scholarship

Swem Library has been a partner from the beginning in establishing digital scholarship at William & Mary. Dean Carrie Cooper and members of her staff were involved with the Ad Hoc Committee, the March 2015 Symposium, and, most importantly, establishing a shared vision regarding space in Swem Library for digital scholarship and teaching. Swem staff are important partners in the College's vision for digital scholarship.

The Center for Geospatial Analysis, housed in Swem, constitutes a partner since the CGA is likely to share new space in Swem for digital scholarship and teaching.

The office of the University e-Learning Initiative led by Associate Provost Michèle Jackson and her staff, also moving to Morton Hall this fall, supports the use of technology in teaching and learning and should also be viewed as a partner in supporting and teaching digital scholarship and learning strategies.

Other partner-individuals and groups on campus who work with digital scholarship and teaching are likely to be already represented in your network of interested colleagues and students.

Projects and the Future of Digital Scholarship in Arts & Sciences

The Digital Equality Lab and the Symposium planned by the DEL for the fall of 2018 on "Race, Memory, and the Digital Humanities," is the first important digital humanities project undertaken in Arts & Sciences as part of William & Mary's digital scholarship initiative. My expectation is that eventually, with new shared space in Swem dedicated to digital scholarship and teaching, there will be multiple digital scholarship projects sponsored by Arts & Sciences, of which the DEL will be one.

As Dean I hope to be able to sponsor multiple projects on digital scholarship in multiple fields. Insofar as digital humanities involves the study of technology's impact on society and culture as well as the practice of technology within society and culture, (including academic culture), the possibilities for projects range across the full spectrum of research and teaching at William & Mary. How many and for how long will depend on funding, space, and available support.

As the co-directors of the first project with the DEL, you are pioneers in this research and teaching. I ask that each year you prepare a short report of your activities and I look forward to staying in touch with you about your work.