

Collaborative Conversations: Digital Scholarship in a Liberal Arts Institution

Proposal: 275

One of the hallmarks of the small liberal arts institution is the student-to-teacher ratio. At Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, this means that the librarian-to student ratio is also ideal for one-on-one communication. Librarians take advantage of this opportunity to communicate directly with students as they create and seek to distribute and preserve their academic scholarship generated as part of courses, independent undergraduate programs, and workshops. The librarian-to-teacher ratio is also beneficial, allowing liaisons to provide individualized support to make the scholarship of our academic faculty more widely available in digital forms and to provide online venues for special projects and types of materials that may not always be ideal for traditional publication formats.

Liberal arts institutions are also able to be more flexible in the deployment of public and technical services librarians in both traditional and non-traditional ways. While librarians at Trinity locate and create opportunities to communicate with students and teachers about digital scholarship, we also collaborate internally to use our time and our resources in creative and effective ways. Rather than make the advancement of digital scholarship programs in our library and institution a province of one department, technical and public services focus on what we each “do best” to support the work of students and faculty but we also work together to achieve our goals.

In this case-study presentation, the Head of Discovery Services and the Head of Instruction Services will offer specific examples and evidence of the ways that both technical and public services librarians collaborate in conversations that function to drive the library’s and the university’s digital scholarship initiatives. Essential factors in facilitating this work will also be considered.

Abstract: 95 words

In this case-study presentation, Trinity University’s Head of Discovery Services and the Head of Instruction Services will offer evidence of the ways that both technical and public services collaborate in conversations that function to drive the library’s and the university’s digital scholarship initiatives. Highlighting the benefits available at a liberal arts institution, the speakers will focus on the ways librarians are able to communicate with students, academic faculty, and with one another to offer innovative services as well as access to unique scholarship and collections. Essential factors in facilitating this work will also be considered.