CREATING VALUE OF DIGITAL SERVICES: HELPING OTHERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

Texas Conference on Digital Libraries
May 25, 2017

Jonathan Helmke
Associate Director for Library Information Services
R.W. Steen Library
Stephen F. Austin State University
What are some common questions or comments concerning the value of your digital programs?

What are issues that digital programs face?
IMPORTANCE

- Changes in higher education
  - Budgets
  - Priorities
  - Teaching and learning

- Changes in technology
  - Hardware/Software
  - Access

- Responsiveness to the institutional needs
CHANGING FOCUS
Institutional priorities
- Development
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Teaching and learning
- Completion of degree

Faculty connections
- Classroom assignments
- Classroom success
DEMONSTRATING VALUE: RE-TOOLING OUR DIGITAL PROGRAMS

- Staffing
  - Skills sets
  - Innovation
  - Tying in back to demonstrating value

- Mission of the digital programs
  - Can be connected to institutional or faculty priorities
  - Adding value to a digital program
    - Creating a story
HELPING OTHERS SHARE THEIR STORY

- Oral history programs/digitization projects
- Aligning the programs to the institution’s mission

Next Steps:
- Creating a story based on these projects
- Taking ownership
- Partnerships
- Have students be part of the process
- Integration into the curriculum
1st Example

- Ahead of the Curve

[Image showing a webpage from UDHeritage@DigitalUD, featuring a header that reads 'CHARLES C. MYERS LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF Dubuque' and a section titled 'Oral Histories' with a selection of images and names.]
Texas Runaway Slave Project

The Texas Runaway Slave Project (TRSP) is a database of runaway slave advertisements, articles and notices from newspapers published in Texas. The project has so far documented the names of over 1,400 runaway slaves from Texas.
Creating an advocacy community

Building relationships

Demonstrating value for the digital programs
Q&A AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Jonathan Helmke
Associate Director for Library Information Services
Stephen F. Austin State University
helmkej@sfasu.edu