UVIC LIBRARIES DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

TRAINING, TOOLS, & SUPPORT TO HELP THE UVIC COMMUNITY PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS & TELL THEIR RESEARCH STORIES IN ENGAGING WAYS

University of Victoria Libraries

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

It has been another busy year in the Digital Scholarship Commons (DSC) as we continue to help students, faculty and staff learn to create accessible scholarly communications to tell their research stories in ways beyond text in order to further their public scholarship and knowledge mobilization efforts.

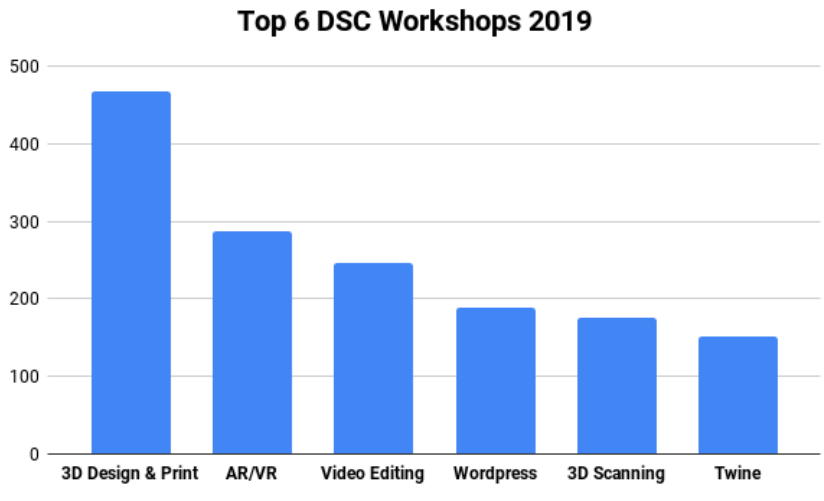
The number of digital fluency workshop participants was up 21% over last year; 3D Design continues to be the most popular DSC workshop, 3D printing is up 45% over 2018, and a new Podcasting room has been created to meet the demand for podcast interviews with multiple participants.

The DSC Graduate Student Assistants have been busy consulting with students, faculty, and staff, as well as creating and teaching new workshops on topics as diverse as Data Analysis with RStudio and Virtual Reality Videos. The digital badging pilot project is ongoing and we've undertaken a project to evaluate its impact and effectiveness.

DIGITAL FLUENCY WORKSHOPS

The DSC staff taught a total of 3,116 workshop participants in 2019, up 21% from 2018. Approximately 75% of workshops were taught at the invitation of professors and integrated into their course syllabuses to assist them in using digital tools for course assignments.

The digital fluency workshops with the highest number of participants in 2019 were: 3D Design & Print, Augmented & Virtual Reality, Video Editing, Website Creation with Wordpress, 3D Scanning, and Interactive Storytelling with Twine.



In 2019, DSC staff created 12 new introductory workshops covering a wide range of digital fluency skills to help students, faculty, and staff make their scholarship more accessible. These new workshops are now offered in the DSC for all to attend. Instructors may book any of our workshops for their for-credit undergraduate classes and graduate seminars:

- Augmented and Virtual Reality
- 3D Scanning
- Podcasting
- Data Analysis with Excel
- Machine Learning with Python
- Data Visualization with Tableau
- Electronics with Raspberry Pi
- Qualitative Data Analysis & Coding with NVIVO
- Creating & Teaching Flipped Active Learning Workshops
- Writing Data Management Plans
- Data Cleaning with OpenRefine
- Photography with your Smartphone

SELECT COLLABORATIONS WITH FACULTY

- The "Digital Atelier series" is a collaboration between Drs. Charlotte Schallié and Matt Huculak as part of Germanic Studies 581. This series incorporates DSC methodologies and digital fluency skills into an existing course in order to give students hands-on training in cultural preservation.
- Dr. Janni Aragon contacted the DSC about the possibility of offering an Infographics workshop for her Political Science 313 class (U.S. Politics) in order for her students to learn a graphic design skill while practicing how to identify key information in their research, summarize it, and present it in a compelling and engaging way. Rich McCue collaborated with Dr. Aragon on the learning outcomes, and then created and taught the workshop. This is shaping up to be a popular workshop, as we've already received instruction requests from instructors in other departments.
- The DSC partnered with the Department of French to acquire Antidote (software) to help their students learn to write in French and improve their grammar in the process. Matt Huculak led this project and created and delivered the training in the DSC.
- An inquiry about 3D from Mechanical Engineering was forwarded to the DSC from our Engineering librarian, Aditi Gupta. Rich McCue contacted Dr. Nick Dechev, and after a series of conversations agreed to teach a 3D scanning lecture for the class. Dani Johnson has agreed to help print the students' 3D assignments in the library. We hope that this will be the first of many collaborations between the DSC and the Faculty of Engineering.

3D PRINTING & DIGITAL FLUENCY EQUIPMENT

3D Printing in the DSC is up 45% in 2019 to $1,903 worth of print jobs. This includes a number of assignment based print jobs for the new MECH 150 course in collaboration with Mechanical Engineering.

In December of 2019 UVIC Libraries partnered with UVic Communications & Marketing to host "Podcasting Day" at UVic. The event, held in the DSC, brought in local and national podcasters to discuss their work in order to spark a podcasting culture at UVic. DSC, in collaboration with Music & Media, fitted out room 051 to be the library's new Podcast studio. The new Podcasting workshop, also launched in December, has been in high demand, and as a consequence, the demand for a quiet, sound-dampened podcasting studio has also been high. The new studio can accommodate groups of up to four people, plus a small studio audience if desired; external sound, however, remains an issue for recording.

The DSC's Virtual Reality room served 327 members of the UVic community in 2019, up from 73 during three months that the room was available in the previous year. Our Virtual and Augmented Reality Graduate Assistant has created a new VR video workshop and a number of VR and AR activities that have been integrated into other workshops. This should increase demand for not only the VR room but also the 360-camera loaned out by Music & Media.

The number of electronic kits and podcasting equipment loaned in 2019 totalled 678. DSC items available from the Music & Media desk include: 360-cameras, USB microphones, Raspberry Pi electronics kits, audio recorders, calipers, and VR headsets.

DIGITAL BADGES & INFORMAL CREDENTIALING

IThe DSC badging or informal credentialing pilot project continued in 2019, and a total of 149 badges were issued for the successful completion of digital fluency workshops over the course of the year. Students had to explicitly opt-in to receive a badge and the workshop instructor then reviewed their work at the end of the workshop to make sure they've met the requirements for earning a badge.

This coming year the DSC is undertaking a mixed methods research project to evaluate the perceived value of the badges by students who received them. Of particular interest is how valuable students perceived the DSC badges were in helping them obtain co-op or post-graduation employment.

GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERTS & YOUNG CANADA WORKS INTERN

Our graduate student experts continued to be very busy teaching workshops, creating new workshops, and offering consultation services in 2019. Our busiest graduate was Crystal, whose RStudio expertise was in constantly high demand throughout the year. Crystal's RStudio and Machine Learning workshops were almost always fully subscribed by students and staff who were eager to learn.

New this year was our Virtual and Augmented Reality graduate assistant position which has been ably filled by Darren Reid, who is a graduate student in the History department. Darren has been designing and teaching a range of new workshops and workshop activities in this exciting and rapidly evolving field.

Our Electronics graduate assistant this year is Jacob Lower, from the Computer Science & Mathematics department. Jacob has been busy creating a new Raspberry Pi workshop, and updating our Machine Learning workshop, as well as working in the Libraries' Digital Archeology Lab.

Alex Goudine returned as our Maps and Geospatial Data graduate expert and has been consulting with students and teaching the QGIS and ArcGIS workshops that he created.

In October the DSC hired Cheyenne Heenan as our Young Canada Works recent graduate intern. Cheyenne graduated from the Mechanical Engineering department in the fall and was the propulsion lead in the campus Rocket club. Cheyenne has done an excellent job creating a new Intermediate 3D Design workshop and is keeping our 3D printing services working smoothly.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

I discovered the workshops in the digital scholarship commons in fall 2017 and was excited to find the R studio workshop. After completing the R workshop, I began to become a regular participant in workshops in the digital scholarship commons. I've attended between 5-7 of the workshops. In the 3D printing workshop, I created a studying trophy for my group of friends called a Pomo which the winner of our competition gets to hold onto for the following week. I found that the DSC library staff very helpful and enthusiastic, and the environment in the DSC was welcoming and energetic. I found I was always excited to show people in my lab what I had learned right after the workshops. I feel like my time at the DSC helped promote a positive attitude toward coding and learning new software. I now feel less intimidated by digital systems and will often look at Stack Overflow and other online resources to help me perform tasks I did not imagine was at my skill level. - Lucas, Biology undergraduate

Before using the resources at the Digital Scholarship Commons, I knew very little about 3D-printing. I was able to rely on the experience of the helpful and cheerful staff to work on my first projects. As I gained confidence, I started applying my creativity and ingenuity into my 3D-printing projects. I have learned to use an invaluable tool for my personal and professional life. Thanks for your help. And yes, the workshop was both helpful and fun! - Renzo, Mechanical Engineering undergraduate

I did not know then how formative the DSC would be for me when I was introduced to it. Rich McCue held an interactive storytelling with Twine workshop for my class, and it was during this workshop that I was struck by the simple and fun idea for our game: a twig, walking around to collect leaves and to make a pile to jump in (which would rescatter the leaves for a new round to begin). No points, no end-goals, just a simple tale of a character having fun with its environment. The role of the DSC in the completion of this project did not end there. We continued to use the DSC space throughout the whole semester; it was perfect for our weekly group meetings and staff were always around and available for questions. I have continued to use the DSC and attend other workshops on varied subjects that have aided my academic career in a variety of ways. - Jodi Litvin, Faculty of Humanities graduate student