Barriers in Digital Scholarship Engagement

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Question
What barriers prevent researchers from engaging with digital scholarship methods, tools, and training opportunities?

Prior Research
Digital Scholarship/Humanities Needs Assessments

To examine the question, I sought similar research that focused on two areas:
- Barriers that cause researchers to avoid digital scholarship (DS) or digital humanities (DH)
- Outcomes of DS/DH learning

My review indicates a gap.

Current Research
Training in Digital Methods for Humanists

My own research involves examining the Training in Digital Methods for Humanists (TDMH) Fellowship at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH). The program allows space and resources for advanced faculty in the humanities to learn digital methods.

Through interviews with fellows, and examination of application materials, I will determine:
- Motivations for learning digital methods
- Barriers or challenges faced: technological, social, or otherwise

Concerns Mentioned in Interviews

- Connecting technology with the "why"
- Feeling a burden on instructors
- Community of practice
- Physical space/resources
- Demands on time
- Sustainability/responsibility for projects

Knowledge of motivations will help us understand why researchers may not take advantage of DS/DH learning opportunities.

Knowledge of social, technological, or learning barriers will help those advocating for use of DS/DH methods develop ways to address commons concerns.

Research on pedagogical techniques and assessment in DS/DH remains scarce. Most research found in this review comes from adjacent fields like librarianship. University libraries' needs assessments, that focus on identifying needs, are unable to assess outcomes of DS/DH learning itself.

More work has been done on:
- The research potential of DS/DH
- DS outside the USA (broader definition?)
- Examining outcomes of specific DS/DH courses (case studies)

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