Shifting research practice and impact on the capabilities of researchers [of the future] in view of digital advancement

A presentation by

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Discussion

- 'A quick recap' on scholarship

- Digital aspects driving the shift

- How shifts are happening

- What are the digital tools (at the researchers disposal)?

- How BLDS is playing a role

- References

' A quick recap' on scholarship

Best to benchmark the shifts based on the four functions of scholarship identified by Boyer (1990) in his influential book Scholarship Reconsidered as espoused by Scanlon (2014):

- **Discovery**, the creation of new knowledge in a specific area or discipline;

- **Integration**, creating knowledge across disciplines;

- **Application**, engagement with wider world outside academia, but still based on the scholar's disciplinary knowledge and background;

- **Teaching**, which is a central element

Digital aspects driving the shift

Scanlon (2014) identified (some) digital aspects that are/will be important

- Changes in research practice: data
  - digital has enabled creation, storage, collaborating and sharing of research data in much better ways
  - this ultimately changes the way researchers do their practice
- Changes in research practice: open publication
  - generally pertains to scholarly communications
  - open access, blogging, social media and others
- Changes in teaching: open educational practices
  - openness in education
  - OERs
  - MOOCs
- Open engagement
- Networking

How shifts are happening

Extending Boyer's definitions therefore: -

- **Discovery**, *has been extended by the idea of open data*

- **Integration**, *by the potential use of digital shared manuscripts and open publication*

- **Application**, *by new views of the importance of public engagement*

- **Teaching**, *by the open educational resources movement*

What are the digital tools (at the researchers disposal)?

King (2014) attempts to categorise some of the tools available. This is not an exhaustive list but helps to illustrate what these tools are in areas such as:-

- Finding and curating information

- Data analysis

- Data capture

- Online collaboration

- Dissemination

- Networking

- Idea sharing

- Project management

- Funding opportunities and research policy

All this comes together into what we now call Digital Scholarship as defined by Potter (2012), as being:

> *"Knowledge practices that support learning, teaching and research, focusing on how knowledge is generated, grown, shared, critiqued and communicated in a discipline".*

How BLDS is playing a role

- Library Catalogue

- Website

- Digital Repository

- Unified Search

- ERM

- Ask a Librarian (virtual and face 2 face)

- Document Delivery Service

- Reading lists

- General Awareness via various digital/offline communication channels

- Going forward, BLDS hopes to streamline these through a 'Global Library for Development Studies (GLDS)' on both the supply and demand sides by transitioning to
  - 'Your local development library, wherever you are in the world' because
    - *We believe that a user who searches or discovers content will ultimately want to have access to that content not only the knowledge of its existence (or rather the scent of the knowledge). We will fulfil that content request by delivering it to the user who requested it wherever they are in the world*.*

    * Provided they have the skills, a capable device and internet connection

References

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