Digital Humanities:
A Natural Future for Academic Libraries

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Coalition for Networked Information Spring 2011 Membership Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2011, 3:15-4:15

Recent History at UAL

- *added & equipped spaces for general use...*

Gorgas Learning Commons

Recent History at UAL

- *added & equipped spaces for general use...*

Small Group Conferencing

Recent History at UAL

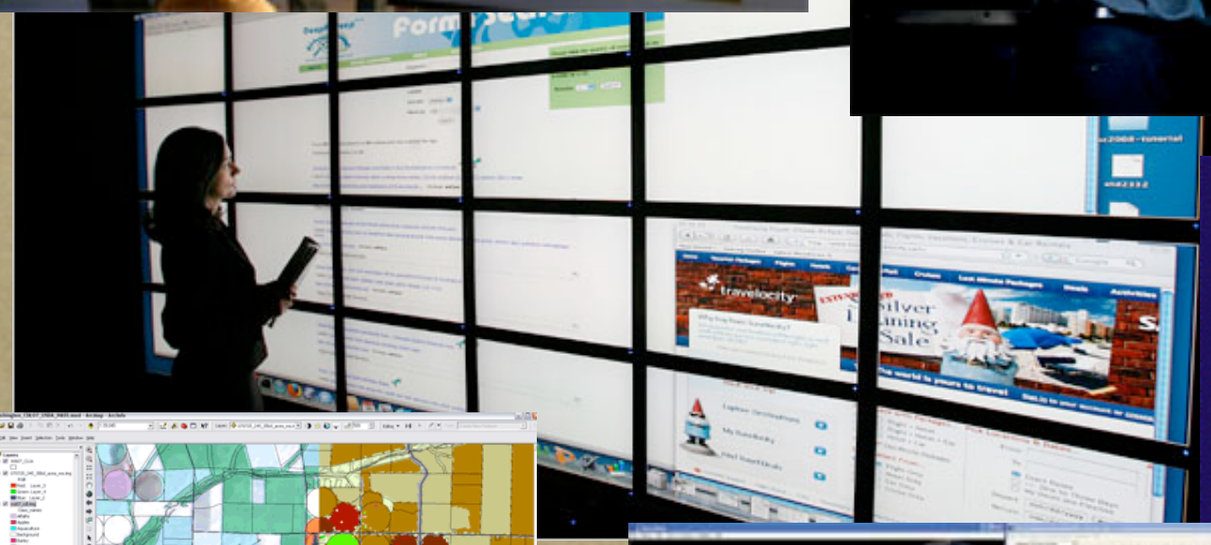
- *added & equipped spaces for general use...*

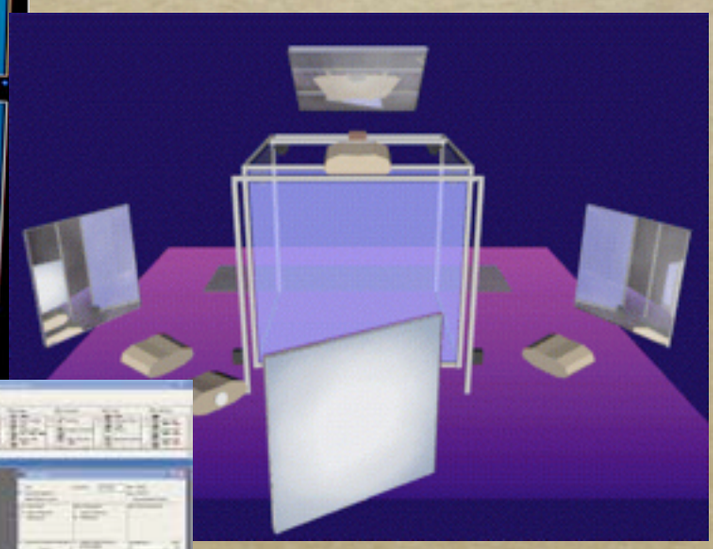
Instructional & Lab Space

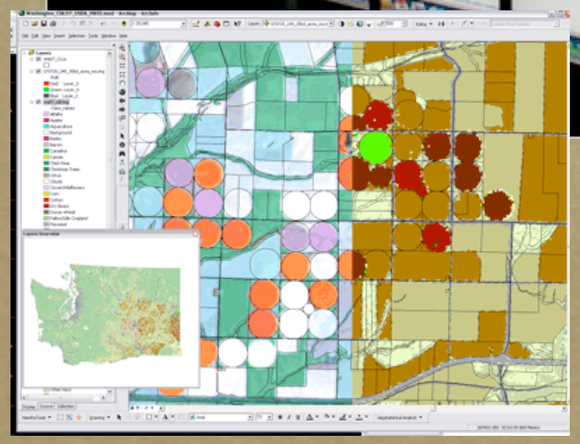
A Space Specifically for Faculty

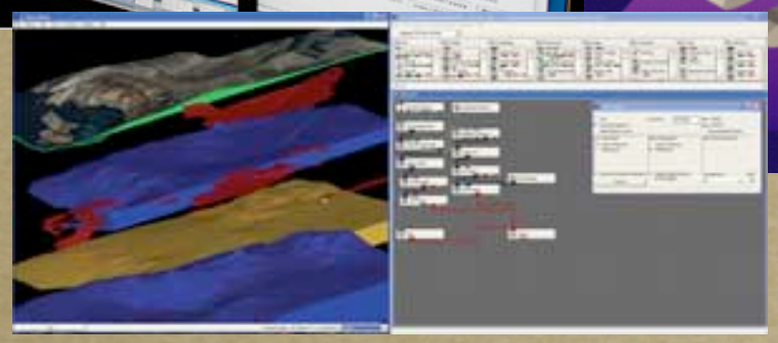
- *... & graduate students*
- *needed ...*
- *technology*
- *flexible layout*
- *defined purpose*
- *users*

Dream Big



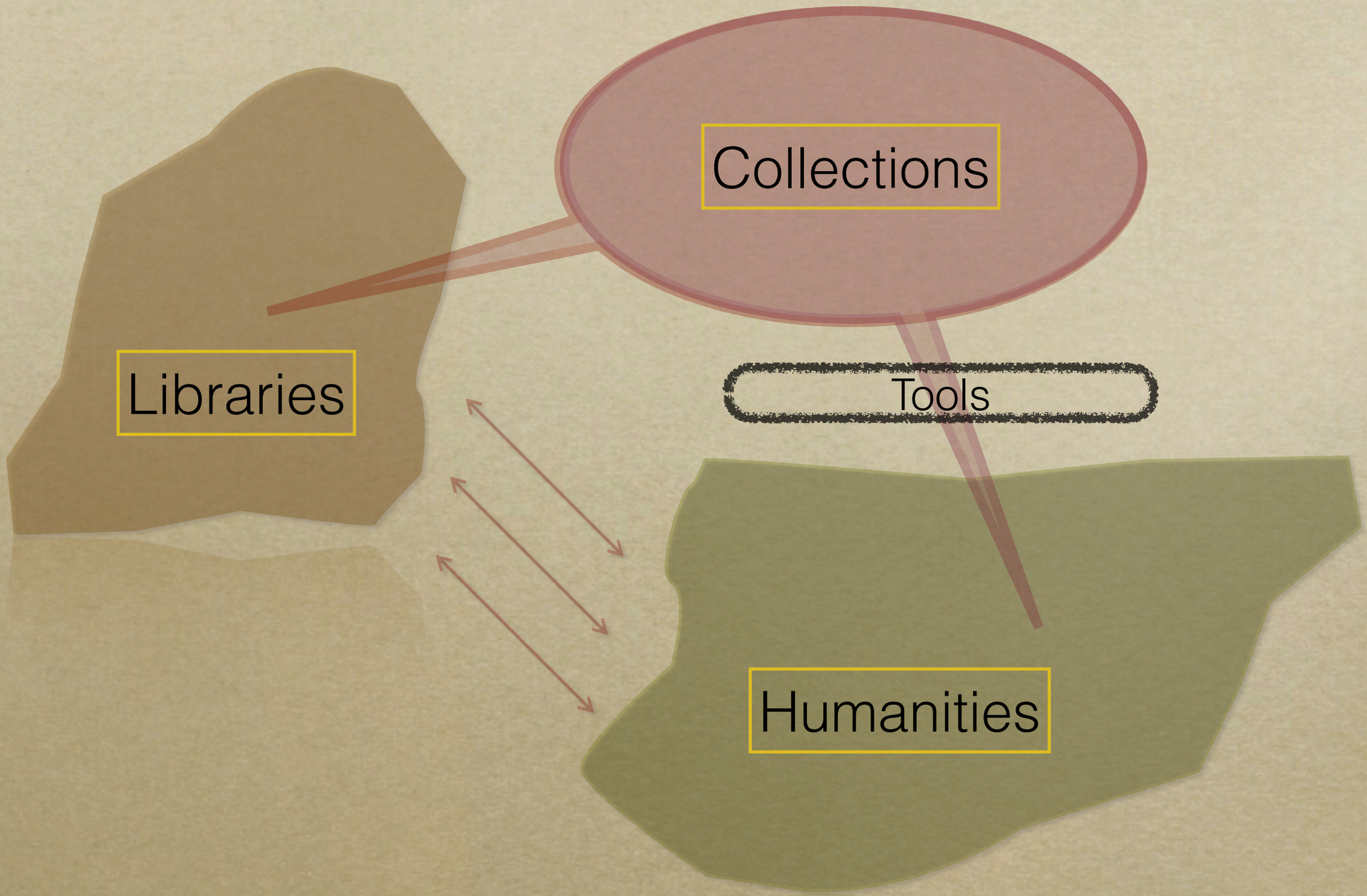




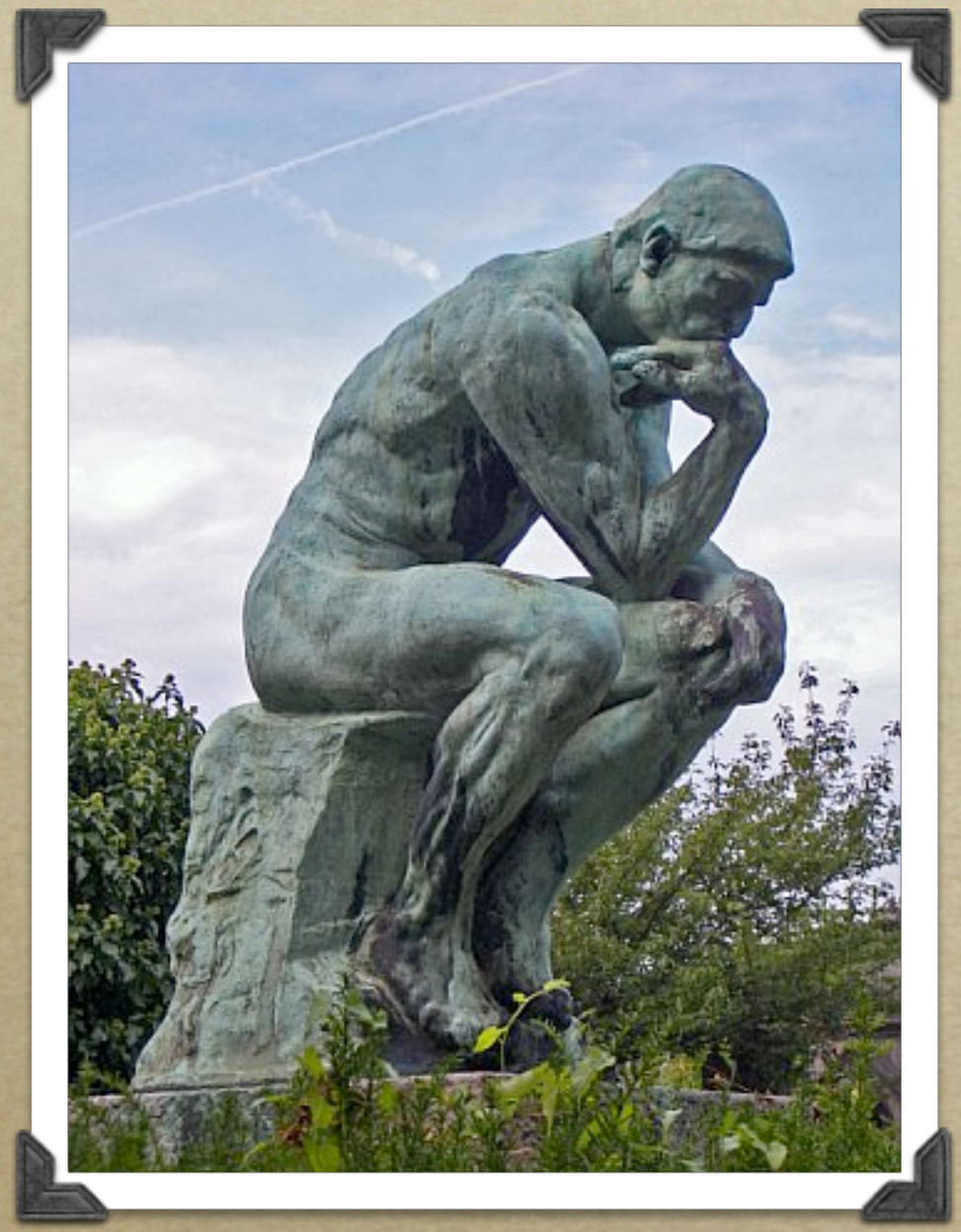


Then Focus

- *Gorgas = humanities & social sciences*
- *mix of technologies: proven & sandbox*
- *flexible & enhance-able*

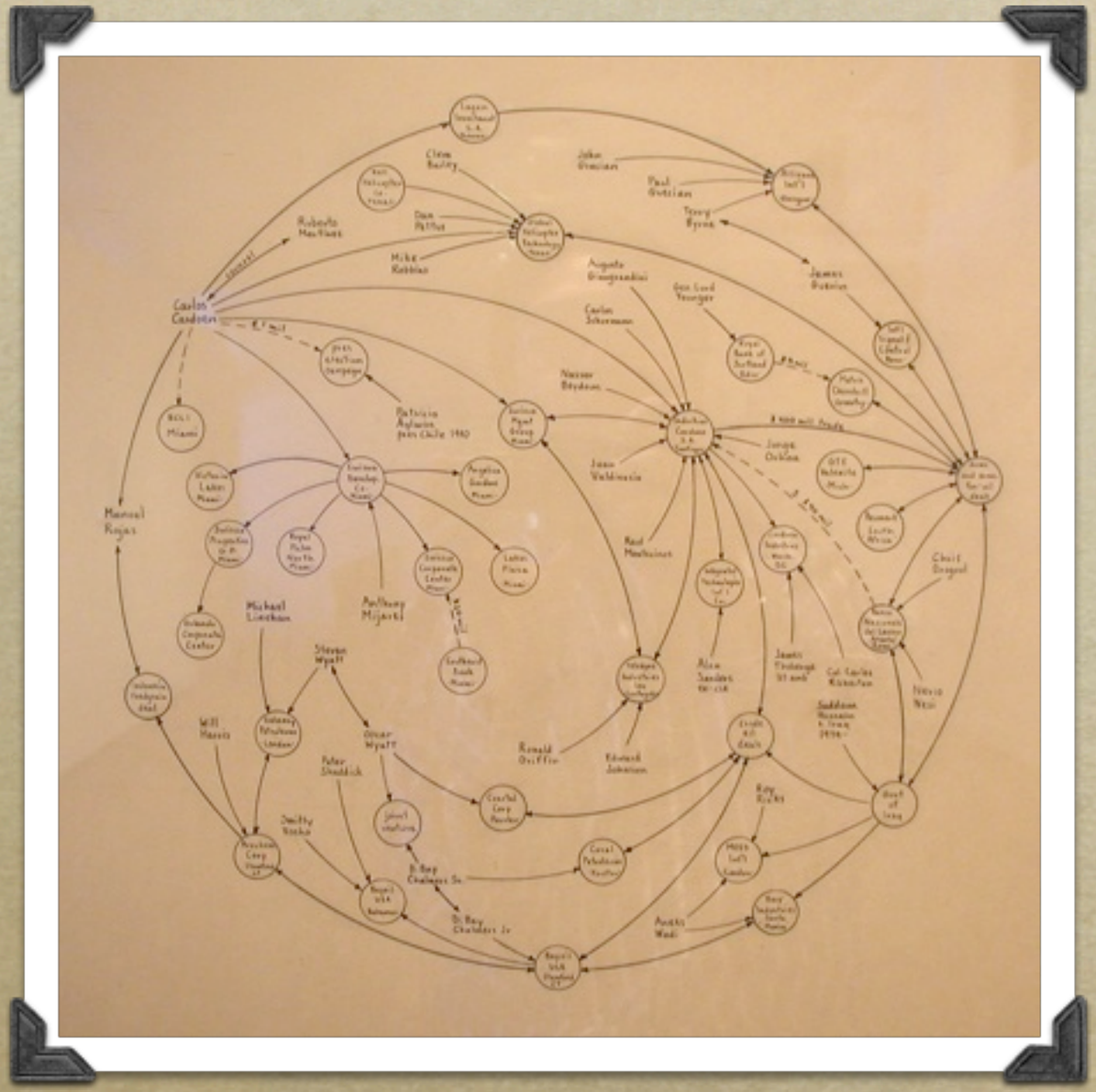

Collections
Libraries
Tools
Humanities

The Lone Scholar



http://www.connorgouge.com/?p=263

The Networked Scholar



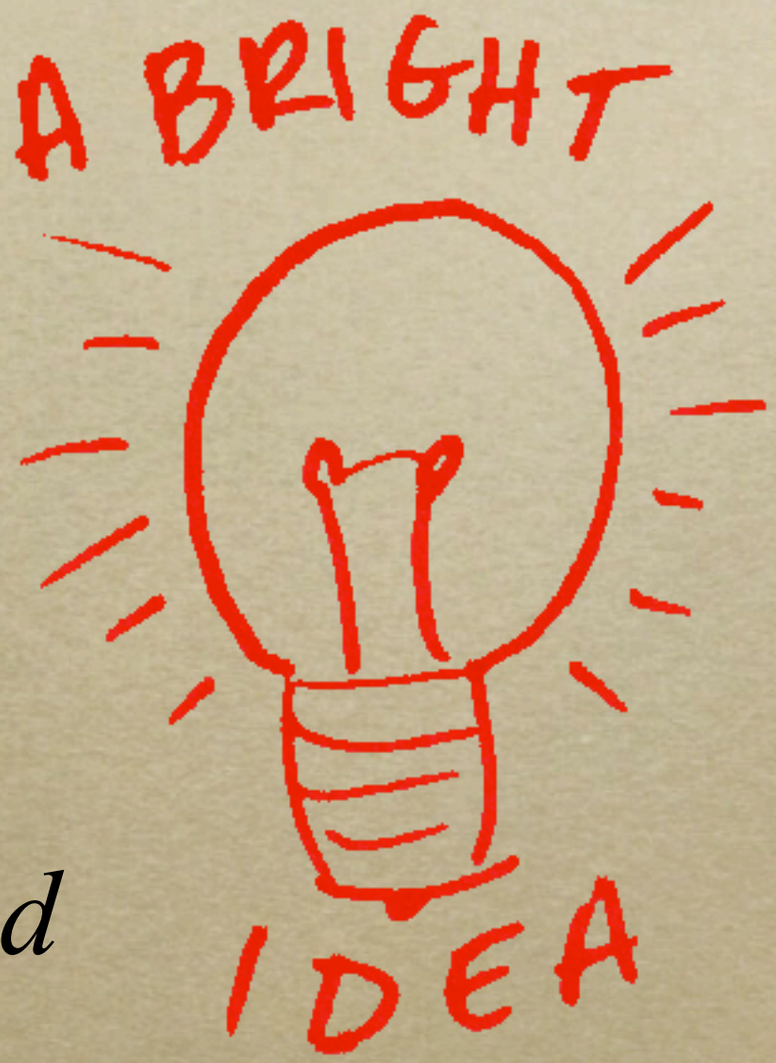
http://www.albany.edu/museum/wwwmuseum/work/lombardi/images/lombardi1.jpg

Need Conversation

- *all about process, not technology*
- *brown bag lunch discussions*

Learned...

- *time was right*
- *interest was high*
- *needs not being met*
- *desire to experiment*
- *skill sets needed, we had*



http://www.realestatecontentsystem.com/

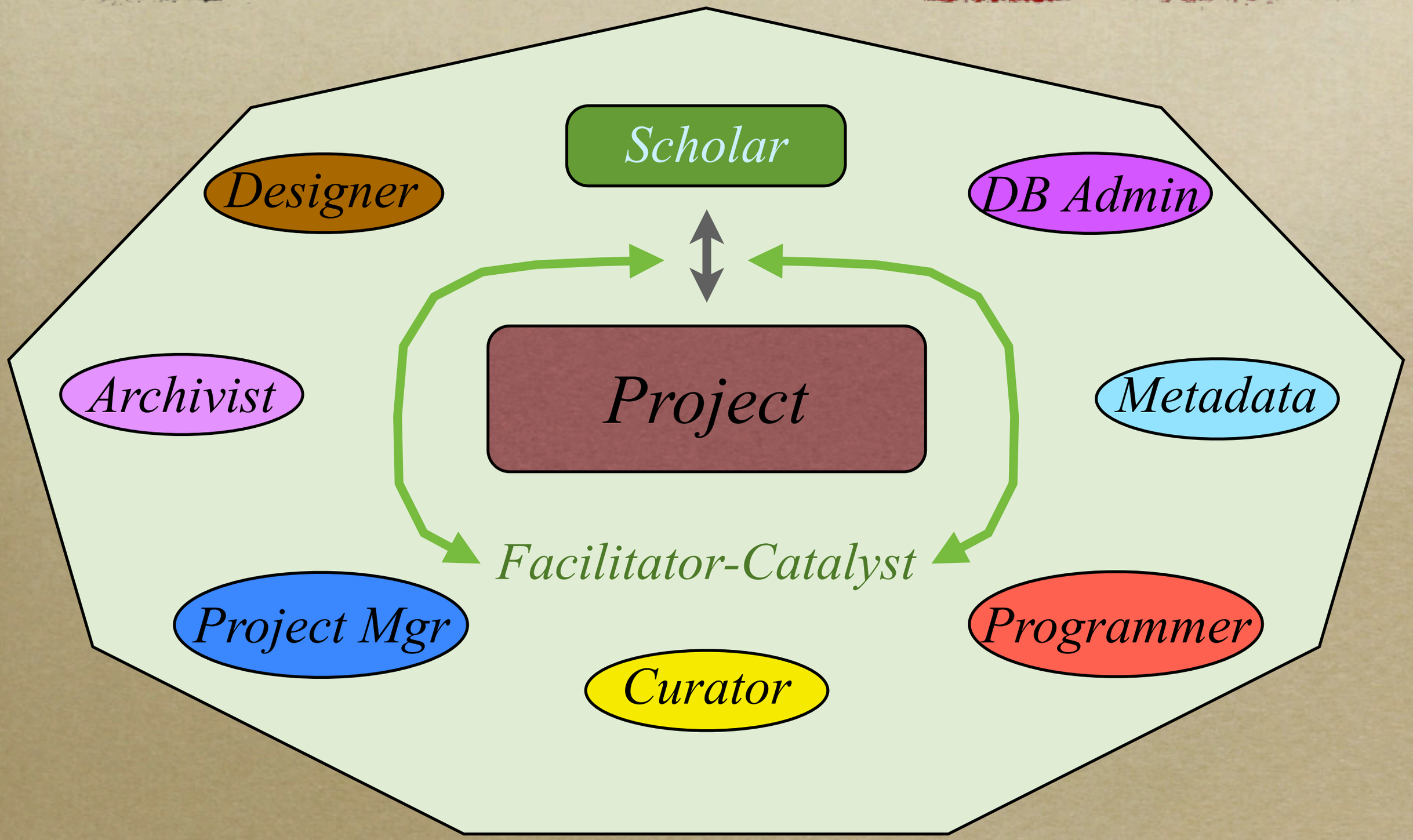
And best of all...

... we have enthusiasts and skeptics!

... we have old hands and newbies!

... we have tenured and tenure-track faculty!

Working Model



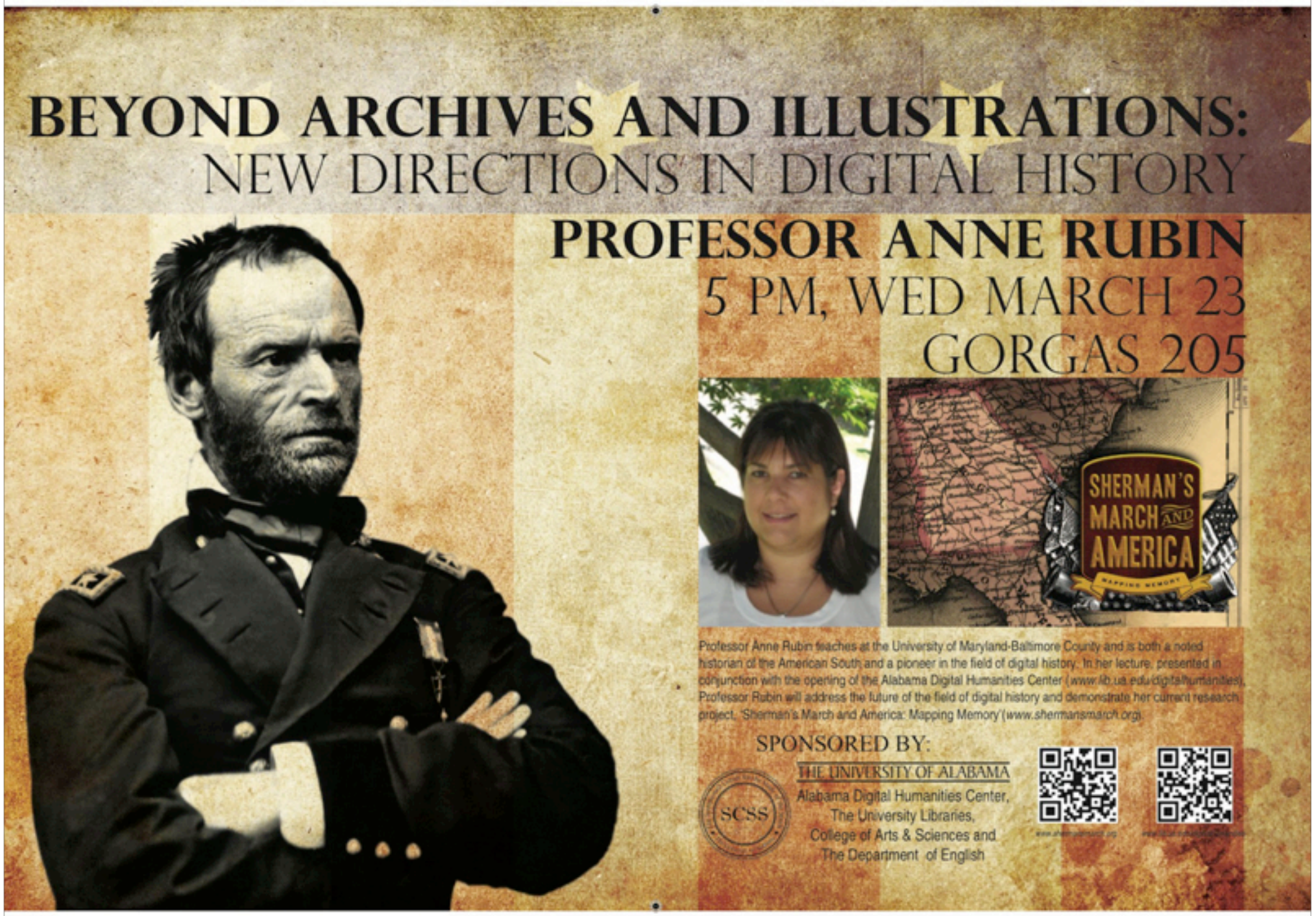
That is ...

There's no free lunch!

And so it happened...

Hidden Patterns of the Civil War
Save your work on an external drive.
THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
LIBRARIES

Welcome!



Bearing other fruit...

So what?

- *"The creation of the ADHC has been an **essential support to my teaching, research, and college service** this past year. As a teacher, I have greatly benefitted from being able to **offer a new course** "Introduction to Digital Humanities" in conjunction with the opening of the center.... I have been looking for **like-minded colleagues and for institutional support for digital research in the humanities** and am pleased to have found it in the ADHC.... I look forward to how this center may further **foster teaching and scholarship at UA**."*
- *David Michelson, History Department, UA*

So what?

- *"[The ADHC] has **substantially advanced my digital humanities research agenda**. Participating in the working group to create the center put me in touch with other scholars across campus, resulting in **several fruitful discussions about both research and teaching**.... put me in touch with **library staff whose technological knowledge has helped get my project off the ground**.... The center itself provides essential software needed to code my project and a **space specifically conceived for collaborative work** where my graduate research assistant and I can visualize together the project's design."*
- *Jennifer Drouin, English Department, UA*

Alabama Digital Humanities Center

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