Humanities for STEM: Getting a grant, creating a research collaborative, and organizing a symposium around STEM archives
Humanities for STEM: Using Archives to Bridge the Two Cultures

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Humanities for STEM focuses on how the study of primary sources, archival research, and associated methodologies of the humanities can be used to enhance the understanding of science, technology, engineering, and medicine. This collaborative will explore the ways in which archives and special collections can support scholarship and education in the sciences, discuss the ways in which scholars in the sciences and humanities use archival collections, and expose scholars to STEM related archives, with a particular focus on collections at NYU and the NYC area. This group of scientists, humanists, archivists, and graduate students will discuss topics relating to archival outreach and access, integration of archival research into STEM education, the role of STEM collections in scholarly research, and new approaches to bridging gaps between the sciences and humanities through the use of archives.
The Grant

- NYU’s Center for the Humanities
- 10k over 2 years
- Submitted proposal with budget, 2 year plan, and outcomes, letters of support, and a list of interdisciplinary faculty and students
Creating the research collaborative
The Research Collaborative

- Interdisciplinary group of about 20 faculty, librarians, archivists, and grad students
- Mostly NYU, but external too
- Opened up each year for new applicants (some members stayed for 2 years)
Topical Meetings

- Faculty/archivist collaboration
- Diversity, inclusion, and social justice
- Disappearing data & activist archivists
- Kick-off and year-end receptions featuring archivist and faculty STEM archives projects
- In year 2 most meetings were Symposium planning meetings
Tours of STEM Archives

• Columbia Health Sciences
• NYC Transit Museum
• NYU Medical
• Stevens Institute of Technology
• New York Academy of Medicine
• NYU University Archives
• American Museum of Natural History
Organizing a symposium
The Symposium

- Circulated the CFP 1 year in advance
- 19 papers were accepted
- Invited archivists who hosted us for tours to present archival materials
Logistics

- Conference room for 70 people on my campus—free!
- Location in Downtown Brooklyn meant > 5 hotels within blocks
- Created 2 committees: Organizing and Programming
- Updated our Wordpress blog with info for presenters and sent monthly emails
Hosting

- Meet face-to-face
- Initiate/maintain national discussions around STEM archives
- It is possible!
After the symposium
Conference Proceedings

- Published on the Open Science Framework (osf.io)
- Papers can be submitted to SocArXiv
- A change in our publishing plan, but happy to support open access!
# Humanities for STEM Symposium

Brooklyn, New York, USA | Apr 06, 2018 - Apr 07, 2018

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Definitions across the Disciplines: Surveying Primary Sources in the Classroom

Christopher Leslie, Lindsay Anderberg, Zakiya Collier
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Abstract

In C.P. Snow's The Two Cultures (1959) the divide between scientists and humanists is described as both practical and cultural. That is, scientists and humanists not only perform different jobs, but they also understand the world differently. Humanities for STEM: Using Archives to Bridge the Two Cultures Divide, a two-year research collaborative ...

See more

Paper DOI
Humanities for STEM: Using Archives to Bridge the Two Cultures Divide

Two-Year Research Collaborative from the NYU Center for the Humanities

wp.nyu.edu/archives_collaborative/
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