Supporting the Digital Projects of Law School Faculty

Case Studies from Boston College Law School
Supporting Faculty Digital Projects

• Faculty with digital projects often need support
• Different projects have different needs:
  – Infrastructure / website development
  – Advice
  – Preservation of existing projects
• Library may take a collaborative role on certain projects, only advise on others
The Snail Darter and the Dam

http://lawdigitalcommons.bc.edu/darter/

- Faculty monograph about a landmark environmental law case
- The text of the monograph references numerous online resources
- But the resources weren’t online yet!
Collaborative Workflow

Faculty member’s student research assistants scan needed materials

Library staff create metadata and upload to Digital Commons

THE SNAIL DARTER AND THE DAM
Other Formats

• Video of related events
• Images
  – Including over 100 scans of 1970s photographs taken by individuals involved with the case
  – Library staff produced color-corrected versions of 57 photos due to fading of blue dyes in the original photos

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas Meets With Members of the Cherokee Nation Near the Little Tennessee River, http://lawdigitalcommons.bc.edu/darter_graphics/139/
Other Projects and Consultations

• Websites for other faculty books
• Website harvesting for empirical research
• Preservation of faculty-created databases
• New online database projects
• Websites for advocacy groups
Lessons Learned

• Projects evolve
• Be prepared to collaborate
• Pay attention to how digital humanities projects are supported at your university (or other universities!)
  – Don’t worry whether or not your faculty’s projects would “count” as digital humanities
• The fulfillment of research desires yet unknown, un-expressed”
  – Bethany Nowviskie, University of Virginia Library
  – http://nowviskie.org/2014/asking-for-it/