

Amanda French

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Summary

I am an experienced digital project director, supervisor, grant writer, community manager, and product manager; a knowledgeable expert in digital humanities, scholarly communication, Open Access, crowdsourcing, and Agile software development processes; a popular teacher of digital skills; and, all in all, a fun and effective colleague.

Experience

Community Lead, [The COVID Tracking Project](#) (2020-present)

- Created and managed volunteer recruitment and onboarding processes and orientation documents for a high-profile volunteer-led COVID-19 crisis data collection and publication effort
- Supported over 900 volunteers over the course of the project with an average of 300 weekly active users
- Developed training materials and conducted training sessions for dozens of volunteers on the core testing and outcomes data entry team
- Collected testing, outcomes, and hospitalization data from state COVID-19 data dashboards on more than 160 daily shifts of 3-4 hours each, often as Shift Lead in charge of 6-12 data entry volunteers
- Administered G Suite, Slack, 1Password, and other systems for volunteers and contractors
- Managed the effort to reply to messages and data issues from the public using the Front app; designed and helped build and revise contact forms
- Maintained the FAQ and contributed to the writing and revision of other website content

Director, Resilient Networks for Inclusive Digital Humanities, [George Washington University Libraries and Academic Innovation](#) (2017-2018)

- Managed a project to create a cross-institutional digital humanities support network and training program
- Administered \$500,000 [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant](#) to George Washington University Libraries and Academic Innovation, including sub-awards to Davidson College, Prairie View A&M University, and Rice University
- Organized team meetings and unconferences
- Oversaw programs to award funds
- Developed project website
- Initiated and coordinated conference presentations
- Planned digital curriculum development

Director, Digital Research Services, [University Libraries](#), Virginia Tech (2015-2017)

- Managed the institutional repository, [VTechWorks](#)
- Implemented Scrum for the repository team

- Managed the integration of Symplectic Elements with DSpace
- Worked to build digital humanities infrastructure in the library
- Oversaw the creation of digital imaging and preservation services
- Led and coordinated workshops, playdates, transcriptions, and other events
- Supervised 6-8 librarians, developers, staff members, and students
- Developed and managed annual department budgets up to \$70,000
- Evaluated software and hardware purchases
- Wrote job descriptions and hired for several positions at various levels
- Contributed to several internal grant proposals and co-wrote NEH grant proposal with Dr. Ed Gitre for the crowdsourced transcription project “The American Soldier”
- Participated in the IT Governance group, the Library Council, the Web Advisory Group, and the Open Knowledge Committee
- Wrote and published articles and gave presentations
- Participated in national and international initiatives such as SHared Access to REsearch (SHARE) and the Digital Library Federation (DLF) Program Committee

THATCamp Coordinator / Research Assistant Professor, [Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media](#), [George Mason University](#) (2010-2014)

- Directed influential digital humanities scholarly communication project, creating and managing policy, technical, and administrative infrastructure for [THATCamp \(The Humanities and Technology Camp\)](#), an international scholarly unconference network of more than 200 events
- Wrote grant reports and grant proposals for two \$250,000 awards from the Mellon Foundation and raised additional funds
- Directed a comprehensive website redevelopment and redesign process with two subcontractors
- Supervised two part-time assistants
- Administered three fellowship programs that awarded more than 130 fellowships, including creating a review process and appointing two dozen scholars as fellowship reviewers
- Wrote support and policy documents for unconference website
- Traveled to more than thirty unconferences in the U.S. and Europe to teach digital skills workshops and help run the events
- Supported unconference organizers and representatives of at least a dozen scholarly associations; thrice organized a popular annual digital humanities event (THATCamp CHNM) attended by about 150 people each year; and promoted THATCamp in social media and at scholarly meetings.

Digital Curriculum Specialist / Assistant Research Scholar, [Archives and Public History M.A. Program](#), [New York University](#) (2008-2010)

- Revised curriculum of Archives and Public History M.A. program to incorporate digital skills
- Created and taught workshops and classes in subjects such as HTML, CSS, and Zotero
- Obtained server space for student projects
- Installed and administered Omeka archive and exhibit system
- Designed and co-taught the course “Creating Digital History”
- Helped arrange digital internships for graduate students
- Built project websites in Drupal and WordPress and tracked and reported on website traffic

Visiting Assistant Professor, [North Carolina State University](#) (2006-2007)

- Developed technology-rich courses making use of blogs, wikis, and digital research tools
- Taught English graduate courses (Bibliography and Methodology, Victorian Poetry)
- Taught English undergraduate courses (History of English Literature II, The Victorian Period)
- Taught Honors seminars (Advanced Academic Research, Literary Scandals and Controversies)

CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow, [North Carolina State University Libraries](#) (2004-2006)

- Managed the [North Carolina Sociolinguistic Archive and Analysis Project \(NCSLAAP\)](#)

- Conducted usability tests on the Libraries' website
- Co-taught an undergraduate honors seminar on academic research skills and issues
- Served on library committees including the Website Redesign Steering Committee
- Analyzed web traffic using Urchin analytics.

Projects

Grant Co-writer and Advisory Board member, NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources project "[The American Soldier in World War II](#)," 2018-present.

Grant Co-writer and Community Manager, NEH Chairman's Grant project [Frankenreads](#), 2016-2019.

Grant Co-writer and Co-Principal Investigator (converted to Advisory Board), NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources project "[The American Soldier: A Collaborative Digital Archive](#)," 2016-2018.

Project Lead, "[Steepletop Library: The Books of Edna St. Vincent Millay](#)," since 2011.

Advisory Board member, "[The People, Places, and Things of Montgomery County, Virginia](#)," NEH Preservation and Access project, Virginia Tech, 2016.

Grant Co-writer, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation project "[Connected Academics: Preparing Doctoral Students of Language and Literature for a Variety of Careers](#)," 2014.

Facilitator, [Arthur Vining Davis Digital Humanities Summer Faculty Workshop](#), Northwestern University, August 2013, August 2014.

Instructor, Omeka workshops: University of Colorado at Boulder, July 2014; Muhlenberg College, October 2013; many THATCamps. "[Intro to Omeka](#)" [lesson plan](#), Editors' Choice, *Digital Humanities Now*, November 2013.

Participant or Co-facilitator, [Book Sprints](#): LabCraft, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, May 2014; Book Sprint on Book Sprints, Berlin, Germany, May 2014; Public Library of Science, San Francisco, CA, February 2014; [Google Doc Camp](#), Mountain View, CA, October 2013.

Principal Investigator, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded project, "[Sustaining Digital Humanities Training Through THATCamp](#)," 2013-2014.

Selected Invited Talks

Keynote, [Chesapeake Digital Humanities Consortium](#), February 2021 (forthcoming).

Short remarks, [ODH at Ten](#), National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC, February 2018.

Panel remarks, "Evaluating Digital Scholarship," panel discussion, Digital Humanities Initiative, Texas A&M, College Station, TX, April 2016.

Panel remarks, "Libraries, the Digital Humanities, and Organizational Change," Dartmouth College Library, October 2014.

Panel remarks, [Global MOOCs](#), GABFest MOOCs, Charlottesville, VA, November 2013.

"[On Projects, and THATCamp](#)," keynote, Digital Humanities Project Directors Meeting, National Endowment for the Humanities, October 2013. (Event canceled due to government shutdown.)

"'Why Not Invent Human Intercourse?': Scholarly Conversations at THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp)," Freedman Center Colloquium: Exploring Collaboration in Digital Scholarship, Case Western University, Cleveland, OH, April 2013.

“Visual Arguments in the Digital Humanities,” Visualizing the Digital: Design, Ideas, and Platforms, panel, Digital Pragmata, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, March 2013.

Panel remarks, “New Roles, New Expertise, New Hiring Practices,” ARL-ACRL Human Resources Symposium, Washington, DC, November 2012.

“Alexandria is a Port: The Digital Library in Physical Space,” response to John Palfrey at the Fredric M. Miller Memorial Lecture, Philadelphia, PA, May 2012.

“Aubade: The Soul and Body of a Library,” Digital Public Library of America plenary meeting, Washington, DC, October 2011.

“Imagine a National Digital Library: I Wonder If We Can,” keynote, Electronic Resources and Libraries, Austin, TX, March 2011.

Co-host of Digital Campus podcast, <http://digitalcampus.tv>, October 2010 to December 2015.

Selected Other Talks

Co-instructor, “Jumpstarting Digital Humanities Projects,” workshop, Digital Humanities 2018, Mexico City, June 2018.

Co-presenter, “Resilient Networks for Inclusive Digital Humanities,” Digital Humanities 2017, Montréal, Canada, August 2017.

“Millay and Her Books,” [Things My Computer Taught Me About Poems](#) (panel organizer), special session, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, January 2014.

“Introduction to Omeka,” Two Tools for Student-Generated Digital Projects: WordPress and Omeka in the Classroom, special session, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA, January 2013.

Panel remarks, Large Digital Libraries: Beyond Google Books, special session, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, January 2012.

“Your Twitter Followers and Facebook Friends Won’t Read Your Peer-Reviewed Article If They Have to Pay for It, and Neither Will Strangers,” The Open Professoriate on the Social Web, special session, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011.

Selected Writings

French, Amanda and Quang P. Nguyen, “The ‘Good’ Metric is Pretty Bad: Why It’s Hard to Count the People Who Have Recovered from COVID-19,” The COVID Tracking Project Analysis & Updates, 2021-01-13. Adapted as “We Don’t Know How Many People Have Recovered From COVID-19,” *The Atlantic*, 2021-01-14.

French, Amanda et al., “How We Went from Worst Practices to Best Practices, and Became Happier in the Process,” *code4lib Journal* 32, 2016-04-25.

French, Amanda. “My Scandalous Future in Libraries.” Re:Thinking Blog, Council on Library and Information Resources, 2015-07-07.

Fitzpatrick, Kathleen et al., “Voices: Twitter at Conferences,” edited contribution in *Hacking the Academy: A Book Crowdsourced in One Week*, eds. Dan Cohen and Tom Scheinfeldt, University of Michigan Press, 2013.

“Knowledge Under Pressure,” review of *Too Big to Know* by David Weinberger, *Journal of Interactive Technology & Pedagogy* September 2012.

Watson, Amanda, Amanda French, Patricia Hswe, and Christa Williford, “Of Hybrarians, Scholar-Librarians, Academic Refugees, and Feral Professionals,” in *#Alt-Academy: Alternate Academic Careers for Humanities Scholars*, ed. Bethany Nowviskie, MediaCommons 2011.

Professional Service

Review Board, [The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy](#), 2012-present.

Editorial Board, [Archive Journal](#), 2011-present.

Reviewer, [Digital Humanities](#) conference, 2009-present.

Advisory Board, [CORE Open Access Repository](#), 2015-2017.

Grant Proposal Reviewer, [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), 2016.

Program Committee, [Digital Library Federation Fall Forum](#), 2010, 2016.

Outreach Working Group, National Digital Stewardship Alliance, 2011-2013.

Advisory Board, [Drexel University Legacy Center Digital History Toolkit](#), 2010-2012.

Grant Proposal Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, [Office of Digital Humanities](#), 2009.

Professional Memberships

[Modern Language Association](#)

[Association for Computers and the Humanities](#)

Languages and Skills

PHP, (X)HTML, CSS; TEI, SGML, XML.

UNIX, Linux, Mac, Windows; emacs, nano, vim, regex, Markdown; git, [GitHub](#).

Contentful, WordPress, Omeka, MediaWiki, DSpace, Scalar, OJS, some Drupal.

Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, Audacity, GarageBand, iMovie, Peak, Morae, Camstudio.

Blackboard, Moodle, Sakai, Zotero, EndNote, research databases.

Jira, Basecamp, Trello, Slack, Skype, WebEx, Zoom.

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google Docs, Open Office, iLife.

Spoken and written French; some German, Spanish.

Education

Ph.D., English, U of Virginia.

M.A., English, concentration in Women’s Studies, U of Virginia.

B.A., English, *cum laude* English, *cum laude* Arts and Sciences, U of Colorado at Boulder.