KEY

Every weft yarn represents one Slack message (regardless of length).

The yarn color (mostly) corresponds to job title of the message sender.

Weft tracks replies to a message, before moving on to the next message.

Bright spring green yarn indicates a month boundary.

The whole warp is purple because this was Quinn's first rigid heddle loom weaving, before discovering that warp color actually matters. But it works well enough, matching to the color for our boss.

ABOUT

This weaving documents and celebrates four months (August - November 2022) in the life of the Center for Interdisciplinary Digital Research (CIDR), a group within Stanford Libraries' Research Data Services (RDS) group.

CIDR had been through a lot around the time period that this weaving captures. In 2021, it was moved from the humanities group within the Libraries into the newly-formed RDS.

In August 2022, the new Associate University Librarian for RDS started, along with a new Academic Technology Specialist (ATS) in History.

This weaving captures the conversations over the following months, through November 2022, in the #cidr-coeur channel on Slack.

#CIDR-COEUR

Quinn Dombrowski

INSPIRED?

Consider enrolling in DLCL 203: Data Visualization with Textiles (1-3 units) for spring quarter

In this independent study course (i.e. you come by at a time that works for you), you'll spend time at the Textile Makerspace learning the basics of different textile methods, as well as how to translate data into something you can weave, knit, crochet, sew, embroider, etc.

You can also check out a rigid heddle loom like the one used to create this piece from the Terman Maker Bar: https://guides.library.stanford.edu/makerbar

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Purple
The Boss Vijoy

If you had asked me to describe how my group communicates before I tried weaving it, I would have just shrugged.

After weaving it, I realized that the clearest pattern in our discourse is that Vijoy really likes making announcements. A lot of conversations are kicked off by his multi-message announcement threads.

Black
Digital Humanities Developers (2x)

Work with faculty on year-long "Lighthouse Projects" (metaphorical lighthouses, no actual architecture involved to date), teach workshops, and generally know the answer to things. The devs fix the more gnarly messes ATSes (or other folks who find their way to their door) end up in.

Turquoise
Academic Technology Specialists (3x)

What does an academic technology specialist do? I get this a lot. It's fair enough that I get asked for the copier code or to fix the overhead projector; those are academic technologies, right? I do not specialize in those.

Basically, we do digital humanities / digital scholarship support, defined very broadly. It's a split position between the library and a department or program, and all our departments / programs have different needs and expectations. I've decided a Textile Makerspace is infrastructure my department needs for digital humanities, so I run that -- along with teaching, building corpora and databases, teaching classes on digital humanities.

Of the four ATSes, one never uses Slack. The rest of us are kinda chatty.

Light Blue
Data Curator Econ Librarian

Quiet (especially on Slack), but often chime in at key moments. What they do is less flashy and visible but fundamental to the library working for a lot of people.

Dark Blue
SSDS Lead

Software and Services for Data Science used to be Social Science Data and Software, which conveniently resolved to the same acronym.

It runs workshops and a program with grad student consultants. Its lead at the time of this weaving was increasingly frustrated and eventually left.
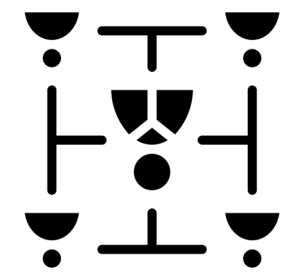
In Conclusion

Since making this, I've thought about doing similar weavings for other organizational Slack channels I'm in, but I've always decided against it after looking at the data.

One thing I got out of weaving our Slack messages was a sense that CIDR is acually quite functional as a group. Information gets passed vertically in both directions. If someone posts a question, they'll get an answer. Problems get solved. We *talk to each other* and sometimes share funny things. There aren't meetings for their own sake, but despite our different jobs, we're not just floating isolated in our own corners.

It made me happy to be working in the group that I am, which isn't something to take for granted.