

ASSOCIATION
of UNIVERSITY
PRESSES



How University Presses Are Learning to Serve Their Digital Humanist Authors

Peter Berkery | February 2019

OVERVIEW



- **A (very) brief history of DH in UP'dom**
- **Four Marquee Projects:**
 - **Rotunda (University of Virginia Press)**
 - **Manifold (University of Minnesota Press)**
 - **Fulcrum (University of Michigan Press & Libraries)**
 - **.supDigital (Stanford University Press)**
- **Recap: Lessons Learned and the Path Forward**



ROTUNDA AS A HISTORY LESSON

- **Founded in 2001 to-apply traditional UP strengths to research emerging from DH centers; bring UP imprimatur and recognition to gain credit for work**
- **Boutique projects didn't have scale libraries were looking for ... evolved into the Founding Fathers documentary editions**
- **grew again to literature & culture collections:**
 - **Dickinson Melville comparative ms editions**
 - **and again to The Digital Temple**

ROTUNDA TODAY



- **Tension persists between DH as digital affordances and DH as R&D (e.g., NLS, word frequency analysis, data manipulation)**
- **Sustainability issues persist for boutique projects**
- **Customers want scalability: perpetual license for what looks like content and small annual hosting fee for platform (hosting, enhancements, browser compatibility)**
- **New projects will incrementally expand Rotunda's capabilities without compromising the Press' core values**



MANIFOLD

A DIY web-based publishing platform for scholarly publishers, university departments, and scholarly groups (i.e. DH centers, societies, etc)

A Manifold project is composed of three parts:

- 1) the base layer—the epub file or Google doc that a publisher uploads**
- 2) Resources—the media and other texts that an author and editor will add to a project**
- 3) reader interaction: comments, highlights, et cetera**

Some fee-based services for those who do not want to DIY. Early experience is: a lot of groups don't want to DIY, even when it's free ͇_(ツ)_/͇

FULCRUM



A digital publishing platform and set of publishing services that is committed to publishing scholarship in a flexible, durable, discoverable, and accessible form.

- **Flexible: connects to other open source tools and is responsive to the changing needs of digital scholars**
- **Durable: Built on research library infrastructure, trusted steward committed to preservation and stability**
- **Discoverable: Interoperable with other publishing tools and integrated into the information supply chain**
- **Accessible: Dedicated to inclusive services and content for all readers**

.SUPDIGITAL



- **Attempting something transformative at the research level: applying the rigors of traditional university press publishing to born-digital scholarship:**
 - **create a digital object that presents, explains, and displays their research**
 - **once an over-arching argument is embedded, the press can peer review and thus validate the work**
- **Thus far, .supDigital has developed standards for presentation, metadata, a hosting platform, and archiving capabilities**



LESSONS LEARNED AND THE PATH FORWARD

- **Standards vs Flexibility**
- **Sustainability**
- **Peer Review**
- **DIY has limited appeal (so far)**
- **Are there still definitional issues surrounding “Digital Humanities”?**

“ “ The goal is not to publish a book in digital form. The goal is to publish digital scholarship in its native form. That means embedding the scholarly argument within the digital object. ” ”

Alan Harvey, Director, Stanford University Press