

# Harnessing Resources to Support DH

Ashley Sanders, Ph.D.

Director of the Claremont Colleges Digital Research Studio

[bit.ly/SupportDH](https://bit.ly/SupportDH)



Who are (or might be!) your campus CHAMPIONS?

---

---



Where is your physical "HOME" on campus?

---

---



What RESOURCES do you have? Where is your funding coming from? How might you increase buy-in on your campus?

---

---



What is your VISION?

---

---

---



What KNOWLEDGE do current faculty, librarians and staff possess?

---

---



Who are your EXPERTS?

---

---

Contact Ashley at [Ashley\\_Sanders@cuc.claremont.edu](mailto:Ashley_Sanders@cuc.claremont.edu)  
for **consultations** or **strategic planning workshops**.



# Harnessing Resources to Support DH

Ashley Sanders, Ph.D.

Director of the Claremont Colleges Digital Research Studio

[bit.ly/SupportDH](http://bit.ly/SupportDH)

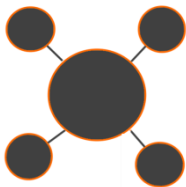
**Centralized DH Center:** This model works well at institutions of all sizes with appropriate staffing. Centralized DH centers often have faculty or staff members to support DH initiatives full time and are usually maintained by a specific school, division, or program, such as the library. **Advantages:**



- Ease of entry for new practitioners
- Accessibility
- Greater awareness of all DH initiatives on campus
- Cohesive training opportunities and programs
- Coordination of external application efforts

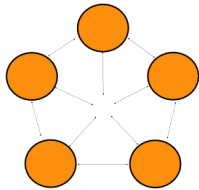
**Hub & Spoke Model:** In this model, knowledge, expertise, personnel, and services are embedded in academic departments, interdisciplinary units, libraries, or other service points around campus. This model may be ideally suited to small campuses and/or campuses that cannot afford to hire faculty and staff dedicated to support DH full time.

**Advantages:**



- Growth happens organically
  - Services and expertise develop where and when they are needed
  - Takes advantage of existing infrastructure, and knowledge
- To avoid confusion, it may be helpful to create a centralized digital presence that links out to the various “spokes” around the campus.

**Mesh Network:** In this model, no one unit is dominant. Each unit that supports DH work pools knowledge to create a linked network of service providers. It is not as cohesive as the centralized model, however, each unit can specialize in what it does best. **Advantages:**



- Deep knowledge and expertise within each unit
- Redundancy and opportunities for enhanced collaboration
- Researchers’ needs are often met locally in their home departments

This model works at institutions of all sizes, but larger institutions will need to provide some oversight to avoid excessive redundancy and assist DH practitioners to identify relevant units or service points.

**Consortium Model:** This model leverages resources, interest, and support across multiple institutions. These partnerships generally arise on an ad hoc basis as DH practitioners seek a larger community of practice and then formalize the relationships that provide spaces to share ideas, learn and teach new skills, and identify project collaborators. **Advantages:**



- Rich intellectual diversity
- Stimulating collaborative spaces
- Responsibilities are divided according to individual resources, interests, and capabilities

For more information about these models and a capacity building framework for developing institutional support for DH, see the forthcoming ECAR/CNI guide “[Building Capacity for Digital Humanities: A Framework for Institutional Planning.](#)”