Digital Scholarship
needs assessment

• target population

Graduate students and faculty in the humanities and social sciences working on or interested in digital scholarship

graduate students—makers	graduate students—teachers
Create projects based on thesis or dissertation work.	Incorporate digital projects in their teaching and research.
junior faculty—makers	junior faculty—teachers
Working on projects that often are on hold until they achieve tenure.	Incorporate digital projects into their teaching and research.
tenured faculty—makers	tenured faculty—teachers
Lead digital projects, usually with the help of their students and colleagues.	Incorporate digital projects into their teaching and research.

• home institution

The University of Washington Libraries is seen by faculty and students as a leader on campus and a natural home for digital initiatives. Many different programs have been hosted at the libraries in the past. In moving toward future initiatives, the libraries need to understand user needs to develop effective programming.

• preliminary results

Analysis based on interviews and focus groups indicates several important features of future programming.

➜ **Centralize digital scholarship support**
Both faculty and students are looking for a centralized place for guidance on best practices and campus resources.

➜ **Keep institutions consistent**
Changes to departments and staffing destabilize project flows, especially for tenured faculty.

➜ **Build a digital scholarship community**
Digital scholars value collaboration from diverse experts. Building an active community is crucial to their endeavors.

➜ **Organize project matchmaking**
Those new to digital scholarship often find starting a new project intimidating. We should try matching new scholars to existing projects.

➜ **Front-load the academic year with programming**
Fall is the quarter both students and faculty are most likely to try a workshop or attend a new lecture series.

➜ **Dedicated space**
Creating a centralized, dedicated space for librarians and scholars to meet and work was frequently recommended.

➜ **Keep technology nimble and relevant**
Technological support of all kinds from the libraries should reflect the rapid pace at which this field moves.

➜ **Preservation, portability, and permissions**
The longevity of digital projects depends heavily on technical guidance and support. The libraries are specially positioned to coordinate this.

• future study

The role of undergraduates in digital scholarship was not part of this research. Undergraduates benefit from digitally-focused teaching and research opportunities.