

Grant Reporting Cover Sheet

Date of Submission	07/02/12
Legal Name of Grantee	George Mason University, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media
Project	
Project Title	Digital Methods Training at Scale: Leveraging THATCamp Through a Regional System
Reference Number	
Original Award Amount	\$264,000.00
Grant Balance	\$0.00
Interest Credited to Date	\$72.00
Award Period	04/01/2010-03/31/2012
Reporting Period	07/01/2011-06/30/2012
Principal Investigator(s) and Title(s)	
Name(s)	Tom Scheinfeldt, Managing Director and Research Assistant Professor
Email(s)	tom@foundhistory.org
<i>For Internal Use Only</i>	
<i>Date Received</i>	
<i>Date Reviewed</i>	
<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Pending</i>

Objectives

Ever since the first energizing and inspirational THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) was held at the Center for History and New Media in 2008, we have believed that its innovative and inexpensive “unconference” model would help humanities scholars acquire and improve digital skills that could be put to use in humanities scholarship, and, perhaps just as importantly, would help humanities scholars form strong intellectual networks where those skills could be practiced and refined over the course of many years. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s investment of \$260,000 enabled the creation of a decentralized infrastructure for THATCamp that has succeeded beyond our expectations, providing digital humanities training and professional development to thousands of humanities students and scholars at 49 THATCamps around the world during the award period alone, with dozens more THATCamps already planned for the future.

Deliverables and Accomplishments

THATCamp Regional Coordinator

Our original goal was to serve 1750 humanities scholars at 25 THATCamps over the course of two years; instead, Dr. French, the THATCamp Regional Coordinator, oversaw 49 THATCamps serving on average 70 participants apiece, meaning that (allowing for “THATCamp junkies” who go to as many THATCamps as they can) THATCamp has reached at least 3000 humanities scholars and related professionals during the grant period alone. A total of 109 THATCamps have happened or are currently registered, meaning that since its inception in 2008, THATCamp has served or will soon serve at least 6000 humanities students, faculty, or cultural heritage professionals. The thatcamp.org network currently has 3142 registered users. Ninety-five percent (95%) of surveyed THATCamp participants “strongly agree” (58%) or “agree” (37%) with the statement “Overall, I found the THATCamp useful” (see <http://j.mp/thatacampresults>). Dr. French has developed a workable infrastructure that invites scholars around the world to register and organize their own THATCamp, has provided ample support for THATCamp organizers and participants, has enthusiastically promoted and tirelessly explained THATCamp to the scholarly community, has thoughtfully worked to evaluate THATCamps and to maintain their quality, and has ably administered the whole project's various parts.

In the second half of the award period we began collecting additional data about THATCamp participants. Available data indicate that 35% percent of THATCamp attendees are women and

65% are men; that 80% of THATCamp attendees have never been to a THATCamp before while 20% have attended at least one THATCamp; and that at least 22% of attendees are faculty while at least 25% are graduate students and 11% are librarians. (Because this last statistic was arrived at through mining of a free-text field, which is a slightly uncertain method of analysis, these are minimum numbers rather than exact numbers; see

<http://chnm2012.thatcamp.org/06/11/some-thatcamper-stats/>) Although we would like to improve our ratio of women to men (said ratio will likely be significantly different at the upcoming THATCamp Feminisms), we are happy to verify that THATCamp is serving primarily graduate students and primarily those who have never been to a THATCamp and are thus probably relatively new to digital humanities.

THATCamp-in-a-box

With the WordPress code that we have implemented, adapted, and developed, THATCamp organizers are easily able to create a THATCamp website on the thatcamp.org network and to do such THATCamp-specific tasks as to accept registrations. Organizers also have access via thatcamp.org to extensive written advice about planning and running a THATCamp as well as to infrastructural elements such as a THATCamp Registry, a THATCamp Calendar, a THATCamp Map, and a THATCamp evaluation survey. All this comprises what we determined to build in our initial proposal: □ga comprehensive package of better instructions and technology resources for those interested in running a THATCamp.□h

BootCamp

The introduction of “BootCamp” workshops to the THATCamp model was one of the most important innovations brought about by Mellon's support. Most THATCamps currently choose to offer such workshops (38 out of the 49 THATCamps held during the award period offered workshops), and most instructors work on a volunteer basis to train THATCamp attendees in digital skills and tools. We did, as we had promised, develop a BootCamp curriculum (available at <http://thatcamp.org/plan/workshops/>), but we did decide early on to make such a curriculum significantly broader, more flexible, and more inclusive than we had imagined in our proposal. That has proved to be a very good decision, since it allows THATCamp organizers to offer workshops in diverse subjects and tools that were not dreamt of in our philosophy: “Intro to R: Open-Source Statistical Computing” (THATCamp Texas 2011); “Beyond Wildcards: Fundamentals of Regular Expressions” (THATCamp AHA 2012); “Social Network Analysis with Sylva” (Great Lakes THATCamp 2012); “Augmented Reality” (THATCamp MCN 2011); “Narrative Puzzles” (THATCamp Games 2012), and many, many more. This curricular flexibility allows THATCamp organizers to offer workshops that suit the particular interests of its participants, which is especially

important given the unanticipated emergence of many themed (rather than “regional” in the strict sense) THATCamps: THATCamp Games, THATCamp Pedagogy, THATCamp Liberal Arts Colleges, THATCamp National Council on Public History, and so on. The broad curriculum also makes it easier for THATCamp organizers to recruit volunteer instructors from among local experts and/or THATCamp participants. There is still a systemic need for more formalized and comprehensive programs of digital humanities education, but at THATCamp, because of the BootCamp program, humanities scholars can count on learning something interesting and useful. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of surveyed THATCamp participants “strongly agree” (48%) or “agree” (41%) with the statement “I learned new things at the workshops that I might use in the future.”

Micro-fellowships

We agreed to award 100 micro-fellowships in the amount of awarded 113 fellowships over the course of the award period to graduate students, instructors, and faculty in the humanities to enable them to attend a THATCamp. Most fellowships were in the amount of \$500, but we also awarded nineteen fellowships in the amount of \$250 each once we recognized that applications to the fellowship program were sometimes rather low because participants felt they didn't need funding to attend THATCamp, especially when (as was usually the case) the event was free and/or held near where they lived. These funds undoubtedly helped many deserving early-career scholars and especially graduate students travel to THATCamp.

Challenges

In our interim report, we discussed the two most teasing challenges of the first year of the award period: the administrative burden of the micro-fellowships and the low attendance at certain THATCamps. In the reporting period addressed here, both those challenges abated: the micro-fellowship award process became smoother with practice, and we awarded the final micro-fellowships in January 2012 to participants in the THATCamp held at the American Historical Association in Chicago. During this second year of the award, the chief challenge relative to the project's objectives has been keeping up with the pace at which new THATCamps are registered and ensuring that THATCamp organizers and participants receive sufficient attention and support. A minor secondary challenge has been providing technical support for THATCamp-in-a-box tools upon the departure of Jeremy Boggs, who developed those tools: Ken Albers, who took on some THATCamp development tasks, was less familiar with WordPress and was also committed to other CHNM projects. To solve one particularly troublesome technical glitch, we contracted for two hours with Boone Gorges, an independent web developer who is very conversant with WordPress.

Project Personnel

During this reporting period, Dr. French has accepted a position as Research Assistant Professor at George Mason University. In this new position, she has continued and will continue to serve as Regional THATCamp Coordinator.

Selected Publications and Presentations

Jacobs, Alan. "What I Learned at Digital Summer Camp." *The Atlantic* 18 Jun. 2012. 27 Jun. 2012.
<<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2012/06/what-i-learned-at-digital-summer-camp/258593/>>.

Burton, Matt. "On MOOCs." *DigitalCultureWeek* 1.5 (2012) : n. pag. 27 Jun. 2012.
<<http://www.digitalculture.org/2012/06/22/dcw-volume-1-issue-5-guilding-the-mooc-lily-thatcamp-retrospective/>>.

Jackson, Korey. "THATCamp and Productive Naiveté." *DigitalCultureWeek* 1.5 (2012) : n. pag. 27 Jun. 2012.
<<http://www.digitalculture.org/2012/06/22/dcw-volume-1-issue-5-guilding-the-mooc-lily-thatcamp-retrospective/>>.

Salter, Anastasia. "Comics in the Classroom and Beyond." *ProfHacker* 25 Jun. 2012. 1 Jul. 2012.
<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/comics-in-the-classroom-and-beyond/40931>>.

---. "Overcoming Session Proposal Anxiety at THATCamp and Beyond." *ProfHacker* 15 Jun. 2012. 1 Jul. 2012.
<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/overcoming-session-proposal-anxiety-at-thatcamp-and-beyond/40785>>.

Cavender, Amy. "Great Lakes THATCamp 2012." *ProfHacker* 26 Apr. 2012. 1 Jul. 2012.
<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/great-lakes-thatcamp-2012/39644>>.

Scheinfeldt, Tom. "Invisible College: THATCamp as Scholarly Society." 5 Apr. 2012. Research Without Borders.
<<http://scholcomm.columbia.edu/2012/03/07/invisible-college-thatcamp-as-scholarly-society/>>.

French, Amanda. "The History and Future of Academic Conferences (Specifically THATCamp)." 9 Mar. 2012. 1 Jul. 2012.
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1l-nWEZa9uC4_-ijwS7yhudRaJlwW9TpsaN-uvjJ4q8k/edit>.

Koh, Adeline. "Returning to Play at THATCamp." *ProfHacker* 25 Jan. 2012. 1 Jul. 2012.
<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/returning-to-play-at-thatcamp/38063>>.

Bradley, Peter. "Where Are the Philosophers? Thoughts from THATCamp Pedagogy." *ProfHacker* 21 Nov. 2011. 1 Jul. 2012.

<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/where-are-the-philosophers-thoughts-from-thatcamp-pedagogy/37408>>.

Koh, Adeline. "What Is Publishing? A Report from THATCamp Publishing." *ProfHacker* 28 Nov. 2011. 1 Jul. 2012.

<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/what-is-publishing-a-report-from-thatcamp-publishing/37420>>.

Whitson, Roger. "The Politics of Digital Pedagogy: A Report on THATCamp Pedagogy 2011." *ProfHacker* 24 Oct. 2011. 1 Jul. 2012.

<<http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/the-politics-of-digital-pedagogy-a-report-on-thatcamp-pedagogy-2011/36859>>.

Intellectual Property

All code for THATCamp plugins and themes is openly available at <https://github.com/chnm> and <http://thatcamp.org/website>. Textual content on the THATCamp website is marked as licensed with a Creative Commons Attribution license, which is available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>.

Future Plans

Our chief goal for the next two years is to ensure that THATCamp will continue for many years without further overall grant funding. To this end, we proposed and have been awarded funds from the Mellon Foundation that will enable us to support at least thirty more THATCamps, establish a volunteer THATCamp Coordinating Council to assume the responsibilities of the THATCamp Coordinator, review and expand the documentation available for THATCamp organizers and participants, add community strengthening social networking features to the THATCamp website, and hold an event called THATCamp Leadership for the purpose of obtaining support for the THATCamp model from university administrators and scholarly association heads.

Financial Narrative

Remaining Balance: \$0

Interest Credited to Date: \$72

In general our expenditures matched what we had anticipated, with two chief differences. First, we spent much less on reviewer honoraria and instructor honoraria than we had planned to, and so we were granted permission to reprogram these funds to administrator salaries. This was crucial, since,

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Scholarly Communications and Information Technology Program

as mentioned, the administrative burden of managing the micro-fellowships was heavy. We also used a small amount of unused funds from the meeting materials and software budget lines to award a few extra fellowships at THATCamp AHA, whose participants had applied for fellowships before the fellowship program ended but after we had allotted the available fellowship funds. Second, the Regional THATCamp Coordinator turned out to be much in demand for on-site help running individual THATCamps, and therefore her travel expenses were higher than the budget line. Unused funds from the budget item for staff benefits (due to lowered benefit rates at GMU) were used to augment the Regional THATCamp Coordinator's travel budget.

APPENDIX: List of THATCamps from Award Period

- THATCamp Rocky Mountain | March 30-31, 2012 | Provo, UT, USA
- THATCamp Iowa City | March 30-April 1, 2012 | Iowa City, IA, USA
- THATCamp American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies | March 21, 2012 | San Antonio, TX, USA
- THATCamp Luxembourg / Trier | March 22-23, 2012 | Luxembourg-Grund, Luxembourg
- THATCamp Texas | March 9-10, 2012 | Arlington, TX
- THATCamp Southeast | March 10-11, 2012 | Athens, GA, USA
- THATCamp Florida | February 18-19, 2012 | Orlando, FL, USA
- THATCamp Games | January 20-22, 2012 | College Park, MD, USA
- THATCamp American Historical Association | January 5, 2012 | Chicago, IL, USA
- THATCamp Madrid | November 21-22, 2011 | Madrid, Spain
- THATCamp Museum Computer Network | November 19, 2011 | Atlanta, GA, USA
- THATCamp Switzerland | November 11-12, 2011 | Lausanne, Switzerland
- THATCamp Pacific Northwest | November 12, 2011 | Bothell, WA, USA
- THATCamp Publishing | October 30, 2011 | Baltimore, MD, USA
- THATCamp Bay Area | October 22-23, 2011 | San Francisco, CA, USA
- THATCamp New England | October 21-22, 2011 | Waltham, MA, USA
- THATCamp Greater Toronto Area | October 21-22, 2011 | Toronto, ON, Canada
- THATCamp Pedagogy | October 15-16, 2011 | Poughkeepsie, NY, USA
- THATCamp Canberra | October 7-9, 2011 | Canberra, ACT, Australia
- THATCamp Kansas | September 22-23, 2011 | Lawrence, KS, USA
- THATCamp Philly | September 23-24, 2011 | Philadelphia, PA, USA
- THATCamp Cyprus | September 3, 2011 | Limassol, Cyprus
- THATCamp Victoria | June 10-11, 2011 | Victoria, BC, Canada
- THATCamp Liberal Arts Colleges | June 4-5, 2011 | De Pere, WI, USA
- THATCamp Center for History and New Media | June 3-5, 2011 | Fairfax, VA, USA
- THATCamp University of Western Ontario | May 21-22, 2011 | London, ON, Canada
- Great Lakes THATCamp | April 30-May 1, 2011 | Lansing, MI, USA
- THATCamp Texas | April 15-16, 2011 | Houston, TX, USA

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Scholarly Communications and Information Technology Program

- THATCamp National Council on Public History | April 6, 2011 | Pensacola, FL, USA
- THATCamp Jersey Shore | April 4-5, 2011 | Atlantic City, NJ, USA
- THATCamp Melbourne | March 25-26, 2011 | Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- THATCamp Florence | March 23-25, 2011 | Florence, Italy
- THATCamp Southeast | March 5-6, 2011 | Atlanta, GA, USA
- THATCamp Florida | February 19-20, 2011 | Orlando, FL, USA
- THATCamp Southern California | January 11-12, 2011 | Orange, CA, USA
- THATCamp Virginia | December 17-19, 2010 | Charlottesville, VA, USA
- THATCamp Chicago | November 20, 2010 | Chicago, IL, USA
- THATCamp New England | November 13-14, 2010 | Boston, MA, USA
- THATCamp Museum Computer Network | October 27-30, 2010 | Austin, TX
- THATCamp Pacific Northwest | October 23-24, 2010 | Seattle, WA, USA
- THATCamp Research Triangle Park | October 16, 2010 | Chapel Hill, NC, USA
- THATCamp Bay Area | October 9-10, 2010 | San Francisco, CA, USA
- THATCamp New Mexico | October 2-3, 2010 | Albuquerque, NM, USA
- THATCamp Cologne | September 17-18, 2010 | Köln, Germany
- THATCamp Canberra | August 28-29, 2010 | Canberra, Australia
- THATCamp London | July 6-7, 2010 | London, England, UK
- THATCamp University of Toronto | May 28, 2010 | Toronto, ON, Canada
- THATCamp Center for History and New Media | May 22-23, 2010 | Fairfax, VA
- THATCamp Paris | May 18–19, 2010 | Paris, France