We're talking about the possibility of librarians playing the role of collaborators on digital humanities projects.

Links:
[Off the Tracks: Collaborators' Bill of Rights](#) (recommendations for how to spell out who did what on digital projects)
[Journal of Collaborative Librarianship](#)

Points from Faculty
- What is appropriate to ask for from a librarian? How do you know when you're overstepping or impinging on a librarian?
- At what point am I asking the librarian to do "my job"?
- Subject specialists are sometimes not sufficient to help me, because the point when I need help is when I'm crossing my disciplinary boundary.
- Maybe it's a good idea to get coffee with a librarian at the beginning of a project and make him or her aware of what you're working on.
- Is it really in the librarian's interest for us to conduct a research interview? Do you like that? We always kind of thought you didn't!
- What are the institutional pressures on you?
- If I needed help on a digital project, I'd go for help to another institution, or to forums online — not really to other librarians.
- The "general appeal" strategy only gets you so far. What faculty really want to see is proofs of concept: proof of the viability of a particular kind of collaboration.
- Scholars don't think about metadata, preservation, or anything like that.
- It sounds burdensome for librarians to come to faculty meetings! Would you want faculty to come to librarian meetings?
- Are there library listservs faculty should plug into?
- It's been really interesting to get a glimpse into how librarians think about issues that are relevant to me: things like metadata, preservation, etc.
- What we're really talking about is a lack of a social venue: it's like a middle school dance! Nobody knows how to ask each other to dance.
- At Florida State University, we have a digital discussion group that doesn't distinguish along departmental lines. It gives us a way to communicate and network. We hope to translate that group into a projects lab.
- How do you incentivize people to attend? At FSU, we offer it as a one-credit grad class, and I encourage the library to provide incentives for librarians to attend.
- I'd like to see an article where there was a really intimate collaboration with the faculty member. I'd like to see the faculty member and the librarian dissect the article together, speaking about the process of discovery.
- The only real turn-off for collaboration is when someone can't recognize the merit of my idea.
- And, really, there is probably a whole group of people in the library who you can just ignore.

- Is the librarian's primary obligation to his or her own faculty, or would the library recognize extra-institutional collaborations?
- I had no idea about te professional expectations for librarians! It changes the way I think about librarians' professional traction. It relates faculty and librarians in a kind of trust economy when I know your job depends on this.
- Everyone on the tenure-track is terrified that they won't get tenure
- How can a conversation move productively toward exploring new avenues with a librarian, rather than preempting the research I want to do on my own?
- Would librarians go to a subject conference -- like MLA? Because I'm always wondering what the hot thing is in the field, and if would be really helpful if librarians could help out with that.
- It's that mediator-collaborator-bridger role that grad students really appreciate. Grad students appreciate that librarians won't judge them for lack of professional knowledge.

Points from Librarians
- It seems as though people don't understand our service model.
- Maybe there needs to be more information about the specific services we offer for specific people, e.g., research interviews.
- The appropriate thing to do is always for a librarian to consult with others when he or she doesn't know the answer.
- "We are paid to be interrupted!"
- Jason Puckett: at Georgia State, we would love to see more librarians on people's dissertation committees.
- It's important for librarians to move outside of the library — for example, to departmental meetings — but faculty sometimes don't understand why they'd want to do that.
- Sara Fuchs (Georgia Tech): faculty have more power than they realize; if I'm able to say that a faculty member asked for something, it's much easier to get it accomplished (True! --Miriam)
- It's difficult to get good feedback mechanisms in place to find out what faculty really want.
- One has to be very aware and careful of what one's abilities really are; one can't overpromise.
- It's important to build a community of (faculty and librarian) advocates. We can advocate for each other.
- Maybe what we need to provide is not the hands-on training but the guidance toward technical assets.
- In most cases, faculty would be welcome at library meetings, particularly if they came with a particular agenda.
- What about an interdepartmental mixer? An event co-sponsored by the college and the library?
- Sara again: part of this is positioning the library in a role that is not necessarily expected; at Georgia Tech, we've had a lot of success at providing information about the new NSF data management plan requirements; lots of people at Tech apply for NSF grant funding,

and we've marketed the fact that we can assist in creating a data management plan; there was a need there that we had not envisioned
- When you come to a librarian meeting, don't assume you're automatically in charge of the meeting!
- Librarians need to be confident that they're professionals; they need to stand up for themselves.
- There's a tension between librarianship as a service profession and a changing conception of the field.
- We're "service," but we're not servants.
- There's a journal called Collaborative Librarianship! collaborativelibrarianship.org
- Collaborative credit means a *lot* to librarians, in terms of their promotion prospects
- Most libraries would love to see librarians collaborate with faculty at other institutions
- I would love to see more cross-institutional collaborations. People present too much crap because they're not applying high enough professional standards to their work.
- How can I, as a librarian, interest a faculty member in DH?
- In most cases, the librarian is just happy you're there! Don't worry about asking stupid questions!