

Topics, Methods, and Resources to Do More with Digital Scholarship

Oct. 7, 2026

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Online

 **Sherman
Centre**
for Digital Scholarship



scds.ca
scds@mcmaster.ca

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McMaster University Libraries



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Topics, Methods, and Resources To “Do More with Digital Scholarship”

An introduction to the Sherman Centre

The SCDS Team

October 7, 2026

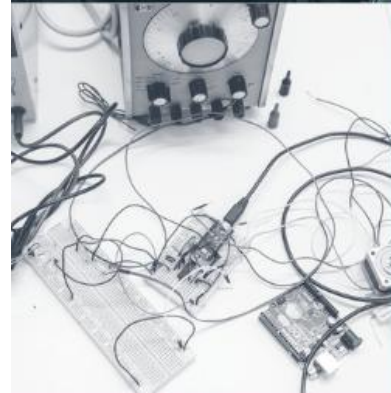




Photo Credit:
Campus Fall 2025 by Georgia Kirkos

Land Acknowledgement

McMaster University is located on the traditional Territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee Nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish With One Spoon” wampum agreement.

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Code of Conduct

The Sherman Centre and the McMaster University Libraries are committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for its presenters and participants.

As a participant in this session, you agree to support and help cultivate an experience that is collaborative, respectful, and inclusive, as well as free of harassment, discrimination, and oppression. We reserve the right to remove participants who exhibit harassing, malicious, or persistently disruptive behaviour.

Please refer to our code of conduct webpage for more information: **scds.ca/code-of-conduct/**

Session Recording and Privacy

This session is being recorded with the intention of being shared publicly via the web for future audiences. In respect of your privacy, participant lists will not be shared outside of this session, nor will question or chat transcripts.

Questions asked via the chat box will be read by the facilitator without identifying you. Note that you may be identifiable when asking a question during the session in an audio or visual format.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe digital scholarship and the variety of topics and methods it encompasses.
2. Explain how digital scholarship relates to and augments traditional disciplinary research and learning.
3. Describe the role of the Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship in supporting research, teaching, and personal development.
4. Identify the digital scholarship tools, resources, and services that may be of relevance to your research, teaching, and personal development objectives.
5. Apply your new knowledge to get started with digital scholarship, whether by exploring further or accessing specific resources.

Part 1: An introduction to the Sherman Centre and Digital Scholarship

Part 2: Meet the Sherman Centre members who can support you.

Part 3: Questions and Discussion

Part 4: Where to find more information | Certificate attendance code

What is Digital Scholarship?

What is the Sherman Centre?

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Hi! We're the Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship

The Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship (SCDS), located in McMaster University's Mills Memorial Library, provides **consulting, instruction, and technical support** to faculty, staff, students, and community members for all aspects of digital scholarship — from teaching and training to research, dissemination, and beyond.

- We **support** digital scholarship through consultation, instruction, and technical support.
- We **engage** with and bring together communities through programming.
- We **promote** resource sharing through collaboration.
- We **maintain** platforms for open scholarship, digital preservation, and knowledge dissemination.

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What is **Digital Scholarship**?

Digital scholarship (DS) is scholarship that uses digital technologies as a central part of how research and teaching is undertaken and communicated. It relies on **digital materials, tools, and methods**, or that is created or shared in **digital forms**.

- **Digital materials** such as digitized archives, digitally-collected and online data sets or social media data as key sources of inquiry.
- **Digital methods and tools** like data visualization, digital mapping, or computational text analysis.
- **Digital forms** of publication, knowledge mobilization and preservation like digital exhibits, repositories, podcasts, etc.

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Digital methods facilitate novel modes of inquiry and analysis.

Identifying Patterns at Scale

Digital tools allow analysis of thousands of texts, images, or records at once. This enables discovery of trends, patterns, and research questions that would be difficult or impossible to identify manually.

Interactivity and Visualization

Tools like GIS maps and network graphs make abstract relationships visible and explorable. Users can click, zoom, filter, and interact, turning research into an experiential and dynamic process.

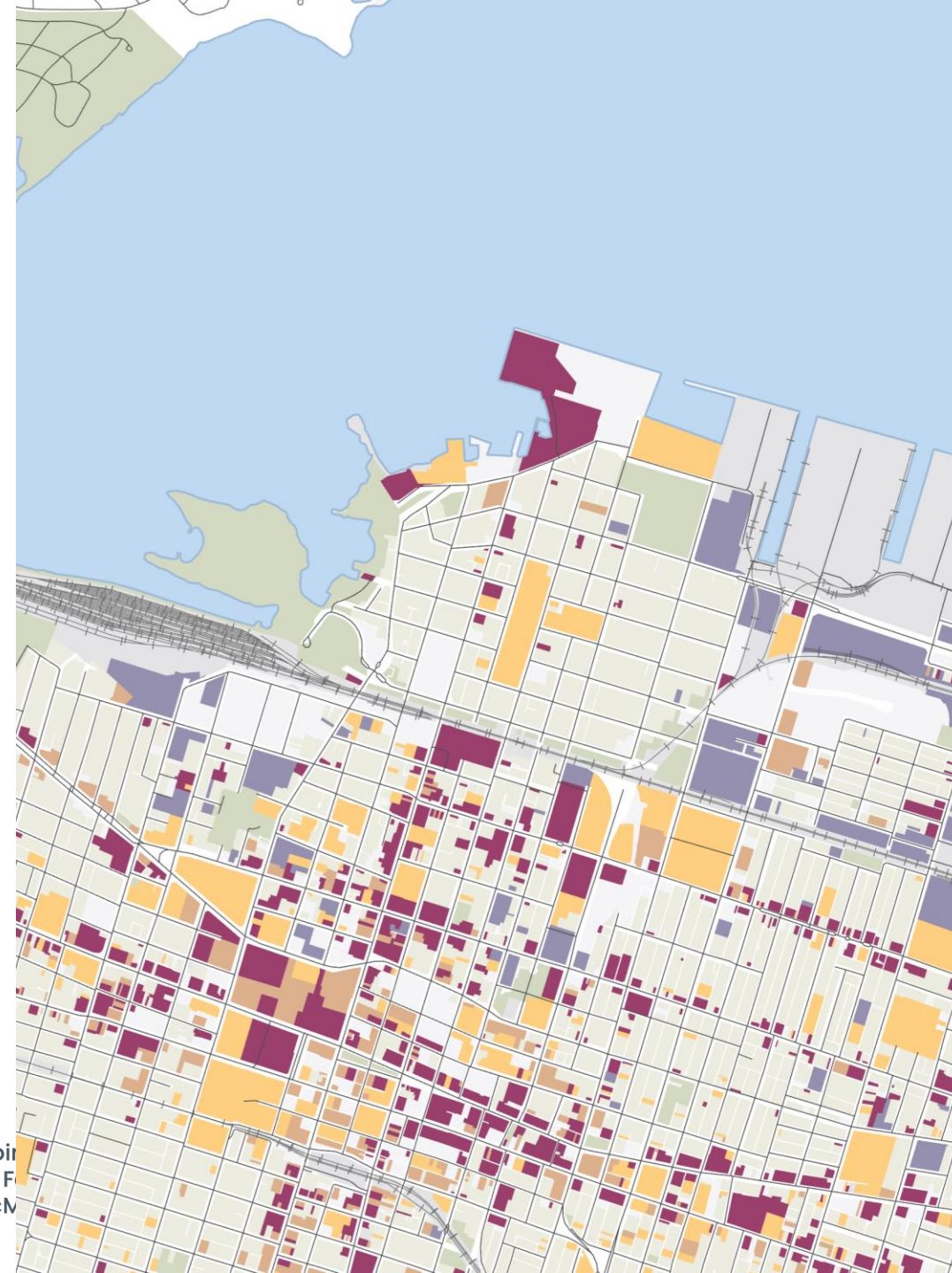
Access and Collaboration

Digitization increases access to materials that are rare, fragile, or geographically restricted. Digital platforms support collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and borders, enabling shared analysis and critical reflection.

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Meet the Sherman Centre Team

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Meet the team



Christine Homuth
GIS Specialist



Vivek Jadon
Data Specialist



Jack Young
*Research Impact and
Bibliometrics Librarian*



Danica Evering
RDM Specialist



Isaac Pratt
RDM Specialist



Kirsten Feldner
*Digital Scholarship
Coordinator*



John Fink
*Digital Scholarship
Librarian*



Subhanya Sivajoorthy
*Data Analysis &
Visualization Librarian*



Lauren McLean
Postdoctoral Fellow

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Questions for the team

1. Tell us about the areas of Digital Scholarship that you support, and how you support them.

2. What's one helpful DS tidbit you want to share with the audience (something that they never knew they needed to know!)

OR

What are some exciting DS topics, projects, and tools that others might enjoy delving into a bit more, as well?

Supporting Digital Scholarship



John Fink

*Digital Scholarship
Librarian*

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Research Data Management Services

Isaac Pratt,
Danica Evering
RDM Specialists

Research Data Management is about caring for data through the research lifecycle. RDM Services provides consultations, training, and support for:

- Visit rdm.mcmaster.ca or email rdm@mcmaster.ca
- General consulting on data management
- Data Management Plans
- Data storage and backup
- Data deposit & sharing
- Organizing and documenting data.

Data Management Plans

An "open hand of cards" for you, your team, participants!

- [DMP Assistant](#)
- [Example DMPs](#)
- [DMP Bootcamp](#) (Oct 13)
- We review DMPs

Managing data

Store, organize, document, and back up data securely.

- [Research Data Storage Finder](#)
- [Encryption Guidance](#)
- [Transcription Guidance](#)
- Come talk to us!

Data Deposit

Where will your data live when your project is complete?

- [McMaster Dataverse](#)
- [Data Deposit Checklist](#)
- [README Generator](#)
- [Archiving and retention](#)

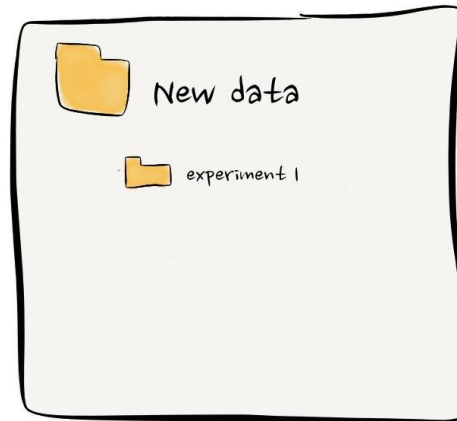
One RDM tidbit...

Start (or continue) a project with a data management plan

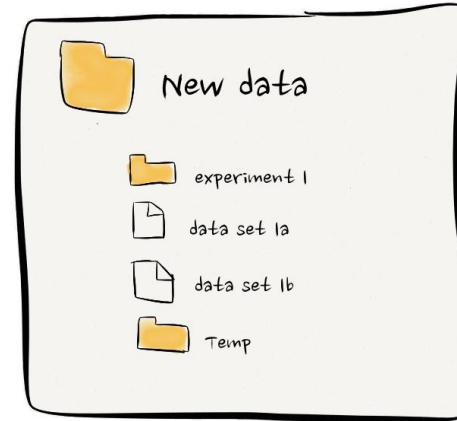
Data Management Plans might sound intimidating but they're really just a structure to help you think through how you're going to organize and manage a project from start to finish.

A DMP helps you avoid this:

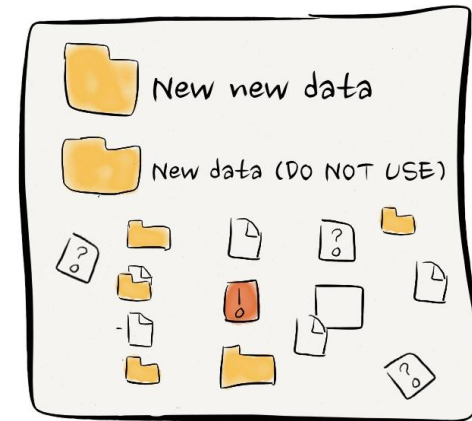
How not to organise data by [Matthew \(@MCeeP\)](https://errantscience.com/blog/2014/08/06/how-not-to-organise-data/) 2014
<https://errantscience.com/blog/2014/08/06/how-not-to-organise-data/>



Day 1



Day 2



Day 3

Data Analysis and Visualization Services

Subhanya Sivajothy

*Data Analysis &
Visualization Librarian*

I support students and researchers with their research methodologies, as well as presenting their findings in engaging and accessible ways.

This includes:

- Data Cleaning
- Data Analysis and Software Support (R, Python, Power BI, Tableau etc.)
- Knowledge mobilization
- Grant Support
- Qualitative Data Analysis Support (Coding, Interview Guides)

Consultations

One-on-one meetings to discuss ideas and/or advice on different areas of the data life cycle, including feedback on designs and knowledge mobilization

Creation + Design

Assistance with choosing visualization software, visualization types and applying accessible and inclusive design practices

Instructional Support

Providing workshops tailored to specific disciplines and needs. Examples include data visualization for final projects, data literacy and science communication

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One DS tidbit that people may not know they need...

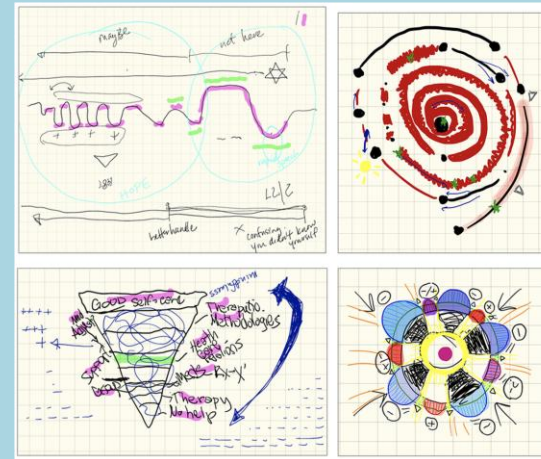
Subhanya Sivajothy

Data Analysis &
Visualization Librarian

Sometimes the best way to present your research isn't through a bar graph or a table!
Come talk to me about digital exhibits using Omeka S!
(Or other creative ways to showcase your research)



Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-monday-edition-1.4977312/munich-commuter-s-train-delay-scarf-fetches-more-than-11k-on-ebay-1.4977315>



“Images created by participants in a co-design study looking at the visual representation of lived experiences with serious mental illness.”

Source: <https://vsrs.ischool.uw.edu/about/>

Library Data Service

Vivek Jadon
Data Specialist

Library Data Service supports Digital Scholarship primarily through data discovery, data literacy, quantitative analysis, and data-driven research.

Data discovery and access --

We help researchers identify and access numeric research data, including Statistics Canada data, Canadian and International datasets, Microdata, Aggregate statistics, and specialized research data.

We also help researchers navigate resources such as the Statistics Canada [Data Liberation Initiative \(DLI\)](#), [ICPSR](#), and [ODES](#).

Data literacy and research skills --

We help users understand *what data exist, where they come from, what the variables actually measure, how the data were collected, and what their limitations are*. This is often just as important as knowing how to run a statistical test.

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Data Specialist

Library Data Service supports Digital Scholarship primarily through data discovery, data literacy, quantitative analysis, and data-driven research.

Data analysis and programming --

Through collaboration with the [Data Analysis Support Hub \(DASH\)](#), we support researchers and students working with tools such as R, Python, Excel, SPSS, Power BI and other analytical software.

Support can range from data cleaning and exploratory analysis to statistical methods and programming.

Teaching and training --

We work with instructors to bring real datasets and analytical tools into the classroom. That can mean a one-hour Introduction to Statistics Canada data, a hands-on Census workshop, or a multi-session Introduction to R, Python, SPSS or SQL.

Library Data Service

Vivek Jadon
Data Specialist

Library Data Service supports Digital Scholarship primarily through data discovery, data literacy, quantitative analysis, and data-driven research.

Research consultations --

Sometimes the most useful thing we do is simply sit down with a researcher and help them figure out *what data they actually need*.

Library Data Service provides consultations for specialized electronic research data products and numeric research data.

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One DS tidbit that people may not know they need...

Vivek Jadon
Data Specialist

Don't start your data search by looking for a dataset. Start by looking for a variable...

Researchers often say:

"I need a dataset about women's health."

But that's usually too broad.

Instead, ask:

"What exactly do I need to measure?"

For example: infertility, access to a regular health-care provider, employment status, income, hours worked, mental health, immigration status, geographic location

Once you identify the **variables**, you can search for datasets that actually contain those measures. Tools such as [ODESI](#) are particularly powerful because they allow researchers to search across datasets at the **variable/question level**, rather than simply searching by dataset title.

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One DS tidbit that people may not know they need...

Vivek Jadon
Data Specialist

The other important lesson!!

*The **documentation** is part of the data!*

A variable called AGE or INCOME may look self-explanatory, but the codebook can tell you whether income is annual, monthly, individual or household, whether it has been imputed, and how missing values are coded.

That can completely change the analysis!

GIS and Geospatial Data Services

Christine Homuth
GIS Specialist

Services and resources focused on digital mapping and geospatial data.

This includes:

- Creating maps
- Geospatial data discovery, use, and analysis
- Selecting, learning, using, and troubleshooting GIS software
- ArcGIS accounts
- Citing maps and geospatial data
- And more...

GIS Software

ArcGIS accounts are available to all current students, staff, and faculty for coursework and research.

Geospatial Data

McMaster University Libraries holds a vast collection of datasets for use in GIS software.

Consultations and Workshops

Workshops and consultations are available to introduce GIS concepts and software and provide guidance and troubleshooting around its use.

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One DS tidbit that people may not know they need...

Christine Homuth
GIS Specialist

Don't be afraid of the term "Geographic Information Systems"!

If you are looking to create a map, as basic or as complex as your project requires, don't hesitate to reach out.

Research Impact & Bibliometrics

Jack Young

*Research Impact &
Bibliometrics Librarian*

My work aims to understand and optimize the ways that research outputs (publications, datasets, code, artworks, performances, etc.) are generated, disseminated, discovered, and re-used.

I help researchers and teams use bibliometric metadata (citation, publication, and collaboration information about research outputs) to assess and express the impact of a body of research for various purposes, including:

- Grant/award preparation & professional advancement
- Research gap analysis / strategy
- Knowledge mobilization planning
- Knowledge synthesis research (e.g. bibliometric analysis)

More to Explore

[Open Researcher and Contributor ID \(ORCID\)](#)

- This free researcher profile and identifier is an important tool for showcasing your work and distinguishing yourself from similarly named researchers. ORCID is the preferred identifier for leading journals, databases, and funding bodies.

[San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#)

- Signed by many of Canada's leading Universities and funding bodies (including McMaster) this global movement signals a significant shift in how research outputs and contributions are evaluated.

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Supporting Digital Scholarship...

Lauren McLean
*SCDS Postdoctoral
Fellow*

Currently, my work at the Sherman Centre is focused on:

- Supporting graduate students through the Digital Scholarship Graduate Residency (Applications due Oct. 15!)
- Foster connections between digital methods, research, and community engagement
- Consulting on digital projects related to social media ethics, feminist and queer approaches to digital culture, and beyond

An Idea I am interested in (& you might be too):

- Digital agency
 - The internet and digital culture is not simply what it is. Instead, users actively shape it!
 - Users can use strategies such as algorithmic amplification (increase visibility) or algorithmic hijacking (purposely counterproductive) to navigate, mobilize, and reshape digital systems of power

Examples:

Consider digital communication strategies that can be used as a form of resistance to dominant culture and reflect user agency

I.e., #MeToo

Digital Scholarship Coordinator

Kirsten Feldner

Digital Scholarship
Coordinator

Communications

- "Guy behind the curtain" for many instances of SCDS email communication, newsletter, social media posts, etc.

Coordination

- Workshop management, room bookings, outreach events, etc.

Digitization and Sound Archives

- Scholarly research (*outside of role as DSC*) focuses on leveraging tools and affordances of digital micro-content platforms (TikTok, Instagram, Twitch) to help digitize artefacts in, and extend the accessibility of, musical archives

Tangential DS Tidbit:

- Mac ID provides you with unlimited access to [Criterion On-Demand](#) (an offshoot of the Criterion Collection); you can stream 1500 feature films, c. 1919-2026, for free!



Newsletter



Contact us

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Questions and Discussion

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Digital Scholarship Workshops

40+ (free!) beginner and intermediate workshops on digital research and scholarship.

Frequently Asked Questions

When: Sept – May each year.

Where: Online and/or In-Person at McMaster's Mills Memorial Library

Can't Attend Live? Asynchronous options available!

Sign Up: scds.ca/events

scds.ca

scds@mcmaster.ca



Fall 2026: Upcoming Workshops

Data Analysis Support Hub

October 14 - Multivariable Analysis with R

October 15 - Introduction to Python Programming

October 22 - Exploring Statistics Canada Data Resources

November 4 - Introduction to R Programming

Research Impact

October 19 - DORA: Tracking the Impact of Non-Traditional Research Outputs

November 10 - DORA: Visualizing Research Impact

February 10 - Introduction to Bibliometric Analysis

Research Data Management

October 13 - Data Management Plan Bootcamp (In-Person)

October 21 - Best Practices for Managing Data in your Research (Fall)

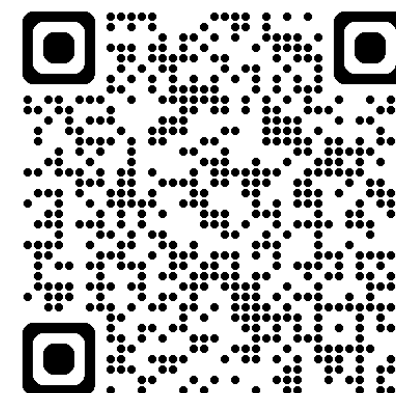
November 17 - Setting Up a Research Project with Data from Humans and Preparing for Ethics

Do More with Digital Scholarship

October 20 - Creating Small and Ugly Open Educational Resources (OER)

October 23 - Social Media Scraping and Analysis with Zeeschuimer and 4Cat

December 10 - Introduction to SQL



Register for Upcoming Workshops: scds.ca/events

SCDS Certificate of Attendance

The Sherman Centre's certificate program recognizes attendance at our workshops.

The certificate complements degree training, supports the development of critical DS competencies, and formalizes core skills fostered by the workshop series.

General Certificate: Any 7 SCDS workshops

Stream-focused Certificate (Data Analysis and Visualization, Digital Scholarship, or Research Data Management):
Any 3 SCDS workshops and 4 stream-specific workshops.

See all information (including frequently asked questions and how to authenticate your attendance) at scds.ca/certificate-program

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General Certificate



Any 7 SCDS workshops

Stream-focused Certificate



Any 3 SCDS workshops
+ 4 stream-specific workshops

The Canadian Certificate for Digital Humanities

All SCDS workshops are eligible for the Canadian Certificate for Digital Humanities.

To complete a certificate, you attend 100 hours of eligible digital humanities workshops.

To learn more about the certificate (including additional information on eligibility), visit ccdhhn.ca

scds.ca

scds@mcmaster.ca

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Digital Learning Catalogue

Learn new digital skills at your own pace with 120+ workshop recordings and online modules. Explore topics like AI, machine learning, 3D printing and modelling, GIS, digital storytelling, sonification, and data visualization to expand your research possibilities.

scds.ca/online-learning

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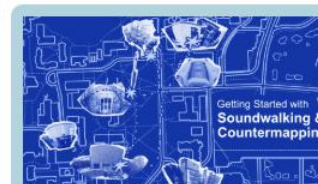
Online Learning

New skills are just a click away. These workshop recordings and online modules will teach you about data analysis, digital scholarship, innovative software, and more. You can also view a [text list](#) of these resources, sorted by original workshop or event series.

Search...



Digital Inequalities: Aging and Social Connectedness in an Increasingly Online World
Events - 2024-2025 - Digital Storytelling



Soundwalking and Countermapping
Events - 2024-2025 - Sonification, Programming



Zines as Critical Data (2025)
Events - 2024-2025 - Digital Storytelling, AI



Digital Assets, Black Histories: Where the Archive and Technology Collide
Events - 2024-2025



Hybrid Launch of the Idometrics Dance Platform
Recording - 2024-2025



Hybrid Launch of the Black Professors Podcast
Events - 2024-2025

Filters

▼ Year

- ☐ 2017-2018 (1)
- ☐ 2020-2021 (9)
- ☐ 2021-2022 (24)
- ☐ 2022-2023 (43)
- ☐ 2023-2024 (45)
- ☐ 2024-2025 (20)

▼ Series

- ☐ ARL Digital Scholarship Institute (1)
- ☐ DASH (30)
- ☐ DMDS (37)
- ☐ DR (6)
- ☐ DS Bytes (6)
- ☐ Events (9)
- ☐ LibGuides (5)
- ☐ Other (1)
- ☐ RDM (15)
- ☐ Recording (1)
- ☐ RR (5)
- ☐ SFS (2)
- ☐ Special (5)

▼ Topics

- ☐ 3D Printing and Modelling (1)
- ☐ AI (7)
- ☐ Bibliometrics (4)
- ☐ Communication (4)

Graduate Residency

Develop a **DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT** with Mentorship, Training, and Support from the Sherman Centre

- Self-directed, in-person, cohort experience
- Project consultations
- Collaborative working space at the Sherman Centre
- End-of-residency symposium

Learn more:

scds.ca/2026-2027-residency/

A photograph of several students sitting at long tables in a library or study hall, working on laptops. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The text 'Applications due Oct. 15' is written in large white font across the bottom right of the image.

**Applications due
Oct. 15**

Get **In Touch**

Send SCDS an Email:

scds@mcmaster.ca

Register for a Workshop:

<https://u.mcmaster.ca/scds-workshops>

Subscribe to our Newsletter:

<https://u.mcmaster.ca/sign-up>

Schedule a Consultation:

<https://scds.ca/consultations/>



Tell us what you think | Verify your attendance

Provide feedback on this session and verify your participation at
<https://u.mcmaster.ca/verification>

This session's verification code:
DS4U!

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Certificate Programs

The Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship Certificate of Attendance

The Sherman Centre's certificate program recognizes attendance at our workshops. It complements degree training, supports the development of critical competencies in data analysis, research data management, and digital scholarship, and formalizes core skills fostered by our workshops.

Participants are invited to attend seven workshops and receive a certificate of attendance. To verify your participation in today's workshop, we will provide a code and additional instructions at the end of the session.

You can learn more about the certificate program at [**scds.ca/certificate-program**](https://scds.ca/certificate-program)

The Canadian Certificate for Digital Humanities

This workshop is also eligible for the Canadian Certificate for Digital Humanities. To learn more about the certificate, visit [**ccdhhn.ca**](https://ccdhhn.ca). You can also contact local liaison Alexis-Carlota Cochrane at [**scds@mcmaster.ca**](mailto:scds@mcmaster.ca)

Tell us what you think | Verify your attendance

Provide feedback on this session and verify your participation at
<https://u.mcmaster.ca/verification>

This session's verification code:
[Insert your unique code here]