Rice University's Center for Digital Scholarship Mission and Goals

Mission:

Rice's Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) provides a critical backbone in support of the research, teaching, and outreach mission of Rice University. As the Web and other digital resources increasingly become core components for communication and dissemination of teaching and research, it is important that Rice provide long term access to these materials, along with the tools and services needed to work effectively and collaboratively with these assets. The CDS of Fondren Library is dedicated to this end.

The CDS goals in support of Fondren's overall goals are:

1. Provide research and information support through specialized staff and services, thus helping the University raise its research and scholarship profile.
   • Provide information and training about new information technologies.
   • Digitize research materials for faculty.
   • Provide equipment to support creation and use of digital content for research and teaching.
   • Increase awareness of innovative research underway at the university by continuing to develop a digital repository of faculty and graduate students' publications.
   • Make faculty more aware of the tools and technologies that can help them increase their visibility as researchers.
   • Enhance the library's and university's research profile by publishing and making presentations about digital library activities at Rice.

2. Bring to the University community access to the resources needed to further its scholarly activity.
   • Support archiving of the university's digital scholarly resources through the Rice University Digital Repository (RUDR).
   • Ensure widespread dissemination of Rice digital scholarship.
   • Support discovery of digital scholarship at other institutions.
   • Develop preservation policies for digital assets to ensure their long-term availability.
   • Archive the Rice websites to ensure long term access to digital resources disseminated through the Rice Web in support of teaching and research.
   • Meet with Rice scholars to understand their information needs and ways in which technology can help address the difficult issues they face in
working with relevant, distributed, and large quantities of information.

3. Actively foster collaborative relationships with other organizations in order to broaden the range of resources we can bring to the University community.
   • Partner with faculty and other institutions to acquire funding that enables development of digital projects.
   • Work with campus groups such as IT, the Baker Institute, and academic departments to support the management of their digital publications and resources.
   • Build partnerships that complement our strengths and enable us to tackle crucial problems for digital libraries (e.g. archiving large scientific datasets, long-term preservation of complex digital assets, and creating tools for organizing, sharing and analyzing digital information).
   • Create a cyberinfrastructure at Rice that provides the tools and resources needed to support cutting-edge research
   • Driven by faculty, student and researcher needs, collaborate with groups inside and outside of Rice to develop and deliver the infrastructure that will support improved knowledge contributions.

4. Provide leadership for the University in engaging the Houston community.
   • Collaborate with other research libraries in the Houston community to advance scholarly communications.
   • Continue strong collaboration with the Texas Medical Center libraries, exploring ways to leverage the digital assets for mutual benefit.
   • Advance the development of innovative digital media projects through collaborations with local organizations such as Diverse Works and SWAMP.
   • Collaborate with organizations in the Houston community to provide access to and preservation of digital resources about the city and its history.

5. Embark on a diligent and sustained research initiative that will identify both needs and possibilities for the library of the future.
   • Research emerging educational technologies and share that knowledge through LESTER.
   • Conduct research into the information needs and practices of scholars and students.
   • Incorporate best practices into all of our digital library activities.
   • Maintain awareness and involvement in new developments in digital libraries.
• Take a leadership role in professional organizations supporting digital library activities.
• Engage with faculty to identify new services that make it easier to create and use digital resources.
• Explore the role of new media, such as digital video, virtual worlds, and gaming, in the library and the university.

6. Energetically promote information fluency and participate in the integration of information resources with pedagogy.
   • Foster media literacy through training in video editing, podcasting, and use of digital resources and tools in scholarship.
   • Collaborate with faculty to support student projects using digital media.
   • Provide in-class workshops on information and media fluency.
   • Ensure that digital library’s resources integrate easily with educational repositories such as Connexions and OwlSpace.
   • Create model educational materials that draw upon Rice’s digital collections.

7. Create and creatively use inviting community spaces, both physical and virtual, that will represent the library to the University community, to Houston, and to the international community.
   • Provide access to flexible and comfortable project, study and collaborative areas in the Digital Media Center.
   • Host special events that engage the Rice community in fun, creative activities, such as filmmaking competitions, gaming days, and screenings/presentations of student media projects.
   • Have fun.

8. Heighten awareness of and strengthen support for Fondren’s special collections in the Woodson Research Center (WRC).
   • Assist the WRC in digitizing and providing access to materials from its collections.
   • Ensure that these resources can be found in search engines such as Google and Google Scholar.
   • Make the WRC digitized collections available to the Open Content Alliance, of which Rice is a member.