

DIGITAL LIBRARIES & CYBERSCHOLARSHIP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Featuring international experts in the Digital Libraries Field

<http://www.ischool.pitt.edu/colloquia/digital-libraries-series.php>

Monday, May 17, 2010

4:00 pm, Room 501 IS Building
School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

Patrick Manning, Director, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh

"The World-Historical Dataverse: Design and problem-solving for a large-scale, heterogeneous, historical dataset"

Abstract: The World-Historical Dataverse project (“the universe of world-historical data”) is intended to lay the groundwork for creating consistent historical data for localities worldwide so that they may be aggregated into global totals. Data are to address economic, social, health, and environmental issues for the last four centuries. The existence of such a dataset ought to get beyond current historical knowledge, at local and regional levels, to reveal historical patterns and dynamics at the global level; such information would help policy-makers set plans for the global future that account for past patterns rather than ignoring or speculating about the global past. The two co-directors – Patrick Manning of the World History Center and Siddharth Chandra of Michigan State University – are both economic historians.

Dr. Manning will address design and creation of a universal dataset, which must proceed along iterative steps in order to address the many challenges inherent in such a task and to gain the confidence of funders. Six project elements have been identified: a portal with links to a large number of online data portals and datasets; a blog; a campaign to collect relevant datasets; an archive of datasets; a federation of archived datasets; and the design and ultimate construction of a universal dataset. He will also discuss the interplay between building the archive and federating archived datasets.

Patrick Manning is Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History at the University of Pittsburgh. He is Director of the World History Center, at the University’s Department of History.

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