

Intro to Digital Libraries

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About me

I am

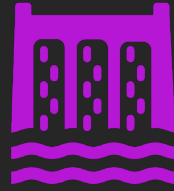
- a researcher doing work at the intersection of humanities, information science, and cultural heritage work;
- a humanities librarian — background in literary and historical research; and
- an associate dean in the University Libraries, with responsibility for our research and teaching programs.

I have

- a Ph.D. in literary studies and
- a master's in information science.

I bring this range of training, experience, and interests to bear in asking questions about digital libraries and information challenges.

Session Outline



What are digital libraries?



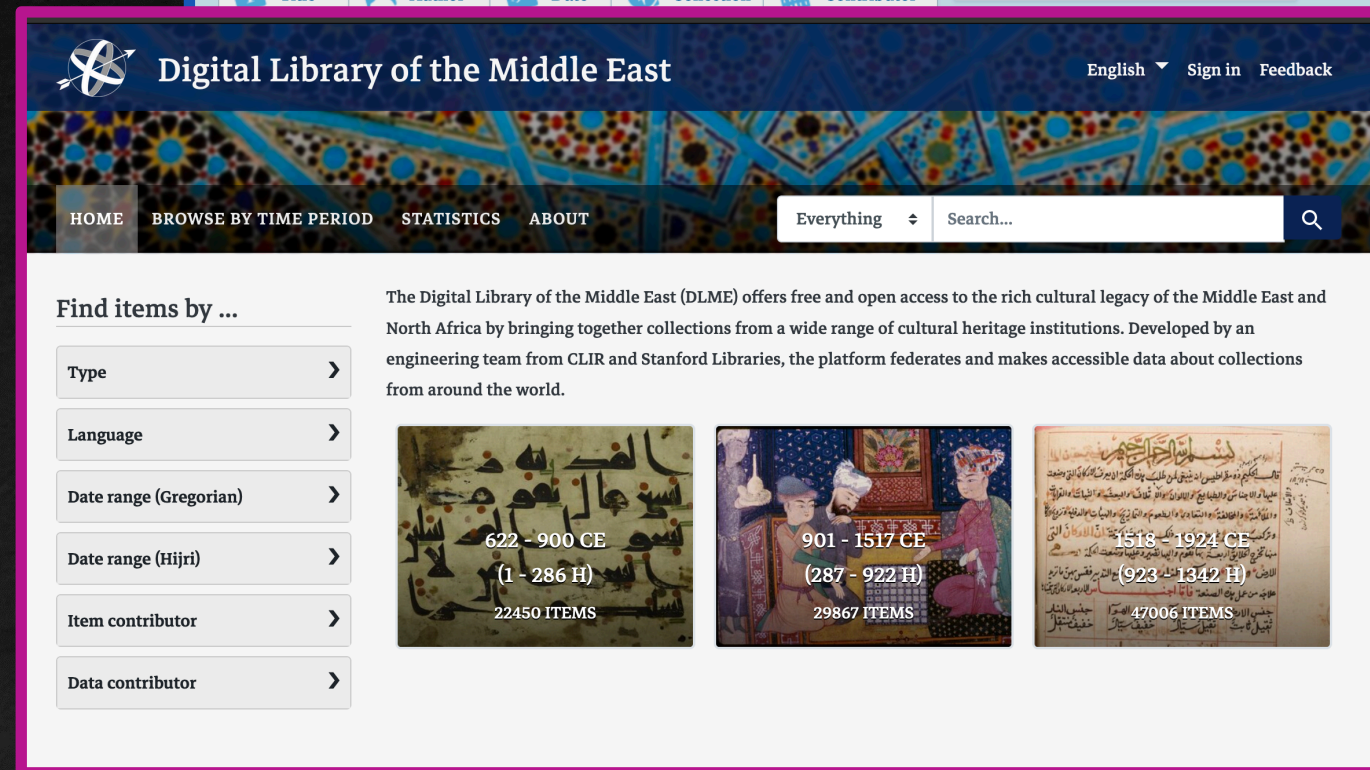
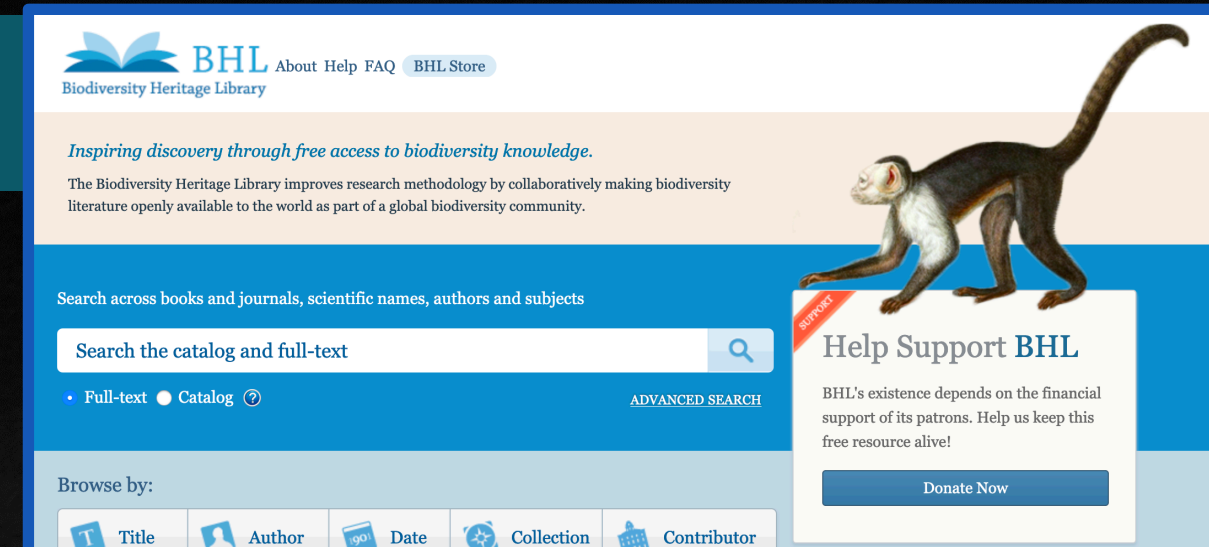
Digital libraries and computational systems



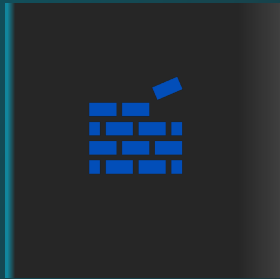
Cultural heritage digital libraries and information challenges

What are digital libraries?

- Machine-readable resources; accessible via computers
- May include digital representations of physical content and/or born-digital items (items that do not have a physical representation)
- Curated, scoped
- Community/communities-specific
- Storage system as well as access system (information retrieval)
- Since the mid-1990s, have evolved from indexes and abstracts to include full-text (or full image, etc.) retrieval

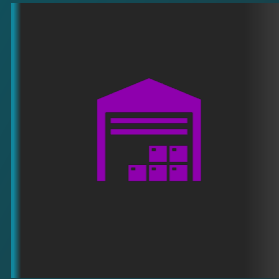


Digital libraries and computational systems



Creation.

human and machine-processing
structured, machine-tractable
data
networked storage



Distribution and access.

networked storage
human-computer interfaces
information retrieval



Analysis and large-scale study.

at scale
identifying patterns, signals
new information, new data sets

Cultural heritage digital libraries and information challenges

- Challenge: photos in historic newspapers
 - Explore: <https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>
- Challenge: audio
 - Explore: <https://citizen-dj.labs.loc.gov/loc-national-screening-room/explore/>
- Challenge: training and using systems
 - Explore: <http://www.fondazioneprada.org/project/training-humans/?lang=en>

Scenario

What if you were asked to find all the poems in a digital library, regardless of when the poems were written or what language they were written in, and they are not already tagged as poems?

Session Summary

- **Digital libraries:**
How would you define “digital library,” based on the presentation and discussion today?
- **Digital libraries and computational systems:**
What are some ways information is transformed in digital libraries?
- **Cultural heritage digital libraries and information challenges:**
What are some of the factors that create and/or influence information challenges in cultural heritage digital libraries?

Credits (in slide order)

- *Portolan Chart of the Mediterranean Sea Ca. 1320 to 1350: Manuscript Chart of the Mediterranean and Black Seas on Vellum.* [13--?, 1320] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003630429/>
- Biodiversity Heritage Library. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>
- Digital Library of the Middle East. <https://dlmenetwork.org/library>
- Wrubel, Laura. Library of Congress Colors. <https://loc-colors.glitch.me/>
- Lee, Benjamin Charles Germain. Newspaper Navigator. <https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>
- Foo, Brian. Citizen DJ. <https://citizen-dj.labs.loc.gov/>
- Crawford, Kate, and Trevor Paglen. *Training Humans.*