Blended Learning: Student and Faculty Perspectives in the Five Colleges

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Five College Blended Learning and Digital Humanities (5collBLDH)

- Five College Consortium in Western Massachusetts - Smith College, Hampshire College, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, and University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Funded by past grants (Mellon, Teagle) and the Five College Deans
- Provide faculty grants and assistance
- Support undergraduate student Digital Humanities Fellows
Overview

1. Faculty Feedback
2. “Digital Tools in the Academy” Class
3. Students in Blended Learning Classes
   a. Methodology
   b. Results
4. Conclusions and Recommendations
Faculty Feedback

- Mellon grant 2014-2018
- 30 faculty members who were project leaders (96% response rate)
- Very positive responses
“Digital Tools in the Academy”

- First-year seminar
- Beginning and ending surveys
  - Familiarity levels with tools and technology
  - Feedback and predictions
- bit.ly/digicademy
Students in Blended Learning Classes

- Digital Culture
  - Comparative Literature
  - Professor Valocchi

- Pompeii
  - Classics
  - Professor Poehler

- Art and Code: Art Games
  - Art
  - Professor Mecklenburger
Students in Blended Learning Classes

Methodology

- Finding classes to study
- Three online surveys throughout the semester
- Classroom visits
- Iterative process
Students in Blended Learning Classes

Results

- 73% didn’t know what Blended Learning or Digital Humanities were at the beginning of the semester
- At the beginning, students were split on whether tech would be a distraction from the course
  - By midterm, nearly all students agreed the technologies were not a distraction
- Most reservations about tool use based on access
Conclusions and Recommendations

- When entering college, many students know general technologies but not ones related to libraries and specific purposes
- Important to remove access barriers to tools
- Centralize technologies and information
Thank you!
Learn more at 5collBLDH.org

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