Dean's Innovation Grants

Final Report

Date: 2017-09-30
Project Title: What's Brewing at UNT
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Project Purpose

What's Brewing at UNT provides programming that will focus on two showcase-style events, one during each long semester, to demonstrate resources to faculty in a low-key setting. UNT's mission to advance educational excellence relies on thoughtful, collaborative partnerships to best prepare its students as future citizens of the world. This showcase invites faculty to engage with new or less visible resources while presenting UNT Library as a strong partner in thinking critically about scholarship in all its forms.

Project Activities

"What's Brewing at UNT" held two events during the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

In the Fall 2016 semester, this event featured Open Educational Resources. The event was structured with two pieces, an early instructional session for librarians and other stakeholders as a refresher course on current OER initiatives, namely OpenStax. The second piece was a resource fair with representatives from CLEAR, OpenStax and UNT Libraries demonstrating OER materials useful for their disciplines. This event also promoted the upcoming Open Textbook Network event as a way to generate interest in OER materials. During the second piece, alcoholic refreshments and appetizers were offered to attendees as part of the "What's Brewing" theme. Attendees also took home a UNT Libraries branded pint glass to mark the occasion.

In the Spring 2016 semester, "What's Brewing" partnered with the UNT Faculty Mentoring Team Grant "Critical Digital Pedagogy" led by Dr. Spencer Keralis. This event was also structured in two pieces, but with a resource fair leading into a presentation. To showcase Critical Digital Pedagogy, representatives from the College of Visual Art & Design, the Office of Faculty Success, CLEAR, Open Textbook Network, and UNT Libraries showcased university initiatives and classroom projects structured around the topic. Alcoholic refreshments and appetizers were provided, along with UNT Libraries branded pint glasses for attendees, during the resource fair. Afterward, we live-streamed the keynote presentation and discussion by Dr. Jesse Stommel at the invitation of the Critical Digital Pedagogy group.

Budget

Project Expenses	Amount Spent
UNT Libraries branded pint glasses	$515.96
Verde Catering for Fall event	$369
Metzler's bar for Fall Event	$600
Verde Catering for Spring event	$84
Metzler's bar for Spring event	$278
Total Costs	$1,846.96

Project Outputs/Outcomes

The Fall event was intended to raise awareness of open educational resources and to prime interest for the upcoming Open Textbook Network event in the Spring. At this event, a faculty member from Chemistry noted that their contract with a textbook publisher was to expire soon, providing an opportunity to move toward open resources. Of the 23 attendees, 13 responded to a post-event survey. Regarding their overall experience at the event, 48% of the attendees were very satisfied and 36% of the attendees were satisfied with the event, and all indicated that they would likely attend another What's Brewing style event. Suggestions for future events included demonstrations and examples of applied projects, serving beverages earlier, and broader marketing to faculty.

The Spring event was co-sponsored by the Critical Digital Pedagogy group, funded by a UNT team mentoring grant. Suggestions from the Fall event were incorporated: beverages were served throughout the event as it was held entirely after 5pm rather than beginning earlier at 4pm. The resource fair included faculty demonstrating different digital humanities projects from different classes, as well as the Office of Faculty Success with information on support for faculty research on digital pedagogy. The resource fair also included more information on the Open Textbook Network to connect the themes of both events. Of the 29 attendees, 14 responded to a post-event survey. 70% of the attendees were very satisfied with the event. Again, all attendees indicated they would likely attend another What's Brewing style event. Suggests for future events suggested holding the event on a different day or including coffee with the available beverages.

Other Results (if applicable)
Not applicable.

Anecdotal Information

"Any pedagogically focused event is of interest to me, and I appreciated meeting fellow professors who are interested in sharing their successful strategies."

"Good beer, good resources, & good folks... nothing else is needed"

Best Practices
This project was modeled on a "What's Brewing" event at the University of Dayton libraries. Rather than hold an open house, this project adapted it into a showcase focused on a specific topic. The specific topic, open educational resources and Critical Digital Pedagogy, allowed us to specifically showcase related UNT and UNT Library services without overwhelming attendees. Although it was initially conceived as a two-part program with an overview of the topic to prime librarians for any questions from other attendees, the resource fair facilitated a higher level of engagement with the topic.

Program Continuity
While the Fall event on open educational resources was informative and aided in priming interest in the topic, the Spring event would serve as a better model for future What's Brewing style events. Securing donations from local breweries may serve as the most difficult portion as they may or may not have the correct TABC license to distribute. However, Verde catering now has a process for securing vendors for alcoholic beverages that may ease this process. This event is a sustainable model in itself, but the incremental increase in attendees may require several iterations to build momentum and become a widely-attended event series.