Research technology in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Fraser Muir

College CIO

University of Edinburgh

About the College

- One of 3 academic Colleges in the University of Edinburgh
- 12 Schools, 23650 students and 3600 staff
- Approximately 20% of income from research
- Schools vary hugely in size, shape and requirements
 - Divinity (96 staff) > ECA (570 staff)
- ECA became part of the College in 2011



Digital scholarship in CAHSS

 Digital arts, digital humanities, digital social science, digital education and digital design

- Training and development programme for digital research in the College
- Academic leadership from Professor Melissa Terras
- Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture and Society
- Core academic team
- Digital Scholarship Steering Group
 - 60+ academics and PhD students
- Supported by the College Digital Innovation Team



College Digital Innovation Team

- Formed as the Web Team and renamed in 2017 to more clearly articulate the breadth of services offered
- Team of digital developers, designers, copywriters and multimedia specialists who provide a digital development service to the schools within the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Support digital development and innovation across all disciplines in the College

At College level

- Research technologist in the Digital Innovation Team
 - Supports all Schools in the College
 - Works to common College standards and Strategy
 - high-level support, guidance and advice
 - use digital techniques for data gathering, analysis or dissemination
 - Innovate technical solutions and rapid prototypes
- Establish a common definition & build a community of practice – work in progress
- College open research strategy
- Edinburgh Futures Institute

Richard Hadden Research technologist



At School level

- Each School has a general technology support team
- Subsidiarity
 complement not duplicate central services
- Specialist and discipline specific
- Embed the research technologist/research software engineer/research developer in that professional team
 - Not reporting to the PI
 - Even if they are temporary
 - Following same common College technology standards
 - Provide continuity and a degree of resilience
- Temporary > permanent if sufficient planned income stream