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You're in Good Company: Developing a Research Conference for Advanced Graduate Students in the Humanities

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You're in Good Company

Developing a Research Conference for Advanced Graduate Students in the Humanities

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Inspiration



- Gap between librarian and graduate student interactions between first-years and dissertation stage
- Cornell University Library's four-day long workshop for graduate students
- “Darn! I wish I had known that when I was writing my dissertation.”

Conversations with Stakeholders

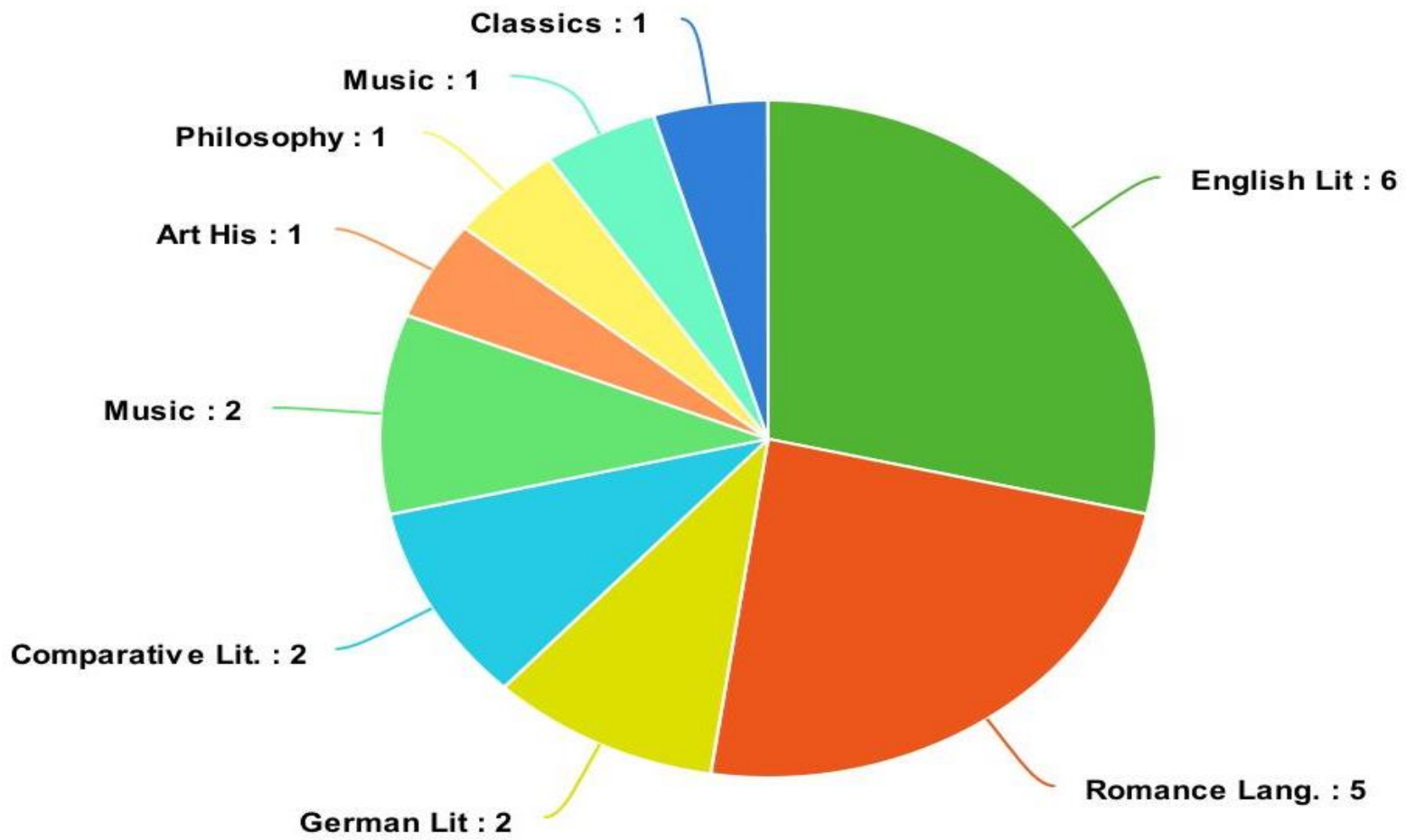
- Faculty strongly supported conference idea
- University Writing Center involvement
- Week or two right before fall term
- Research refresher and writing tips
- Faculty involvement in sessions favored
- Fight against, “You feel like you have to do everything yourself. It feels like cheating to get help.”
- “You’re not alone” became “You’re in Good Company”

Conference, 2014



FACULTY AND WRITING CENTER STAFF
CO-LED SESSIONS

- Writing and Researching the Dissertation: Blueprint for Success
- Managing Your Stuff in the Humanities
- Become an Expert Library Researcher
- Tap into Archives and Special Collections: Learn the Ins and Outs of Finding and Accessing Archival Materials, Manuscripts, and Rare Books
- Cameras, iPads, and Apps, Oh My: Using Technology for Research and Archival Work



2014 Attendees Area of Study
21 TOTAL

Feedback, 2014

- Highly valued hearing from faculty members!
- Top-rated session: “Writing and Researching the Dissertation”
- *“I think this was a great thing to do for students. I wish I had had this kind of support when I was writing my dissertation!”*
- *“I had some questions answered and was introduced to new databases that will become crucial (as it turns out) for my subsequent research process.”*



Takeaways, 2014

- Double time for logistics
- Need logistic support on day of conference
- Students need more time to talk about own research
- Provide smaller segments of technology
- Need for an ice-breaker

Survey, 2015

- Rate possible session topics
- Rate interest about specific tools
- Advertise 2015 conference
- “Early Bird Registration”

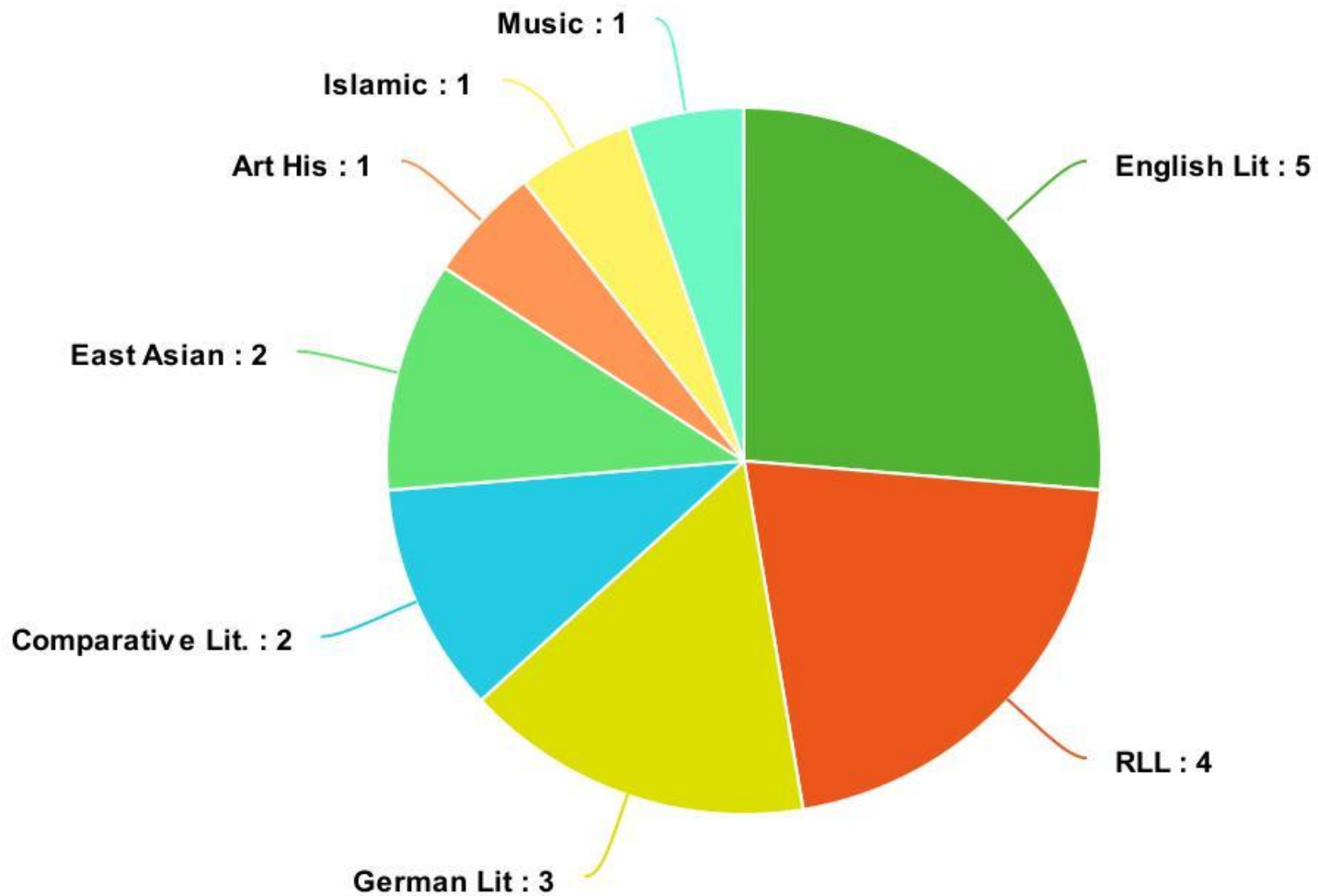
Conference, 2015



CHANGES FROM 2014

*Increased faculty participation
Session on publishing
Technology Sessions
Recorded Sessions*

- Going from ABD to PhD:
Writing and Finishing the Diss.
- Tips and Tricks for Getting
Published and Funded
- Ready-Set-Go—and Research!
- Don't Lose Your Sh*t: Apps
and Managing Your Research
Data
- Tech Break Out Session
 - Scrivener
 - Zotero and Mendeley
 - Evernote and OneNote



2015 Attendees Area of Study
19 TOTAL

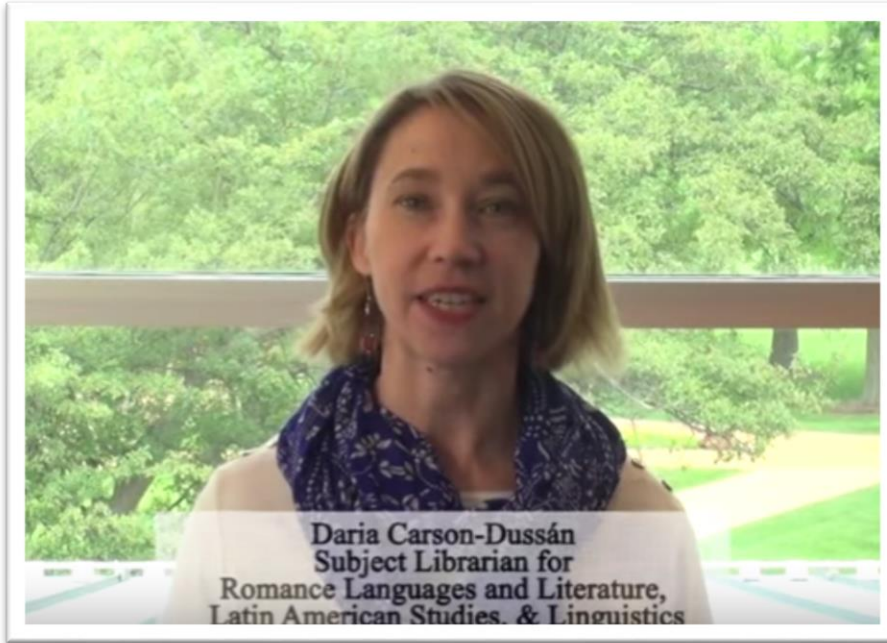
Library Grant to Record Sessions



*Entire conference
playlist available*

- Record sessions not technology related so they would not become outdated
- Record faculty and librarians
- Post on YouTube and guide for people who could not attend
- Provide video/footage for campus partners of their sessions

Teaser Technology Videos



*Entire conference
playlist available*

- Technology related topics were condensed to three-minute infomercials
- Could then be shared and used to market other library workshops
- Workshops offered in fall and spring semesters have similar offerings to this conference

Feedback, 2015

- *Going from ABD to PhD* session most highly rated
- Students thought publishing session was not relevant for them at this point
- Tech sessions were a great success
- More hands-on time with apps
- Too much break time

2016

- Funding approved from library administration. Yeah!
- Location challenge due to library renovation
- Graduate student on Planning Committee
- 1-day conference with more concurrent sessions
- Un-conference session (tables with different topics)
- Additional campus partners: Career Center

Recommendations

- Start planning six months ahead
- Look at campus calendars to schedule conference date(s)
- Teams for planning
 - Promotion
 - Food, room
 - Sessions
- One digital hub for attendee info (Google Docs, LibCal as a registration system)
- Hire students for logistics (e.g., nametags, lunches, etc.)
- Prevent cabin fever and vary room locations (morning and afternoon sessions in 2 separate spots)
- Informal gatherings for attendees and librarians
- Hand out paper surveys, for higher return rate

Additional Resources

2015 conference guide:

libguides.wustl.edu/goodcompany2

2014 conference guide:

libguides.wustl.edu/humresearchstudio

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