Key findings from a global study on the prominent role academic libraries play in advancing digital humanities (DH) on campus.

USE AND IMPACT

54% of responding institutions have DH capabilities, while another 20% plan to add these capabilities.

History and English are the top two departments that engage in DH.

DH tools and methods are engaging more students in the study of humanities, which expands their content knowledge and digital acumen.

THE LIBRARY’S ROLE

3/4 of institutions said their library offers ad hoc services to students and faculty, with 1/4 of institutions hosting a DH center within the library.

The most common ways libraries currently support DH:
- Serve as an institutional repository to accommodate DH digital objects.
- Help scholars plan for preservation needs.
- Create avenues for scholarly use and enhancement of metadata.

99% of academic librarians surveyed believe the library should play a role in supporting digital humanities.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

More than 80% of institutions with at least 15,000 students have digital humanities capabilities, compared to just 37% of schools with fewer than 5,000 students.

Cost is the biggest barrier to entry, followed by lack of expertise among faculty.

At smaller institutions, many faculty lack the technical skills needed to take advantage of DH capabilities. A platform like the Gale Digital Scholar Lab addresses this challenge.

The size of the institution matters.

Learn more at gale.com/dh-in-action