Digital Tools on the Cheap: Finding the Right Resources

Brandon W. Hawk
Medieval Studies Program
University of Connecticut

Website: http://brandonwhawk.net
Twitter: @b_hawk

A Gordian Knot

- Funding necessary to start projects (e.g. need to create prototype before seeking funding)
- Funding not always available until project started (Cyclical puzzle)
- Often acts as closed gate for newcomers
Solving the Puzzle

- Think in Publishable Phases
  (Don’t work toward end goal; work toward milestones)

- Test Tools to Destruction
  (“Failures” can be “successes”)
Moving Toward Details

- Do what you can without outside funding
  (Plan, find tools)

- Experiment
  (Be adaptable)

- Collaborate
  (You don’t have to do it all by yourself)
Planning Your Project

- Decide goals, what types of tools are needed
- Find representative examples, borrow from them
- Look for institutional support before outside funding
Finding Tools

- Look for free/cheap

- Major resources: Bamboo, DiRT, DevDH.org, DHCommons.org, GitHub

- Miram Posner's resources:
  “How Did They Make That?”
  “How Did They Do That?”
Experimentation

- Trial & error
- Try multiple tools
- You may not find the perfect tool (Great opportunity to apply for grants)
- Work on “phase 1”
Collaboration

- Libraries & librarians are key (or should be)
- Seek help (Ask around)
- Social media (Market & promote)
- Drum up interest (Blog, tweet, present as you go)
Thank you!

- Feel free to visit my sites:
  http://brandonwhawk.net
  http://studyingjudith.wordpress.com

- Please fill out an evaluation: