

**THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

**July 14-16, 2010**

*Experimental Approaches to New-Model Scholarly Communication*

The next two sessions of the Scholarly Communication Institute, SCI 8 and SCI 9, will explore new models for digital publishing of humanities scholarship and, in partnership with scholars, publishers, and librarians, articulate strategies for developing these models. SCI 8 will explore forms of publication that take advantage of new affordances of digital technologies, both for research and for representing knowledge. SCI 9 will bring publishers, librarians, and technologists together with scholars to develop strategies for implementing new models of scholarly communication.

It has often been said that without publishing, there is no scholarship. It is important for discoveries and interpretations to be circulated among a public able to verify and assess the value of a given contribution to a shared body of knowledge. But the familiar forms of peer-reviewed scholarship—monographs and journal articles—fail to meet the needs of many scholars to present scholarship based on collaborative knowledge production, or using dynamic data, visualizations, 3D models, and various audiovisual formats. Nor are they able to engage a broad community of peers in iterative inquiry and assessment. Above all, current models are neither efficient in the use of time and resources, nor economically sustainable.

SCI 8, to convene at the University of Virginia July 14-16, 2010, will gather scholars experimenting with new venues for the dissemination and assessment of scholarship online. The goal of this Institute will be to identify the publishing needs of such scholars and to articulate the new forms of scholarly publishing—beyond digital versions of analog monographs and journals—suitable for their work. Though we are not focusing on issues of validating and credentialing per se, we shall address them as appropriate, understanding that publishers rely on a community of expert scholars to determine what scholarship merits publication.

Topics to be addressed in this session may include: the nature of scholarly argumentation in online publication; strategies for representing temporally or spatially dynamic arguments and their underlying sources; the nature of expert communities best positioned to review such scholarship; and the changing roles and responsibilities of scholars and their professional societies, librarians, and publishers in new-model scholarly publishing. The outcome of SCI 8 will be an articulation of one or more models of publishing that meet the criteria developed by SCI participants, as well as identification of those scholars and professional societies, librarians, and publishers who are ready to develop these models.

SCI 9, to convene the summer of 2011, will further advance the work begun in SCI 8. Taking the vision articulated by participants of SCI 8 as a point of departure, we will convene publishers, librarians, and technologists to work with scholars to develop this vision into testable models.

### **SCI Background**

From its inception, SCI has focused on cultivating leadership and encouraging and enabling the integration of new technologies into scholarship. SCI 1 assembled a group of pioneers in digital scholarly communication to review progress over the last two decades and lessons learned, and to identify strategies for continuing progress in the arts and humanities. The reflections of SCI 1 participants set the stage for following Institutes. These Institutes have focused on several scholarly disciplines, the nature and potential of collaborative working structures, critical questions surrounding the use of new media technologies to advance scholarship in unique and innovative ways, and the institutional infrastructure essential to enable digital scholarly communication.

SCI leadership is committed to assisting participants to develop real and reasonable goals that can be accomplished. Theoretical and practical discussions are designed to lead to an action agenda. To this end, we have worked closely with scholars and their partners from previous Institutes, including practical ethicists, architectural historians, visual studies scholars, and leading humanities research centers. Additional information on the Scholarly Communication Institute can be found at: <http://www.uvasci.org/>