### **Publications & Digital Media**

Pubs are the tip of the iceberg. As we move further into a digital era of open sharing, learning, and collaboration... where does "scholarly" work fit in? How can we address the need to both create quality content, and serve a "digital first" audience?

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## What do we know?

#### Individuals are more likely to:

- Engage (likes, comments, shares, click-throughs, etc.) with content online if it's in a visual format
- Take the time to look at information that is visually represented (i.e. program handouts or PPT presentations)
- Want information in brief, easy to understand formats

#### Loosely defined as:

- Employing digital, networked, and open approaches to demonstrate specialism in a field.
- Digital scholarship work is mostly centered on the curation and preservation of digital artifacts or the digitization of content.
- Examples: blog posts or a post series, infographics, podcasts, interactive media, videos.

What is the current view of digital scholarship?

- Many of the current attempts to gain recognition for digital scholarship focus on making it behave like traditional scholarship.
- Promotion committees can play a significant role in exploring alternative methods by recognizing new forms of scholarship, as well as positively encouraging them either through guidelines or specific projects.

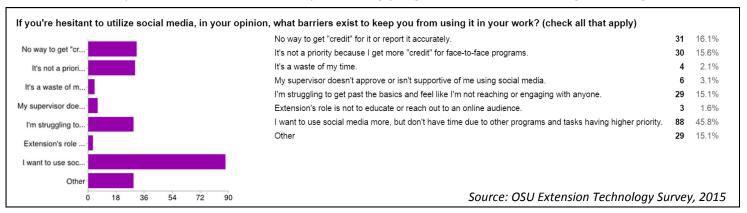
"Digital scholars are often well known in their institution. If a well known digital scholar struggles to get their work recognized than it sends a message to the rest of the university that this is not the type of activity that is likely to be rewarded, with a subsequent decline in its uptake. Recognizing digital scholarship will encourage institutional inno-

[However], assessing quality in a reliable and transparent manner is a significant problem in the recognition of digital scholarship, and its intangibility and complexity are enough to make many give up and fall back on the practices they know and trust."—Weller



From many conversations with OSUE staff and colleagues around the country, it's apparent the main priority in program delivery does not involve digital media due to a perceived lack of quality and/or scholarship during P&T and performance review processes.

This is currently one of the main barriers preventing program staff from creating more digital content.



# What are other states doing?

- Oregon State University has created interactive, digital versions of several fact sheets. An example: <a href="http://contentviewer.adobe.com/s/Forestry%20iPad/e3bd1e00-8741-5738-92f1-c9581e0a8a84/mixed/Intro.html">http://contentviewer.adobe.com/s/Forestry%20iPad/e3bd1e00-8741-5738-92f1-c9581e0a8a84/mixed/Intro.html</a>
- Oregon State University's FoodHero.org reaches hundreds of thousands of people each year. Their most popular recipe received more than 5,000 pins on Pinterest in three months.
- University of Wisconsin is piloting a "digital first" initiative. Extension staff in
  Rock County are thinking "digital first" when planning their program delivery
  strategies. Utilized to expand the audience, build awareness, and deliver
  educational programs in new formats. A "digital coach" works with program
  staff to do training and provide feedback and support, much like the Ed
  Techs do here in Ohio. The digital coach also makes sure they focus on
  "digital" when they may become distracted with on-going routines and requests.
- A few Family & Consumer Sciences Educators at Utah State University have switched to educating their audiences in completely digitally-based formats.
   For example, Amanda Christensen hosts weekly radio and TV shows, as well as podcasts in place of face-to-face programs.
- NMSU's JOE article describes impact of their digital-only resources for the Center for Landscape Conservation, of which YouTube videos were by far the highest-scoring: <a href="http://www.joe.org/joe/2015february/a1.php">http://www.joe.org/joe/2015february/a1.php</a>

#### For more information:

"The Digital Scholar: how technology is transforming scholarly practice" - Martin Weller
"A View of Digital Scholarship in Extension" - JOE: <a href="http://www.joe.org/joe/2013october/comm1.php">http://www.joe.org/joe/2013october/comm1.php</a>
Digital First at Ohio State: <a href="https://odee.osu.edu/digitalfirst">https://odee.osu.edu/digitalfirst</a>
Extedtechs.org / #EdTechLN

#### The Final Questions:

What defines scholarship in the digital age at OSU Extension? What defines 'quality' for P&T and performance review purposes? Should an infographic, which utilizes the same content as a PDF fact sheet but is in a more digital format, be encouraged as the higher priority? If so, how should it be encouraged?