

Formulating Disciplinary Questions

Developing research ideas is
about communication and
creativity

A Question

what do you do differently or better
than anyone else?

what do you spend time on?

what is a major issue/challenge/
bone of contention within your field?

what don't people understand about
something you work on?

if you do anything with your time regardless of
money, what would you work on?

Ideas Are Built Not Discovered

What Is a Project?

sequence of related activities
derived from a question, issue, or problem
requires the development of resources
requires an audience and/or other participants
results in a product

What Is a Project?

research
analyze
investigate
experiment
develop
create

telling a story, writing an argument,
answering a question, developing a
theory, building a tool

The Five Parts of a Research Project

a question, problem, or provocation

an analytical/discovery activity

an audience

concrete products

Discovering Digital Tools and Resources

Discovering Digital Tools

Bamboo Dirt

I need a digital research tool to . . .

Analyze data

Analyze texts

Author an interactive work

Blog

Brainstorm/generate ideas

Build and share collections

Collect data

Communicate with colleagues

Conduct linguistic research

Convert/manipulate files

Create a mashup

Edit images

Find research materials

Make a dynamic map

Make a screencast

Manage bibliographic information

Manage tasks

Network with other researchers

Organize research materials

Publish and share information

Search visually

Share bookmarks

Stay current with research

Take notes/annotate resources

Transcribe handwritten or spoken texts

Use an iPad

Visualize data

Write a paper

Write collaboratively

How Do You Know it is the Right Tool?

It allows you to manipulate and control your data.

It uses standardized inputs and outputs.

It provides useful documentation.

It is being used by at least one other person.

Why Does Understanding Your Tool Matter for Project Development?

Every good tool has a specific purpose.

It can only answer certain types of questions.

If your tool doesn't work with your question, you end up with a square peg, round hole situation.