

Hugh A. Blackmer

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Anthropologist: AB Harvard 1965, MA and PhD Stanford 1971, 1976. Dissertation research on regional change in Nova Scotia. Professor of Anthropology, Acadia University 1973-1990

Librarian: MSLIS Simmons 1992, Reference Librarian 1992-1996 and Science Librarian 1996-present at Washington & Lee University. Supported the information requirements of 50 faculty and 350 majors in the sciences, taught departmental classes in information resources. Early retirement September 2005

Teacher: at Washington & Lee, taught Web-based interdisciplinary courses since 1999, including Human Geography, Cross-Cultural Studies in Music, Anthropology of East Asia, History of Technology, Digital Libraries, History and Prospects of Humanity Computing, Information Visualization. At Acadia, taught many courses, experimented with computer-based learning, multimedia, and collaborative teaching

Researcher on the evolution of information technologies: built Washington & Lee's first Web presence, supported Geographic Information Systems development and used GIS in teaching, supervised design and prototyping of a personal information management environment, consulted in digital library development, conducted experiments with pedagogical applications of blogging and podcasting. See **NITLE News** 2003 article "Making room for disruptive and emergent technologies" at <http://home.wlu.edu/~blackmerh/sabb/nitle2.html>

Web Chronology: <http://home.wlu.edu/~blackmerh/weblegacy.html>
Current Work: <http://home.wlu.edu/~blackmerh/current.html>
Academic CV: <http://home.wlu.edu/~blackmerh/cv2005.html>

Objective: Participation in a collaborative team exploring the emergent properties of social software, seeking and interviewing people who are doing especially creative things with the teaching-and-learning side of the Web's evolution, tracking innovative uses of blogging, and collaborating with engineers to build and test personal information management utilities.

My long-run interests center on the practical uses of digital technologies. I am an observer of people's construction and management of their evolving information universes, an analyst of the individual and collaborative and collective learning that develops in contexts of enhanced communication, and a student of the ways that digital affordances change human interaction. For my entire life I have worked with others to discover and support their interests, in many disciplines and in print and electronic media. The really big question I seek to address in the next phase of my career: How do you find the stuff YOU need, at the level YOU need, in the world of "universal access to all knowledge" that Brewster Kahle foretells?