In 2013, a group of 11 librarians and technologists on the CU Boulder campus sought to understand researcher interest and needs in digital humanities.

We discovered that digital scholars were scattered across disciplines, often with little interaction with each other or knowledge of available expertise and resources on campus.

The task force recommended the creation of a digital scholarship center to act as a hub to bring a dispersed network of researchers, expertise, and resources together.

At the same time, campus Research Computing was thinking about creating a center for data analytics and visualization. We merged our visions into a campus research center, CRDDS, which launched in June 2017: http://www.colorado.edu/crdds/

Due to the interest exhibited across the disciplinary spectrum, we realized that using the term digital scholarship was more appropriate in our context.

In interviews, some researchers described a hardscrabble existence where they felt compelled to “pull themselves up by their bootstraps.” Building community was high priority.

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On a campus as decentralized as CU Boulder, no one group could hope to support them.

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