

Digital Humanities
Spring 2013

Note: Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism laid out in “Plagiarism 101”

Course News & Announcements Forum
Writing on Reading, and Ruminations Forum 30 unread posts
Assignments Resource
Absences, Late Assignments, Accommodations Resource
Learning Objectives Resource
Digital Humanities Glossary
Office Hours Chat
DHWiki

Required Reading:

Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities
Blackwell Companion to Digital Literary Studies
Debates in the Digital Humanities
Electronic Textual Editing

Recommended Reading:

MLA Handbook, 7th edition
ACLS report on Cyberinfrastructure for Humanities & Social Science PDF document

Peer-reviewed Journals:

Digital Humanities Quarterly
Literary and Linguistic Computing
Digital Studies
Journal of Digital Humanities
Journal of the Text Encoding Initiative

Discussion Groups:

Humanist
HASTAC Discussions

Video:

From the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities
Visualizations by Elijah Meeks
4Humanities
Greta Franzini's DH Video Channel

Blogs:

Dan Cohen's blog
Ted Underwood's blog
Miriam Posner's blog
Matt Jockers' blog
Mark Sample's blog
Lisa Spiro's blog

Matt Wilkens' blog
Melissa Terras's blog
The ScottBot Irregular

Miscellaneous but useful:

The DiRT Wiki
Digital Humanities Questions and Answers
René Clausen Nielsen, "Going to Data Visualization School" blogged in World of Data, January 11, 2013
Data-Driven Documents (the D3.js library for HTML5)
An Introduction to Humanities Data Curation
Day of DH
Jerome McGann, "Introduction," Memory Now. Philology in a New Key. PDF document
Re-thinking Humanities Graduate Education PDF document
Shared Horizons (meeting report from the Chronicle of Higher Education)

Humor:

Tumblr blog of fake DH job ads
Reading and Time: A Dialogue Between Academic Expectation and Academic Frustration
Jason Rhody, "Office of Digital Humanities to Release Formal Definition of 'Digital Humanities'"

Evaluation:

Spring 2013 - Mid-course Feedback - Two Question Questionnaire
Spring 2013 - Mid-course Feedback - Ten Question Questionnaire
"How Much Information Is There in the World?" (2011)

1

1/15, 1/18: Introduction

Overview of the class, review of the syllabus as a contract for the class, questions, and preliminary discussion of readings that outline the origins of digital humanities, their relevance to undergraduate education, especially in English departments, and issues of diversity and inclusiveness as they apply to digital humanities.

Matt Kirschenbaum, "What Is Digital Humanities and What's It Doing in English Departments?"

Jen Rajchel, "Learning from an undergraduate digital humanities project" (video)

Father Busa, "Foreword: Perspectives on the Digital Humanities"

Tara McPherson, "Why Are the Digital Humanities So White?, or, Thinking the Histories of Race and Computation"

Roger Whitson, "Why I Love the Digital Humanities"

See also:

"What is Digital Humanities" (randomized answers)
Wikipedia entry on "Digital Humanities"
Tools for Data-Driven Scholarship PDF document
Unsworth, "Living Inside the Operating System"
"LSD, Mind-Control, and the Internet: A Chronology"
Edwin Black, "IBM and The Holocaust"
Wikipedia entry on "Information Hiding"

Steve Heims, "The Cybernetics Group"

2

1/22, 1/25: Digital Humanities: A Disciplinary Sampler

As a way of contextualizing several weeks of reading and discussion that will be focused on DH and literary studies, this week will be devoted to readings that describe the intersection of DH with other humanities disciplines, some textually oriented, and some not.

Ichiro Fujinaga and Susan Forscher Weiss, "Music," Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities.

Will Thomas, "Computing and the Historical Imagination," Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities.

David Saltz, "Performing Arts," Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities.

Greg Crane, "Classics and the Computer: An End of the History," Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities.

See also:

Downie, J. Stephen. 2003. "Music information retrieval." Annual Review of Information Science and Technology 37: 295-340. PDF document

Music Encoding Initiative

The Valley of the Shadow

William G. Thomas, III and Edward Ayers, "The Differences Slavery Made: A Close Analysis of Two American Communities," American Historical Review

Edward Ayers, "In the Presence of Mine Enemies: The Civil War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863"

Visualizing Emancipation

Who Built America?

HyperCities (an example of historical GIS)

Itaka S+R report, "Supporting the Research Practices of Historians"

Leigh Estabrook and Bijan Warner. 2003. "The Book as Gold Standard" PDF document

Screen Shots from Theatron in Second Life

Virtual Vaudeville

Excerpts from performances, Association for Dance and Performance Telematics

Stelarc: Ear on Arm, Engineering Internet Organ 2008

Open Annotation Collaboration

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1/29, 2/1: Digital Humanities & Literary Studies, Part 1 – Electronic Scholarly Editing.

This week begins with several brief readings from the Modern Language Association's Committee on Scholarly Editions, followed by longer readings concerning two editorial projects on major American authors.

G. Thomas Tanselle, "Foreword," Electronic Textual Editing

MLA Committee on Scholarly Editions, "Guidelines for Editors of Scholarly Editions," Electronic Textual Editing

Burnard, O'Keefe, Unsworth, "Principles," Electronic Textual Editing

Kenneth Price, "Electronic Scholarly Editions," Companion to Digital Literary Studies

Morris Eaves, "Electronic Textual Editing: Multimedia Body Plans: A Self-Assessment"

Martha Nell Smith, "Electronic Scholarly Editing," Companion to Digital Humanities

See also:

"Just What is an Archives, Anyway?"

"What is an Archives?" PDF document

The William Blake Project Archives at the Charles Babbage Institute

Supporting Digital Scholarship

Greg Ulmer, Heuristics

Dickinson Electronic Archives

The Walt Whitman Archive

The William Blake Archive

Electronic Scholarship, or Scholarly Publishing and the Public

"Unsworth, web site" (c.f. Smith)

Global Outlook :: Digital Humanities

Jacques Derrida on American Attitude

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2/5, 2/8: Hands on: Encoding an item from special collections in TEI xml.

This week is devoted to learning how to represent cultural artifacts in eXtensible Markup Language (XML); we'll also learn a bit about schemas, validating parsers, eXtensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) and XSL transformation engines, and functionality that can be built on XML structures (for retrieval, analytics, document management, etc.).

NB: this week was disrupted by Nemo. There was no class on the 8th, and that class was held on the 12th, and then added another class on text-encoding, on the 15th.

Michael Sperberg-McQueen, "The Hermeneutics of Data Representation" (Video)

TEI: An Overview (video)

TEI By Example (read "Introduction" under "Tutorials")

How to:

P5 Manuscript Encoding Guidelines

TEI Customizations (scroll down for MS customization)

Basic Manuscript and Physical Document Encoding (slides)

Basic Manuscript and Physical Document Encoding (notes)

Illustration for "Basic Manuscript and Physical Document Encoding" PDF document

Advanced Manuscript Encoding (slides)

Advanced Manuscript Encoding (notes)

John Walsh and Michele Dalmau, "Catapult TEI Workshop II"

James Cummings, "ENRICHing Electronic Manuscripts with TEI P5 XML" PDF document

Marked up MS example (facsimile only, no transcription)

TEI by Example, Module 6 (Primary Sources)

XSLT basics

XSL FAQ

Stylebear

TEI Boilerplate

Manuscript Materials:

Joseph Heller Finding Aid at Brandeis

Heller's Catch 22 storyboard

Heller MS p1

Heller MS p2

Heller MS p3
Heller MS p4
Heller MS p5
Heller MS p6

See also:

Wikipedia entry on Michael Sperberg-McQueen
The End of Theory
The Chomsky Hierarchy
words make everything better
Matthew Driscoll, "P5-MS: A general purpose tagset for manuscript description"
Oxygen XML editor (with a 30-day free trial)

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2/26, 3/1: Digital Humanities & Literary Studies, Part 2 – Quantitative Methods

What do quantitative methods bring to literary criticism? What are the limitations and possibilities of these methods, and what results do they have to show?

Stephen Ramsay, "Algorithmic Criticism," Companion to Digital Literary Studies
Tanya Clement, "'A thing not beginning and not ending': using digital tools to distant-read Gertrude Stein's *The Making of Americans*," *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 23:3 (2008): 361-381. PDF document
Ted Underwood, "The Differentiation of Literary and Non-Literary Diction, 1700-1900," *The Stone and the Shell*, February 26, 2012
David Bamman, Jacob Eisenstein, Tyler Schnoebelen, "Gender in Twitter: Styles, stances, and social networks"

See also:

Ted Underwood, "How Not To Do Things With Words," *The Stone and the Shell*, August 25, 2012.
Andrew Goldstone & Ted Underwood, "What can topic models of PMLA teach us about the history of literary scholarship?"
Ted Underwood, "We don't already know the broad outlines of literary history."
D. Sculley and Brad Pasanek, "Meaning and mining: the impact of implicit assumptions in data mining for the humanities" PDF document

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3/5: Take-home midterm due

For the midterm exam, you should write for about an hour and a half in response to one of the following two prompts:

1) Pick one project description listed here:

<http://goo.gl/Sc785>

and based on that description, and your reading in the course to date, discuss what you think would be the technical, editorial, representational, intellectual, or other challenges likely to be encountered in this project, and speculate on how one might go about addressing those challenges.

2) Pick any two readings from the semester so far--either required or suggested--and write about them in relation to one another. What does the juxtaposition of the two demonstrate about the digital humanities? What accounts for the similarities or differences between the two? You can take sides, or you can rise above the partisan, as you choose.

Hands-on Text Mining:

The Monk Project, The HathiTrust Research Center, Voyant, Google Ngrams, ManyEyes: Pick a text and use it as the basis for experimentation with one or more of these text-mining, text-analytic, and visualization tools. Review the videos in preparation for class sessions that will be devoted to tinkering.

Voyeur Tools (Video)

Voyant (the Voyeur tool)

Classification using the MONK project (Video)

Comparison using the MONK project (Video)

The MONK Workbench

How to use ManyEyes (Video)

ManyEyes (the tool)

Google Ngram Manual (Video)

Google Ngram Viewer

Google Correlate (the comic book)

Google Correlate

Topic-Modeling Tool

See also:

Digital Humanities Twitter NodeXL SNA Map and Report for Sunday, 13 January 2013 at 16:36 UTC

Comparing Corpora in Voyant

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3/8: Digital Humanities & Literary Studies, Part 3 – Reading New Media.

How do our readerly interactions with text change when text becomes interactive, multi-modal, and game-like? And what new genres do we find in new media?

Dirk van Hulle, "Hypertext and Avant-texte in Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Literature," Companion to Digital Literary Studies

Nick Montfort, "Riddle machines: the history and nature of interactive fiction," Companion to Digital Literary Studies

See also:

Matt Kirschenbaum, "Hello Worlds"

Interactive Fiction Archive

Espen Aarseth, "Ergodic Literature"

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3/12: Digital Humanities & Social Media (via Skype; new campus location for class meeting)

The digital humanities community has been an early and enthusiastic adopter of social media: why do they choose this genre of communication, how do they use it, and what are the costs and benefits?

3/15: Digital Humanities, The Next Generation (class meeting at Simmons)

Optional class, in which you may participate in a symposium focused on the work of graduate students and junior faculty in digital humanities, in the Boston area. The Symposium will be held at Simmons College, in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Some ringers may appear.

Lev Manovich, "Trending: The Promises and the Challenges of Big Social Data," *Debates in the Digital Humanities*

Bethany Nowvskie, "What Do Girls Dig?" in *Debates in Digital Humanities*

Melissa Terras, "Is Blogging and Tweeting about Research Papers Worth It? The Verdict," Blog entry, April 3, 2012.

Call for Papers, "Digital Humanities: The Next Generation"

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3/19, 3/22: The spatial turn in digital humanities.

"In 2009 and 2010, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Scholars' Lab at the University of Virginia Library hosted three tracks of an 'Institute for Enabling Geospatial Scholarship.'" The Institute's website was released in 2011 to serve as a community-driven resource for the spatial humanities. This week, students are asked to explore that website and report on their investigation of some topic of interest, either through live in-class presentations or through Powerpoint or Prezi presentations uploaded or linked on LATTE.

Spatial Humanities: a project of the Institute for Enabling Geospatial Scholarship

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4/5: Making a research-based intervention

During this class meeting, we'll discuss the process of doing research in the humanities. A reference librarian will be on hand to answer questions. Your assignment will be to plan (in writing) a research-based intervention in a public discussion of some sort, and then to execute that intervention. You will need to choose a topic of interest to you, identify a community that shares that interest, and then participate in the dialogue of that community, with a particular goal in mind. At the end of the semester, you'll be asked to reflect on whether your intervention had the intended effect, and on what you learned from the experience.

Brandeis UWS Research Guide

Mark Sample, "What's Wrong With Writing Essays" *Debates in the Digital Humanities*

Steven Lubar, "On Public Humanities," blogged August 31, 2012.

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4/9, 4/12: Critiques of Digital Humanities.

There are a variety of critiques of the digital humanities, and in this week's readings and discussion we'll investigate a fairly representative sampling.

David Greetham, "The Resistance to Digital Humanities," Debates in the Digital Humanities
Alan Liu, "Where Is Cultural Criticism in the Digital Humanities?" Debates in the Digital Humanities
George Williams, "Disability, Universal Design, and the Digital Humanities" Debates in the Digital Humanities
William Pannacker, "On 'The Dark Side of the Digital Humanities'"
Adeline Koh, Race and the Digital Humanities: An Introduction (NITLE Seminar)
Cathy Davidson, "Let's Talk about MOOC (online) Education--And Also About Massively Outdated Traditional Education (MOTEs)"

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4/16 - 4/19: Publication, open access, peer review.

The digital humanities has had a significant impact on scholarly practices in the humanities, but in many ways the impact of electronic publishing and digital data is still less pronounced in the humanities than in the sciences and the social sciences. This week's readings and discussions will explore the reasons for that, and consider the prospects for the future.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Planned Obsolescence, Introduction and Chapter One
Paul Fyfe, "Electronic Errata: Digital Publishing, Open Review, and the Futures of Correction," Debates in the Digital Humanities
Dan Cohen, "The Social Contract of Scholarly Publishing," Debates in the Digital Humanities
ProfHacker (in this case, Adeline Koh), "The Challenges of Digital Scholarship," Chronicle of Higher Education, January 25, 2012
Cathy Davidson, "Humanities 2.0: Promise, Perils, Predictions," Debates in the Digital Humanities

See also:

Bill-Crit-O-Matic
John Unsworth, "Combustion of Early Summer"

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4/23, 4/26: Careers in Digital Humanities.

One of the interesting things about the digital humanities is that it has opened up a variety of new careers in the humanities, as well as new paths into traditionally related fields, such as librarianship and publishing. This week's readings will look at these alternate paths and careers.

Julia Flanders, "Time, Labor, and 'Alternate Careers' in Digital Humanities Knowledge Work," Debates in the Digital Humanities
"Careers & Credentials" a cluster of four essays published between June 13, 2011 and April 24, 2012 in #alt-academy: a media commons project.
"Alternate Academic Careers for Humanities Scholars," a cluster of two essays published between June 15, 2011 and April 24, 2012 in #alt-academy: a media commons project.

See also:

"More minds are brought to bear on a problem": Methods of Interaction and Collaboration within Digital Humanities Research Teams

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4/30: Review and reflection

No assigned reading. Shared reflection on research-based interventions from early April. Evaluation of the usefulness of assigned readings, assignments, midterm exam. Q&A about final papers.

5/3: Final papers due, finals week begins

There is no final exam for this course. Final papers are due during the exam block for this course, i.e., by 9 pm on Tuesday, May 7th.