

Introduction to the Digital Humanities

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What is “Digital Humanities”?

“The digital humanities comprise the study of what happens at the intersection of computing tools with cultural artifacts of all kinds. This study begins where basic familiarity with standard software ends. It probes how these common tools may be used to make new knowledge from our cultural inheritance and from the contemporary world. It equips students to analyze problems in terms of digital methods, choose those best for the job at hand, apply them creatively and assess the results. It teaches students to use computing as an instrument to investigate how we know what we know, hence to strengthen and extend our knowledge of the world past and present.”

--The [Centre for Humanities Computing](#) at King's College, London University

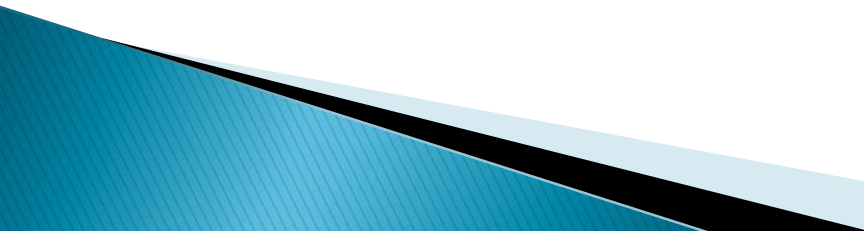
Introduction by Scott Hamlin (Wheaton College):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KB5xizZzqZE>

Dan Cohen (esp. 8-minute mark to 13 minute mark).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu6Z1SoEZcc>

Why even bother with the Digital Humanities?

- ▶ Growing field – opportunities continue to pop up.
 - ▶ Great way to enhance teaching and learning – to make, for example, close reading take on new meaning, integrate technology with humanist study
 - ▶ To provide greater access to material – reach out to and assist others in one's respective field of study
 - ▶ Potentially make a greater cultural and social impact
 - ▶ Make available data, and provide means to mine, expand, and manipulate that data
 - ▶ Opportunities for collaboration, interdisciplinary work
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Selected Resources for Digital Humanities

- ▶ *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. Peer-reviewed journal. <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/>
- ▶ Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations. <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/>
- ▶ Digital Humanities Café (Harvard University). <http://guides.hcl.harvard.edu/content.php?pid=173015&sid=1455749>
- ▶ Digital Humanities Now. <http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/>
- ▶ Humanists Discussion Group. <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/humanist/>
- ▶ Digital Scholarship in the Humanities Blog, by Lisa Spiro. <http://digitalscholarship.wordpress.com/>

Selected Resources for Digital Humanities -- Continued

- ▶ Digital Humanities Sessions at 2011 MLA.
<http://hastac.org/blogs/marksample/digital-humanities-sessions-2011-mla>
- ▶ CUNY Digital Humanities Resource Guide.
http://commons.gc.cuny.edu/wiki/index.php/The_CUNY_Digital_Humanities_Resource_Guide
- ▶ Companion to the Digital Humanities.
<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/>
- ▶ Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web.
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/>

Explore one of the aforementioned resources

- ▶ What are some of its features?
- ▶ What does it contain to help you learn about the field?
- ▶ Why should someone take the time to read it and go through its contents?

Quick Exercise

Academic Programs in the Digital Humanities

- ▶ University of Maryland, UCLA, Univ. of Nebraska, University of Florida, University of Virginia, University of Iowa, Georgia Tech, Texas A & M, London University, and many, many more
- ▶ Kent State University School of Digital Sciences.
<http://www.kent.edu/dsci/whatisdsci/index.cfm>
- ▶ Examples:
 - (Texas A & M). <http://dh.tamu.edu/certificate/courses/>
 - UCLA.
<http://www.cdh.ucla.edu/instruction/dhgradcertprog.html>

Modern Language Association (MLA) and the Digital Humanities

- ▶ Guidelines for Evaluating Work with Digital Media.
http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/rep_it/guidelines_evaluation_digital
- ▶ Guidelines for Institutional Support of and Access to IT for Faculty and Students.
http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/rep_it/it_support
- ▶ Minimal Guidelines for authors of web pages.
http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/rep_it/web_guidelines
- ▶ Evaluating Digital Work for Tenure and Promotion.
http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/rep_it/dig_eval

Conferences, Workshops, Seminars

- ▶ THATCamp (Humanities and Technology “camps”).
<http://thatcamp.org/>
- ▶ NINES Summer Workshop.
<http://www.nines.org/about/community/workshop.html>
- ▶ Digital Humanities Summer Institute. <http://dhsi.org/>
- ▶ Digital Humanities Conference.
<http://digitalhumanities.org/conference>
- ▶ Balisage: The Markup Conference.
<http://www.balisage.net/>
- ▶ Women Writers Project (Brown University) workshops and seminars.
<http://www.wwp.brown.edu/outreach/seminars/>
- ▶ Digital humanities at Oxford.
<http://digital.humanities.ox.ac.uk/>

Grants for Digital Humanities

- ▶ NEH Start-up Grants.
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/digitalhumanitiesstartup.html>
- ▶ IMLS.
<http://www.imls.gov/recipients/grantsearch.aspx>
- ▶ Kress.
<http://www.kressfoundation.org/grants/default.aspx?id=150>
- ▶ Indiana University's Page:
http://www.indiana.edu/~idah/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=6&Itemid=55

Explore one of the aforementioned grants

- ▶ What kinds of projects does it support?
- ▶ How involved is the application process? What exactly *is* involved?
- ▶ What are the deadlines?

Quick Exercise

Jobs in the Digital Humanities

- ▶ Chronicle of Higher Education
- ▶ Digital Humanities Now.
<http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/category/jobs/>
- ▶ Dan Cohen's Digital Humanities Blog.
<http://www.dancohen.org/category/jobs/>
- ▶ HASTAC.
<http://hastac.org/topics/academia/careers-publishing-tenure>

Selected Digital Humanities Projects

- ▶ Walt Whitman Archive.
<http://www.whitmanarchive.org/>
- ▶ The William Blake Archive.
<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>
- ▶ Romantic Circles. <http://www.rc.umd.edu/>
- ▶ NINES. <http://www.nines.org/>
- ▶ 18th Connect. <http://www.18thconnect.org/>
- ▶ Spatial Humanities.
<http://spatial.scholarslab.org/>
- ▶ MITH (UMD). <http://mith.umd.edu/>
- ▶ Euclid Corridor Project.
<http://www.riderta.com/kiosk/content/csu/>

More Projects

- ▶ Voices of the Holocaust. <http://voices.iit.edu/>
- ▶ Encyclopedia of Chicago. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>
- ▶ Transcribe Bentham Project. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/transcribe-bentham/>
- ▶ Herman Melville's *Typee*: A Fluid Text Edition. <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/melville/>
- ▶ Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. <http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>
- ▶ Historical Voices. <http://www.historicalvoices.org/>
- ▶ Quilt Index. <http://www.quiltindex.org/>

Explore one of the aforementioned projects

- ▶ What are some of its features?
- ▶ What search features does it contain that are different from what a simple keyword search would provide?
- ▶ In what ways would it aid research in its subject?

Quick Exercise

Some Tools

- ▶ Juxta. <http://www.juxtasoftware.org/>
- ▶ WordPress. <http://wordpress.com/>
- ▶ PhiloLogic3.
<http://sites.google.com/site/philologic3/>
- ▶ TAPoR. <http://portal.tapor.ca/portal/portal>
- ▶ Voyeur Tools. <http://hermeneuti.ca/voyeur>
- ▶ Literature Map. <http://literature-map.com/>
- ▶ ManyEyes. <http://www-958.ibm.com/software/data/cognos/manyeyes/>

Some Tools -- Continued

- ▶ Collex. <http://www.collex.org/> (and <http://www.nines.org/about/software/collex.html>)
- ▶ Wordle. <http://www.wordle.net/>
- ▶ Tile text–image linking environment. <http://mith.umd.edu/tile/>
- ▶ Omeka. <http://omeka.org/>
- ▶ eXist (XML Database). <http://exist.sourceforge.net/>
- ▶ teiPublisher (uses eXist). <http://teipublisher.sourceforge.net/docs/index.php>
- ▶ XTF. <http://xtf.cdlib.org/>
- ▶ Xcruciate. <http://www.xcruciate.co.uk/overview>

Explore one of the aforementioned tools

- ▶ What does the tool mainly do?
- ▶ What are some of its features?
- ▶ What would it take to use this tool? How steep is the learning curve?

Quick Exercise

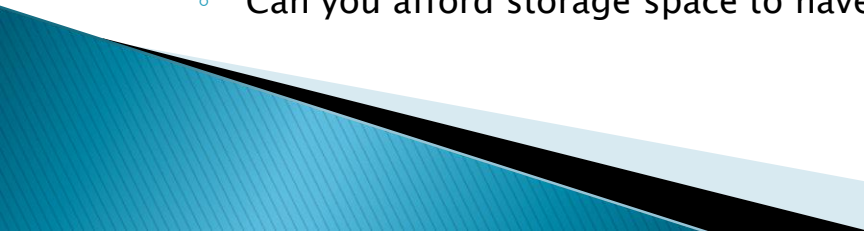
Getting Started

»» Project Planning

Digital Humanities: Project Planning

- ▶ Identify a project.
 - What is the project?
 - Who is your audience?
 - What is your goal(s)/objective(s)? What do you want your audience to get out of it?
- ▶ Research existing projects related to the one you are considering.
- ▶ Research tools that can assist you.
 - On-line tools (e.g. visualization tools, Omeka, WordPress, etc.)
 - Text-encoding and metadata software
 - Digitization hardware and software (see Freedman Center)
- ▶ Consider the size of your project.
 - How many assets does your project comprise?
 - How large is each asset?

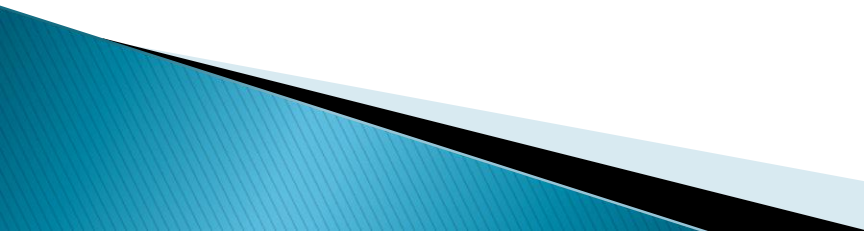
Digital Humanities: Project Planning (Continued)

- ▶ **Time.**
 - How much time will you be able to devote to this project?
 - How manageable is it?
 - ▶ **Staff.**
 - Can you do this project alone?
 - Who else can assist you – practicum students? Interns? Programmers?
 - What campus services can provide assistance (KSL, IT, Baker–Nord, Freedman Center)?
 - ▶ **Budget.**
 - What grants can you apply for (national regional, local)?
 - If you have to buy hardware or software, how much will it cost you?
 - Can you outsource any of the work?
 - ▶ **Learning Curve.**
 - Digitizing audio, video, texts, etc.
 - Programming, marking up text, etc.
 - ▶ **Duration.**
 - Do you want this project to live on forever?
 - Can you afford storage space to have it live forever?
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Project Planning Example

If I want to digitize a text using TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) standards, I have to:

- ▶ Decide level of encoding
 - ▶ Decide how to encode material
 - ▶ Decide about regularization, normalization, transcription
 - ▶ Decide what to encode
 - ▶ Know what aspects of the text's content will be enhanced by encoding
 - ▶ Know what level of granularity I want to encode at? (paragraphs? individual words?)

 - ▶ AND, bear in mind everything discussed in the previous slides
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Start to map out a possible project.

- ▶ Refer to Digital Humanities sampler for ideas:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cx9DRazb6ZE>

Last Exercise

Bibliographies

- ▶ Digital Humanities, A Select Bibliography, by Dr. Laura Mandell.
<http://www.units.muohio.edu/technologyandhumanities/dighumbibl.htm>
- ▶ Analyzing Visual Culture, A Select Bibliography, by Laura Mandell et al.
<http://www.units.muohio.edu/technologyandhumanities/analyzevisual.htm>