Program Outline

Morning: Hands-on History of Recent Digital Humanities: 9am – 12pm

- Introduction: What is the Digital Humanities?
- Build the Archive
- Annotate the Archive
- The Archive as Data

Afternoon: Digital Humanities Methodology and Wrap-up Discussion: 1:30pm – 2:30pm

- Digital Humanities: Methodology or Tool?
- Discussion and wrap-up
A Hands-On History of Recent Digital Humanities

Not exhaustive, but hopefully inspirational
A Hands-On History of Recent Digital Humanities

Our imposed narrative

• Build the Archive
• Annotate the Archive
• The Archive as Data
Introduction

Father Roberto Busa

incorporating all three approaches into the Index Thomisticus

1946, 1974, now
A nexus of fields within which scholars use computing technologies to investigate the kinds of questions that are traditional to the humanities, or, as is more true of my own work, ask traditional kinds of humanities-oriented questions about computing technologies.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Introduction

[A]n array of convergent practices that explore a universe in which: a) print is no longer the exclusive or the normative medium in which knowledge is produced and/or disseminated; instead, print finds itself absorbed into new, multimedia configurations; and b) digital tools, techniques, and media have altered the production and dissemination of knowledge in the arts, human and social sciences.

Digital Humanities Manifesto 2.0
The goal is not to use the machine to supplant the judgment and expertise of a human expert who has spent a lifetime reading Dickinson, but rather to see if the classifications can “provoke” new insight amongst a body of familiar texts.

Matthew Kirschenbaum
Perhaps it will become customary for students of literature to sit in classrooms and remark, “Well, Professor, Cather’s use of that word is distinctive in her corpus, and her choice to place it at the end of a sentence 35 percent of the time also suggests that it figures prominently in this text. Plus, you’ll notice, Cather’s use of this word was quite different from the way it was used by nineteenth-century novelists, though it is more consistent with twentieth-century writers. Maybe this word is more related to modernism than we previously thought.”

Andrew Jewell
“Very often the case that it is this ambiguity and uncertainty that is of interest to the humanities scholar. It is not a nuisance factor to be eliminated; it is a valuable aspect of the data and the focus of much study.”

Martyn Jessop

“Some people stand in the same place longer than many buildings; and have a greater right to appear on a map, than many landmarks.”

Tim Hitchcock
Build the Archive
Early Animation

Virtual Jamestown's John Smith's Voyages

- Allows easy comparison of first and second
- Animation, layers, time and spatial scale
- Technology for discovery vs. display
Build the Archive

Early Experimentation

Valley of the Shadow

• Animated battle maps, motion and scale of troop movements

• Older tech but sophisticated concepts

• Detail of sourcing
Build the Archive
Create a Database

China Historical GIS

- Thematic maps
- Early network analysis
- Shared data
Old Maps Online

- Collaboration: content + technical expertise + money
- Previously orphaned project
- Limited crowdsourcing (Georeferencer)
Annotate the Archive

“Gamic” mode

- Annotating a path through the digital library
- “The Differences Slavery Made” as a new scholarly mode, making choices more transparent
Annotate the Archive
Scholarly Editions

William Blake Archive

Willa Cather Archive

Emily Dickinson Archive

DuBois Central and DuBoisopedia

Dante Gabriel Rossetti Archive and bio

Walt Whitman Archive and commentary
Annotate the Archive

Discussion

• Are all the archives applicable to your project in one place? Are any, some, most, or all online?

• If they were digitized, how would you organize them and with what metadata?

• How would you make sure they were available in five years? Ten? One hundred?

• What annotation projects would you take up first? Who would you recruit?
ChronoZoom

- Mega-collaboration: Microsoft Research, UC Berkeley, Moscow State
- Originally (2009) a student project
- “New type of peer review journal” – participation invited, but highly controlled
Archive as Data

Encoding

OldWeather

- Mega-mega-collaboration
- Transcription of Royal Navy ships’ logs – climate data, text → statistics
- Work is entirely crowdsourced
Archive as Data

Encoding

Old Bailey Online

- Text → Statistics
- Add corrections
- Advertisements, partners and funding
Archive as Data
Networks

ORBIS: Stanford Geospatial Model of the Roman World

- Movement as network
- What data powers this?
- Multiple types of visualization
Archive as Data

Living Documents

• Online Chopin Variorum

• Homer Multitext

• Visualizing Wikipedia changes through Juxta
Archive as Data

Text → Visualization

- TaPor
- Voyant Links
Archive as Data

Coming Attractions

- Digging Into Data Challenge
- NEH 2011 Digital Humanities Start-up Grant Winners
Break
“Visualization, which essentially makes the text a picture, is capable of bringing a novel into focus as a unified visual event.”

Matthew Kirschenbaum
Archive as Data

Data Visualization

- Visualizing the Civil War
  - Interdisciplinary, temporal chunking
- Visualizing Emancipation
  - Very disparate data, layers
Archive as Data
Data Visualization

Figure 4-14. Four Gestalt principles

Jenifer Tidwell
Designing Interfaces
Figure 7-5. Eight preattentive variables

- Color hue
- Position and alignment
- Color brightness
- Orientation
- Color saturation
- Size
- Texture
- Shape
Archive as Data

Data Visualization

Felice Frankel

Visual Strategies
Archive as Data
Data Visualization

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Data Visualization

Felice Frankel
Visual Strategies
Archive as Data
Data Visualization

Felice Frankel
Visual Strategies
• Visualizing global history: Hans Rosling and the BBC

• Chernoff faces vs. removing humans entirely
Archive as Data

GIS Specifics

- Sample GIS project: Bedford bike maps and other examples
- GIS website analysis
What is GIS?

Digital Humanities GIS Projects

Animated Atlas of African History

Social Explorer

Google Fusion Tables, see Fusion Tables Example Gallery.

England Riots 2011

Questionable maps: Stack Exchange and Cartastrophe

Regional Speech Variations: An Unintelligible Language

SimplyMap (subscription resource)
Split into three groups and choose a website from the list. Find the maps section and focus on one or two examples.

Take 10 minutes to analyze your maps, using some of the following discussion questions.

Present a 3-5 minute analysis of the high points back to the group.
Archive as Data

Discussion

• Visual quality -- how well are design elements used?
• Where did the data came from? Is there a description of what each symbol/feature means, or how they decided on that representation? Are they sharing their data?
• Does the map “make sense” to you, is it confusing, is anything missing?
• Can you think of improvements, either in data sources, display or functionality? What doesn’t this resource do that you wish it did, and why do you think it doesn’t do that?
• How long has this project/website been in existence? When was it last updated? Does it seem to still be active? Is it 'finished' or still in progress?
• What can you find out about the team that built this? Who are the players? Where does the money come from?
• Who is the audience for this project? Is the public involved?