The Digital Humanities, and its Foundation for Open Social Scholarship

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Drawing on the work also of the INKE Research Partnership,

C-SKI, and the ETCL

Abstract

The digital humanities is typically viewed as an evolving research area that exists at the intersection of computation method and the traditional pursuits of the humanities, with foundations in earlier fields aligned with inter/disciplinary evolution of computer science, dating back to the 1950s and 60s with names such as humanities informatics and humanities computing. This talk will provide an overview of the digital humanities and its typical pursuits, and focus on one of its most promising points of current research and development, the area of open, social scholarship.

Overview

- Digital Humanities (Ray)
  - Ray Siemens (FRSC, Distinguished Professor English / Computer Science; https://web.uvic.ca/~siemens/) co/directs the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab, the Digital Humanities Summer Institute, and the Implementing New Knowledge Environments partnership.

- DH, Facilitating Open Social Scholarship (Alyssa)
  - Alyssa Arbuckle (alyssaarbuckle.com) is the Co-Director of the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab at the University of Victoria, where she is Operational Lead for the Implementing New Knowledge Environments Partnership and a co-facilitator of its Connection cluster. With her colleagues Randa El Khatib and Ray Siemens she is a Co-Director of the Digital Humanities Summer Institute. Alyssa holds an interdisciplinary PhD from the University of Victoria; her dissertation focused on open social scholarship and its implementation.

- DH-OSS Development: The Canadian Humanities and Social Sciences Commons (Graham)
  - Graham Jensen is an Assistant Director and Mitacs Accelerate Postdoctoral Fellow in Open, Collaborative Scholarship (Arts & Humanities) in the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab at the University of Victoria. He is also Principal Investigator of the Canadian Modernist Magazines Project. Previously at the University of Victoria, he was a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow in English. His research interests include twentieth- and twenty-first-century Canadian literatures, modernism, literature and religion, and digital humanities approaches to open publishing, pedagogy, and community-building.

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Digital Humanities

- Context and Definition
  - The humanities: fields engaging human experience over time, usually via artefactual remains associated with language, history, literature, art, culture, and beyond
    - With other fields from the social sciences and slightly beyond, make up the 'human sciences'
  - DH sits at the intersection of computational method and the traditional pursuits of the humanities – computationally modelling its data, processes, and interactive/disseminative/communicative patterns

- Scholarly Applications, via 'Primitives'
  - Discovering, Annotating, Comparing, Referring, Sampling, Illustrating, Representing
    - Unsworth (2000): "Scholarly Primitives: what methods do humanities researchers have in common, and how might our tools reflect this?"

Digital Humanities, Examples via Training

- DHSI, the largest DH curriculum in the world, annually at UVic (dhsi.org)
- A very small set of sample offerings (with a focus on tools and techniques)
    - [Foundations] Text Encoding Fundamentals and their Application
    - Databases for Humanists
    - Critical Making as Scholarship
    - Introduction to IIIF: Sharing, Consuming, and Annotating the World's Images
    - Natural Language Processing with Python
    - Linked Open Data and the Semantic Web
    - NLP Coding Libraries and Network Analysis for Text Corpora
    - Modeling Texts and Maps with Semantic Annotation
    - Text Processing - Techniques & Traditions
    - Web APIs with Python
    - Open Knowledge in Wikipedia and Beyond: Possibilities and Responsibilities
    - DIY Computational Text Analysis with R

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Open (and Social) Scholarship

Open social scholarship involves creating and sharing research and research technologies with a broad audience of specialists and active non-specialists in ways that are accessible and significant

As a concept, it has grown from roots in:

- open access and open scholarship movements
- digital humanities (DH)
- contemporary online practices
- public facing citizen scholarship

DH & Open Social Scholarship

- rise of publicly-oriented work and Public Humanities projects

- increased attention to engaging across communities

- DH is well-positioned for this sort of work because it is often already open, online, and interdisciplinary

- see Kathleen Fitzpatrick, *Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University* (2019)

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What is the Canadian HSS Commons?

- Academic social networking site for humanities and social sciences researchers, students, stakeholders, and interested members of the public

- **Features:** open access repository with DOIs and Creative Commons licensing for publications, computational analytical tools, ORCID authentication, collaborative group & project spaces with Google Drive and Dropbox integrations, and much more!

To sign up for a free account or learn more, please visit hsscommons.ca!

Project Partners

- Initiative of the INKE Partnership (inke.ca), coordinated by the Canadian Social Knowledge Institute (c-ski.ca), based in the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab (etcl.uvic.ca) at the University of Victoria. Supported by UVic Systems and Research Computing Services.

Thank you!

- Feel free to reach out!
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