The Digital Humanities

A brief introduction

Claudine Chionh

claudine@chionh.org

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What are the digital humanities?

- ▶ Collecting and preserving historical, literary, cultural material
- ▶ Applying data mining and analysis techniques to this data – methods not available to previous generations of scholars
- ▶ Sharing data and results with other scholars and the general public using new media and web technologies

The promise of digital history

Cohen and Rosenzweig:

> *capacity, accessibility, flexibility, diversity, manipulability, interactivity, and hypertextuality (or nonlinearity)*

Conventional tools for data analysis

- ▶ SQL
- ▶ R
- ▶ Perl
- ▶ Python
- ▶ etc.

XML

- ▶ Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)
  http://www.tei-c.org/
- ▶ XML data visualisation: BaseX
  http://www.basex.org/

Web 2.0

Sharing and collaboration between researchers:

- ▶ Wikis
- ▶ CMS
- ▶ Basecamp

Participatory history:

- ▶ Wikis
- ▶ Moderated access to databases

Founders and Survivors

- ▶ Convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), 1804-1853
- ▶ Approx 13,000 women and 25,000 men

John Cozins

```
<name>
  <surname>Cozins</surname>
  <forename>John</forename>
</name>
<shipName>William Metcalf</shipName>
<dateArr>4/Sep/1834</dateArr>
<sentencePlace>Oxford Asss</sentencePlace>
<dateTrial>1/Mar/1834</dateTrial>
<sentenceLength>Life</sentenceLength>
<transportedFor>Beastiality</transportedFor>
<reportGaol>imprisoned before,
 bad in every respect</reportGaol>
<reportHulk>orderly</reportHulk>
<marital>Single</marital>
<offenceStated>having connexions with a Sheep,
 once for Apple Stealing 3 Months</offenceStated>
```

Mary Ann Armstrong

```
<name>Armstrong, Mary Ann.</name> ...
<remarks>Remarks.
  <complexion type="fair">Fair</complexion>
  <pockmarks>pockpitted</pockmarks>.
  <scar location="nose">Scar on Nose.</scar>
  <scar location="left leg">Scar on left leg.</scar>
</remarks>
```

Old Bailey Online

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913

> *A fully searchable edition of the largest body of*
> *texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever*
> *published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held*
> *at London's central criminal court.*

- ▶ Digitisation of trial proceedings
- ▶ XML markup
- ▶ Saxon (XSLT/XQuery)
- ▶ MySQL

http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/

Further reading

- ▶ Cohen and Rosenzweig: Digital History
  http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/
- ▶ Center for History and New Media: Essays
  http://chnm.gmu.edu/resources/essays/
- ▶ Turkel: The Programming Historian
  http://niche.uwo.ca/programming-historian/
- ▶ Turkel: Digital History Hacks
  http://digitalhistoryhacks.blogspot.com/