How to Bring Digital Humanities in the Classroom

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Based in part on presentations by Jonathan McMichael, User Experience Librarian, SMU

We will discuss some lightweight ways to introduce students to [digital humanities](#) concepts in the classroom, and ways to construct assignments that do not require knowledge of the command line/programming.

Lightweight Vs Resource Intensive

- How do you define this?
  - Content and Context
- What is your goal?
  - Scope your goal
- What resources are available to you?
  - Collaboration
  - Documentation

Five things that we mean when we say digital humanities

- Humanistic examination of digital objects

- Digital scholarly communication

- Digital pedagogy

- Creation of digital archives and primary source materials

- Digital examination of Humanistic objects
  - [Libraries as Problem Shapers: some thoughts sparked by Brian Croxall (five things that we mean when we say digital humanities) by Brian Mathews](#)

Why is research so challenging for Students?

- ==80%== of undergraduates reported having overwhelming *difficulty getting started* on research assignments and determining the nature and scope of what was expected of them

- ==43%== of first year students said they *had trouble making sense of, and tying together,* all the information they had found

From [Project Information Literacy Report](#)

Stages of Planning for a DH Assignment

- Phase 1: Determining Scope
- Phase 2: Planning
- Phase 3: Execution
- Phase 4: Assessment/Reflection

Goal: Students create digital exhibit
Tool: Omeka

Omeka: Home

| Home | Starting an Omeka site | Planning your exhibit | Labeling Content | Digital Humanities ⬈ | Copyright | City Halls [ARCH] |

What is Omeka?

What is Omeka?

Omeka is a web publishing platform and a content management system (CMS), developed by the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University. Omeka was developed specifically for scholarly content, with particular emphasis on digital collections and exhibits. ...Omeka has been used by many academic and cultural institutions for its built-in features for cataloging and presenting digital collections. Developing content in Omeka is complemented by an extensive list of descriptive metadata fields that conforms to Dublin Core, a standard used by libraries, museums and archives ... This additional layer helps to establish proper source attribution, standards for description and organization of digital resources—all important aspects of scholarly work in classroom settings but often overlooked in general blogging platforms.

via Anthony Bushong and David Kim, Intro to Digital Humanities: What is Omeka?

Omeka news

What is Omeka?

Digital Projects Librarian

Phase 1: Determining Scope

- Determine pedagogical goals, which will dictate your assignment goals.

- Determine the amount of class time you want to allot to assignment.

- Determine what resources are available.
  - Human and technical

Phase 2: Planning

- Figure out all the logistics:
  - What kind of data are your students working with?
    - (numerical, textual;, spatial, temporal, network relationships, etc.)
  - What do you want them to do with the data?
    - How are they going to analyze/manipulate it?
  - How do you want them to present/publish the analysis?

What are DH tools?

- What Digital Humanists mean by 'Tools' is extremely loose and inclusive: in essence, it means any kind of application or software that helps you get the job done, whether gathering, processing, or presenting your research" - matthew milner

- Bamboo DiRT
- Digital Humanities Tools
- DH Tools

How do you choose which DH tool?

- What kind of data are you analyzing and what kind of output do you want to create?
  - Text
  - Sound/Speech
  - Spatial/ Mapping
  - Temporal/Timelines
  - Networks
  - Digital exhibits/collections
  - Social annotations
- How much does the tool cost?
  - Consider in terms of labor/time as well as money

[Bamboo DiRT](#)

I NEED A DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL TO...

Analyze data	Interpret data
Annotate	Model data
Archive data	Analyze networks between my data
Capture information	Organize data
Clean up data	Preserve data
Collaborate	Program
Comment	Publish
Communicate	Record audio/video
Analyze the content of my data	Analyze relationships between pieces of data
Contextualize data	Share
Convert files	Analyze the geographical aspect of my data
Create	Store data
Crowdsource data enrichment/analysis	Analyze the structure of my data

How robust and complex a tool do you need?

Custom Coding

ARC-GIS desktop

Tableau Public or ARC-GIS online

Excel

Created by Montu Yadav
from Noun Project
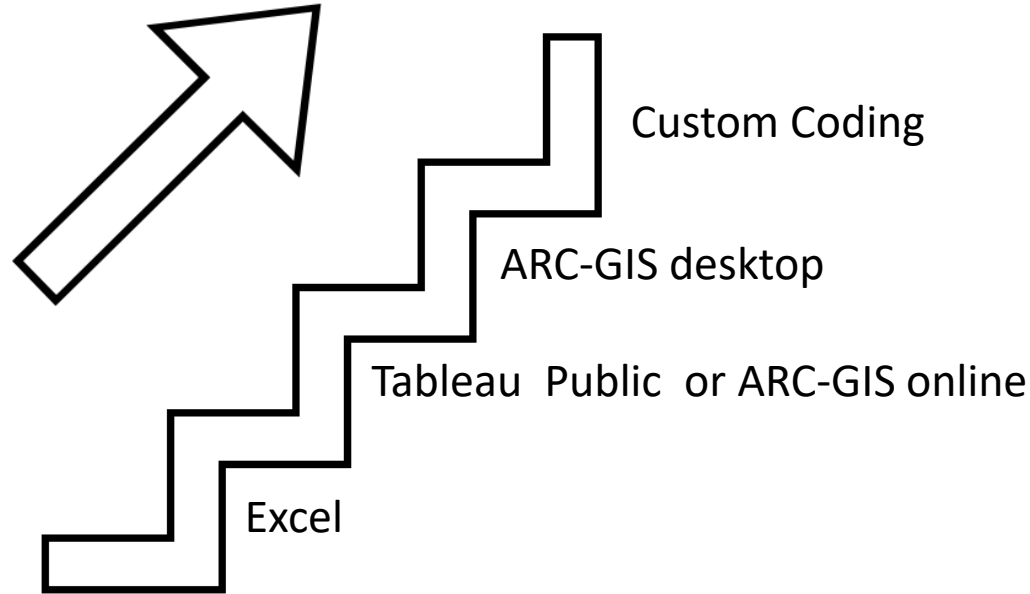
What are the…

Benefits of Tool	Limiting Factors of Tool
1. Technical Benefits 2. Learning Benefits	1. Technical Limits 2. Learning Limitations or Costs

Assignment Storyboarding

Student Experience		
Support		

Group Work

- Have students done group work before?
  - Project Charter or other agreement

Phase 3: Execution

Find Relevant Data	**Clean and Import Data**	**Learn Software**
Design Visualization	**Conduct Literature Review**	**Synthesize and Write Paper**
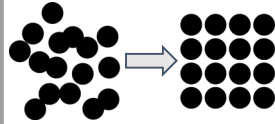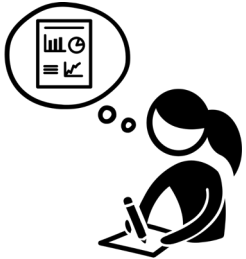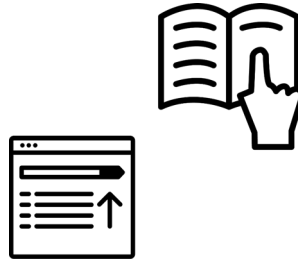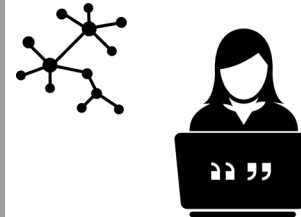
Goal: Student create a visualization
Tool: Tableau
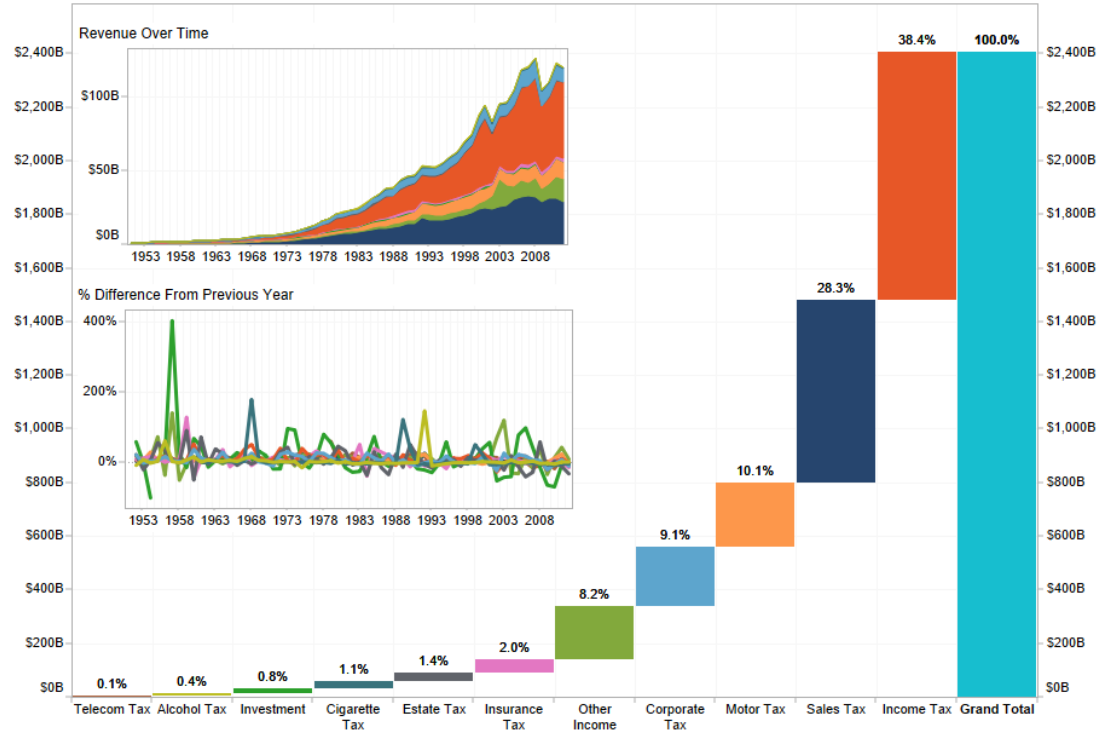
How [Tool] Works

Take Data*

Perform Data Analysis

Create Output [ex. Interactive Data Visualizations]

Import data into [Tool]

Publish [as embeddabe media]

*This assumes data already exists and is clean (or tidy) enough for use

Support

Find Quality Data Sources	Library Session I
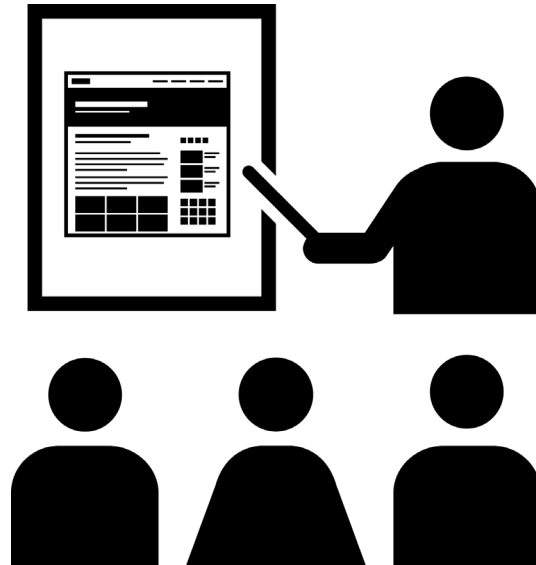
Support

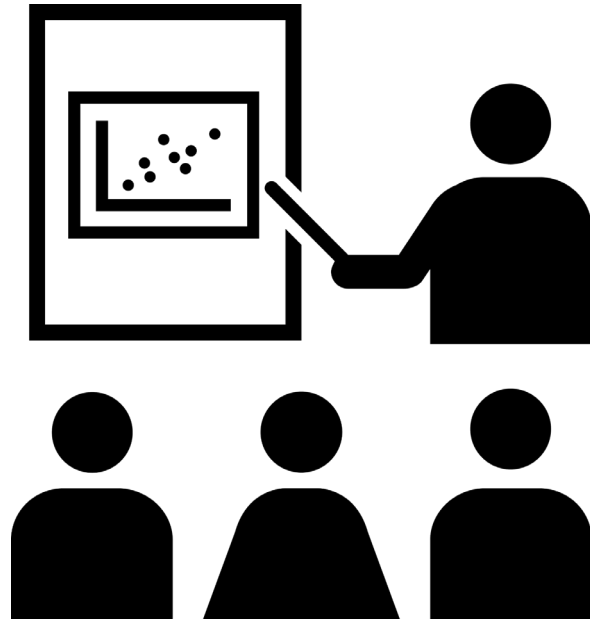| Select & Prepare Relevant Data	Homework assigement
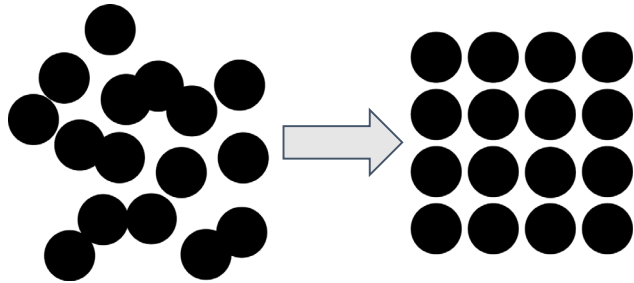
Created by Fahmihorizon
from Noun Project
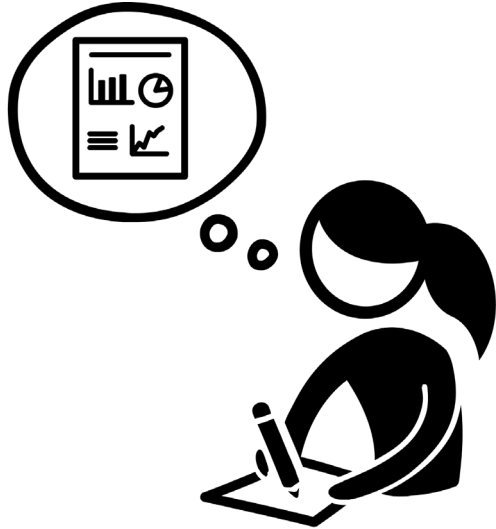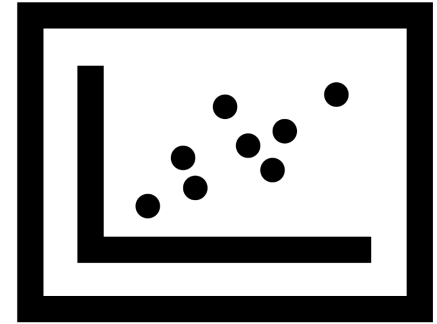
Support

Identify and Learn Software

Library Session II
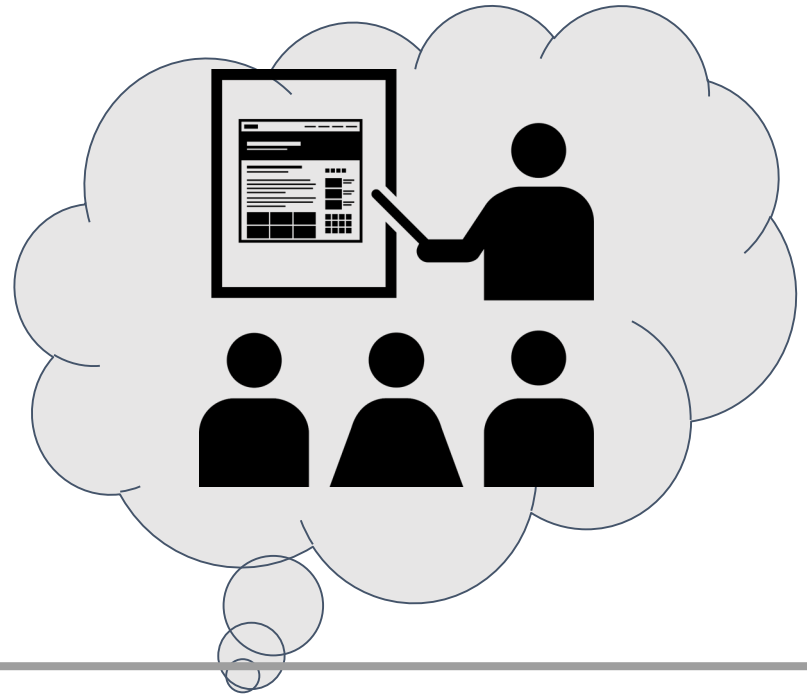
Support

Design Visualization	Class Activity

Support

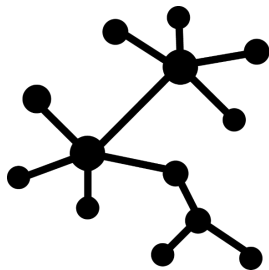| Conduct Literature Review	Library Session I (2 weeks ago)

Support

Synthesize and Write Paper

Homework/Peer Workshop/ Office Hour Meetings

Phase 4: Assessment/Reflection

How to improve Assignments
- Benefits/Costs

- Is the learning outcome worth the effort of the instructor and student? (Effectiveness)

- Are there ways that we can maximize the learning value and/or minimize the amount of time or administrative costs? (Efficiency)

Noun Project Graphics Created By

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Fahmihorizon

Based in part on presentation by Jonathan McMichael, User Experience Librarian

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Additional Resources:

Digital Humanities Pedagogy as Essential Liberal Education: A Framework for Curriculum Development by Brandon T. Locke

How did they make that? and

How Did They Make That? The Video/ by Miriam Posner