

Exploring Digital Humanities Projects

According to the authors of *Digital Humanities*, this emerging field is rooted in “the conviction that computational tools have the potential to transform the content, scope, methodologies, and audience of humanistic inquiry” (123). Keeping this guiding principle in mind and using this week’s reading as a guide, you will work with a partner to analyze and evaluate one of the DH projects below. Links to each project are available on our class blog and below. I’ve provided questions below to help guide your investigation, but feel free to make additional observations as well.

HistoryPin - <http://www.historypin.com>
Mapping Jewish LA - <http://www.mappingjewishla.org/>
Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History - <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/>
Smarthistory - <http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/>
Sonic Memorial Project - <http://www.sonicmemorial.org/sonic/public/index.html>
Voyages - <http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

1. State the mission of this project in your own words.
2. Who are the primary stakeholders—principle investigators, funders, collaborators, etc? Do you see evidence of “multiple circles of researchers” (*Digital Humanities* 124)? Who is the intended audience?
3. How easy or difficult is it to use the site? How do decisions about form and function support (or undermine) the project’s mission and goals?
4. Does this project “contribute to the creation of a new class of citizen scholars” (*Digital Humanities* 126)? How? In what other ways might it be considered a civic engagement project?
5. How does the project contribute to the larger body of knowledge in particular disciplinary field(s)? Does it move beyond simply digitizing information to promote new ways of investigating humanities questions?

