Inclusivity in the Digital Humanities

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Introduction:

Inclusion: "the act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded" [Merriam-Webster]

- **Our topic:** The role of inclusivity in the Digital Humanities
  - the inclusion of voices other than straight, white, males
  - the inclusion of the discipline of "The Arts"
- **Central Question:** Who are the voices of the Digital Humanities?
- **Our argument** : The inclusion of new ideas and individuals in the Digital Humanities will broaden the possibilities of the field

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"Arts and Creation of mind"
Elliot Eisner

- The brain vs the mind

- The trend of standardisation

- Rule-abiding vs structure-seeking

- Role of recall & imagination

"Making a Case for the Black Humanities"
Kim Gallon

- Digitizing the Black Humanities in order to empower the voices of the disenfranchised
  - Historical Studies
  - Study of modern day "Black Twitter"
- Inclusion of Black voices in the Digital Humanities must:
  - Rebuild
  - Rethink

"Critical Questions for Big Data"
Danah Boyd and Kate Crawford

The Big 6:

- ✓ Big Data changes the definition of knowledge
- ✓ Claims to objectivity and accuracy are misleading
- ✓ Bigger data are not always better data
- ✓ Taken out of context, Big Data loses its meaning
- ✓ Just because it's accessible does not make it ethical
- ✓ Limited access to Big Data creates a *new* Digital Divide

"The Digital Humanities Debacle"
In-Context Summary

Nan Z. Da

Key claims:

✓ Analysis runs the risk of being reductive.

✓ Interpretations can be lazy, solving non-issues

✓ 'Publish or Perish' *but* under rigorous standards

✓ Apophenic nature of Computational Literary Studies (do numbers speak for themselves?)

Computational literary studies offers correctives to problems that literary scholarship was never confused about in the first place.

Possible Ways to Promote Inclusivity:

Changes in education system to promote the Arts and minority histories

(Elliot Eisner)

✓ Involves mass structural change to systems
✓ Easy to say rather than actually do

Stand up for Diversity

✓ If you have privilege, recognize it and use it to elevate historically silenced voices
✓ Supporting/ sharing a POC's work
✓ Speaking up on diversity issues
✓ Educate yourself
✓ Small effort to do day to day

Bridging the Digital Divide

(Kim Gallon)

✓ More accessibility to coding
✓ Encouraging and implementing Feminist studies, Black Humanities into curriculum
✓ Involves change in education, funding

Poll!

Which method of promoting inclusivity is most important to you?

Put 1, 2, or 3 in the chat!

1. **Changes in education system to promote the Arts and minority histories**
2. **Stand up for Diversity**
3. **Bridging the Digital Divide**

Conclusion

- Busting the technology = objectivity myth. Necessity of humanistic perspectives

- We must include more voices and artistic disciplines in computational research:
  - To **diversify** the interpretations
  - Remove **inherent** biases
  - **Increase** accessibility

Create a more comprehensive understanding of humanity ⇶ **"The Diversity Bonus"**

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Who is asking the questions determines **which** questions are asked.

Works Cited

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