Reflective Essay-IDH Class\_BLOG 2

Tracing connection with the M.I.T. lecture about ‘‘The Computer in the University’’ we can state that it reminds us that as numerous courses are currently being offered in programming by different universities, it can ultimately predict a future where humanities students may be as fluent in programming as in writing English composition. Various alliances of digital humanities organisations that include the Association for Computers and the Humanities, the Canadian Society for Digital Humanities, the European Association for Digital Humanities, and some more of them explored the broader domains of digital humanities through conferences, publications, and outreach modes.

There have been eminent scholars who started Digital Humanities Computing including Willard McCarty, John Bradley, Patrik Svensson, but most importantly, Roberto Busa. He was one of the pioneers in the usage of computers for linguistic and literary analysis and, in cooperation with IBM, used computer technology to analyse the writings of Thomas Aquinas and created the so called Index Thomisticus, a database that analysed the entire work of Thomas Aquinas and some related authors. This particular event is also looked at as the first ‘Digital Humanities’ project. Isaac L. Auerbach’s famous quotation and further discussions elaborate that after the Industrial Revolution, it is the Computer Revolution that will take the world.

Infrastructures and institutions are undoubtedly imperative areas for the development of the field of digital humanities, enabling communication among several academicians by providing access to data repositories, organising conferences, and so on.

Language Resources and Evaluation was the first publication that proved that spoken corpora and lexica, or domain specific databases and dictionaries, can be brought into common ground with technologies and their application.

When we look at Historicity of Computing by Susan Hockey from 2004, she mentioned about ‘‘two cultures’’ in the case of Humanities Computing, we understand the importance of ‘‘the rigor and systematic, unambiguous procedural methodologies’’.

The 1980s witnessed the facilities for electronic mail globally, and Listserv, which is a group of mails, was introduced in the Digital Humanities portrait for the first time. We can also recall the birth of TEI, or Text Encoding Initiative.

When we turned our eye to the Global North, digital libraries started building at this time, and the era of the internet was slowly growing. We can also refer to the Orlando Project for black women writers, and initially we learned about the William Blake Archive ( one of the earliest archives).

When we look into Melissa Terras book Defining Digital Humanities, we see that in one of the articles Stephen Ramsay highlights that if one needs to learn Digital Humanities, then the person has to learn how to code. This further initiated more debates on who is ‘in’ and who is ‘out’. This also leaves an open ended question for us regarding the same question in the current digital society.

When we look at the idea of ‘Big Tent’ under the banner of Digital Humanities, we get to know two different visions: first, the idea of similar ideologies, and second, inclusivity and the creation of a trading zone for inviting diversity in interactions.

On a final note, following Sneha’s article (2016) on Doing of Digital Humanities in India, we extended our thoughts on the need for more Digital Humanities research scholars and challenges associated with the same.