Welcome to my second Blog!

After getting the insights of what humanities actually is we moved forward in our studies towards the introduction to the role of computers in humanities. We started the day's class with learning about concordances in Index Thomistics Corpus by Roberto Busa, it was quite easy for me to understand this part as we are already been taught about corpus and corporas in our corpus linguistics classes. Moreover, reminisced about Renaissance period and computer revolution that we studied in earlier classes.

We studied about few comparisons like what if the computers were not there then how much time would it take to complete stuffs manually. It took 80 years to complete Oxford Dictionary to complete with several generations of editors, deciphering Mayan hieroglyphic script took only 40 minutes of computer time while it would have taken several years to complete manually, in archaeology Dr Paul Martin and his associates used IB 7094 computer at University of Chicago to process archaeological data from south-western U.S. we also looked into the criticism that was faced by a Scottish minister who proposed an idea of using computers in biblical scholarship by sending an article but was unfortunately rejected with a notation that referred the usage of computer as of no value. We also got everyone’s point of view in class about the article of a lecture in MIT that predicts the inclusion of computer in our day to day life and how the courses related to it will emerge in future, it basically stated that each and every individual would have a basic idea and knowledge of computer irrespective of fields they will be in. Professor stated her argument of disagreeing with the article raising a claim that its computer that build our imaginative level. But atlast we concluded that the claim the article was raising was other way round, it basically the computer that doesn’t build but enhance our imaginative level by providing better instruments and tool to extract and store information.

Moving on, our next class was about Humanities Computing. This topic actually got me into the dilemma that weren’t computing and digital same? It all began in 1960 when centres were started to establish and conferences were organised such as in 1963 Wisbey founded LLC, IBM organised a conference at Yorktown Heights in 1964, Literary Data processing conference in 1965 and first regular series of conference by ALLC organised by Wisbey itself in 1970. Not to forget about the journal Computer and Humanities in 1966 focusing on the intersection and overlap of computing technology and humanities research. At this time the methodology for archiving data and maintaining electronic texts was fully recognised. During 1970s and mid-1980s, a queue of conferences and initiatives in North America & UK laid the foundation for digital humanities. During 1970s to make the impact more consolidated a symposium that held a biennial series of conferences in U.K. followed by foundation of ALLC (Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing) in King’s Collge London in 1973. Not forgetting the International Conference of Computing in Humanities in North America. It can be seen that how during this period was more dedicated to the widespread of computing in humanities. In 1980s to early 1990s period of personal computers came into the limelight though there was freedom of innovation but it was significantly expensive DOS based text analysis such as Words Cruncher, TACT ad Micro OCP were introduced Apple Macintoshes and IBM that ha graphical interface and various alphabets on the screen, through these text could be manipulated.

Finally the era of internet arrived! It was early 1990s when internet and WWW (World Wide Web) was made part of academic activity and natural tendency. Initially it was just the tool used for the retrieval of information not for humanities computing and was considered as dissemination tool for publication and other academic activities. Debated about calling electronic resources “archives” also rose making it the infant phase of start of usage of the term. Transformations like storage of multimedia in form of images, videos and audios, creation of digital libraries in institutes and establishment of masters program in UK and North America.