



CENTER FOR TEXTUAL STUDIES AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

DIGH 400 - Introduction to Digital Humanities Research

Fall Semester 2014

Week 4

Today's Class

- Analysis of last week's discussion of 'Mark Twain'
- Digital Humanities website
- GitHub Update (Part 2)
- Computing within humanities
- Digitisation

Discussion Analysis

Mark Twain Project

Assessment

group project work (15%)

- group developed and maintained website
- promotes collaborative work (different tasks for different skills)
- maintain and develop web resource on digital humanities
- includes latest news, publications, projects and reviews, information on DH Centers and programmes...
- weekly blog to inform class of research, what's been done, needs to be done...
- username & password = Gmail username

<http://www.digital-humanities.com>

Using GitHub

Step by step guides to help setup and use GitHub

- [PDF Guide](#)

Computing within Humanities

Literary Studies

- identification of strings and patterns in electronic texts
- concordances and word lists
- process a larger body of material
- aids in the discovery and memory of patterns

Computing within Humanities

Literary Studies

- replacing error-prone manual studies
- comparative approaches
- define methodologies for identifying patterns and matches

Computing within Humanities

Literary Studies

- human interpretation of statistical results
- priority of empirical data
- study of repetitive structures in text
 - eg: characters, syllables, words or phrases
- repetitions and echoes traced

Computing within Humanities

Literary Studies

- assumption of automatic means for analysis and testing
- application of strict, detailed textual preparation if no automated process
- markup as an external intervention
- markup allows a critically interpretative process
- open criteria for encoding textual material

Computing within Humanities

Literary Studies

- Electronic Scholarly Editions
- [TuStep](#) ([example](#))
- personalised markup
- modification of encodings to match software analysis requirements

Computing within Humanities

Literary Studies

- The Wonderful World of TEI...

Read a potted [introduction and history](#) at the TEI website.

- [Caxton](#) example

Overview of Digitisation

- crossroads of research and development
- consider options for digitisation of analogue record (primarily historical)
- inherent benefits of digitisation

The process has begun

- many fine examples now exist of digital archives, projects, editions...
 - [Papers Past](#)
 - [Library of Congress](#)
 - [British Library](#)
- Google Books project
 - interesting initial '[History](#)' of the project
- [EEBO](#), [ECCO](#), [NCCO](#) & others such as [Internet Archive](#)...
- EEBO-TCP
 - [intro](#)
- To date millions of dollars have gone in to the digitisation of our cultural record

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Online research exercise

Jules Verne and H.G.Wells

- find as many different editions of
 - Around the World in Eighty Days
 - A Journey to the Centre of the Earth
 - The Time Machine
 - The War of the Worlds
- record availability, copyright notice, PDF download option, original source for digitised copy...
- create a collaborative spreadsheet and share with group



[Scifi Authors website](#)

Why do we bother with digitisation?

Benefits and Costs

- loss of analogue information to precise digitisation

"We should be cautious about letting the radiance of the bright future blind us to the limitations of this new technology"

(Smith, Abby. 1999. "Why Digitize?")

- dependent upon how much information you actually gather whilst digitising
 - density of data
 - frequency of sampling
- breadth or depth of information gathered is also a consideration

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