Digital Humanities Workshop (can I share your posts with Ray?)

https://www.economist.com/open-future/2018/06/18/why-collaborative-thinking-beats-individual-smart

Some themes

- Digital humanities was very new to most of you, some of it hard to follow (new language)
- For some it reaffirmed your choice in engineering (concrete answers, concrete questions),
- For others it was not new and gave you an idea for your future (and it is never too late to change your mind ☺) or your project or helped you learn something new or gave you insights on CS (Liam) or made you think about education silos (Nick)
- Interesting they struggle with what they are, just like CSCW (e.g., Alison)
- “do we look back less” today? But maybe it is a cycle (Spencer)
- (side note – oh yeah we probably shouldn’t swear... But I’m not sure if there is a policy...?)

Ray's talk

- Many of you really liked his talk and found something new... E.g., "collaborating with Shakespeare"
- "differences between humanities and sciences, stating that science is about working in the now and solutionatizing(?), and humanities focused more on the past and problematizing." Reed
- Insights on social production of knowledge were useful (moderation, rules and consequences)
- With technology, things go faster, are our questions becoming shallower? (Hamzah)
- DH community is a community of practice, but perhaps like web 2.0 they lack a gravitional core (Meagan)

Composition and/not Inheritance

- kind of obvious to us.. But interesting to see how it was used in a different domain!
- Composition was not liked in the humanities, not so clear why... but it can be more usable and flexible
- Similar to tagging versus classification
- Inspiring to think the way data is presented or can be interacted with is a “trojan horse” https://www.datavizforall.org/detect/ (Meagan)

Plotting our Trajectories

- perhaps hard to follow! (the focus was not clear at first) – but they aimed to understand research at the university and to match students with universities
- Perhaps they could use more AI to gain better insights (this came up a lot how AI could play a bigger role in DH, use of stemming etc)
- What did you guys really think about this one?
- Did you agree that the mission of a university is likely reflected in the published dissertations? (Thor)

One of the issues with this is that the industrial revolution automated the body, leading to many more white collar jobs, but this time what is being automated is the mind. (Tim)

Herb Simon and his books

- This threw some of you! But a good speaker
- “The proper study of mankind is the science of design.” (thanks Jeff for finding this quote)
- Herb Simon – father of AI
- Is this a valid way to understand where his ideas came from?

(De/Re)Defining the Digital

- Some mixed feelings on this...
- Use of colonial language (e.g., Siamese algorithm) in technology was not something I really thought about before!
- “all technical systems are cultural systems” was agreed with, but so that all knowledge is political http://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/top-10-new-species-discovered-2017/ (Meagan)
- Also discussion on how we allow Google etc to mine our data, but yes we give permission... And without doing so, we lose other kinds of power perhaps
- Their secondary message, obfuscated some of their main points (missed because of that or because we find them hard to spot?)
- This was certainly a call to action (Graeme) – Action Research

(Hamzah)