Boundaries in the Digital Humanities

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Topic

What are we asking?

- What demographics should research what topics? Why?

- What is considered ethical when discussing topics on communities that are not your own?

- Where are the lines drawn?

Readings

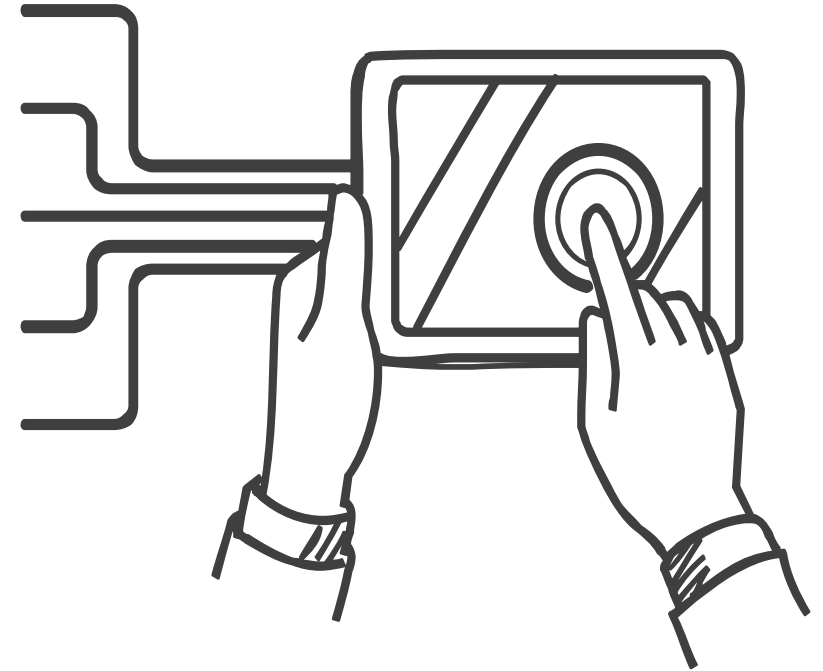📖 "The State of the Digital Humanities"
by Alan Liu

📖 "Things of Boundaries"
by Andrew Abbott

📖 "Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities"
by Kim Gallon

📖 "The Digital Humanities Debacle"
by Nan Z. Da

Things of Boundaries: Abbot

Research

Boundaries between preexisting social entities

Method

Data: real occurrences

Tool: data and analytical analysis

Things of Boundaries: Abbot

Findings

Social entities exist after social actors have created boundaries.

Boundaries and entities are co existent and logical to one another.

Connection

Boundaries need to be regulated to ensure equality and equity within the humanities research.

There should be no one superior/inferior since it will allow the hegemonic control over the field.

Making a Case for the Black DH: Gallon

Research

Understanding the digital humanities as a field and utilize its associated technique

Method

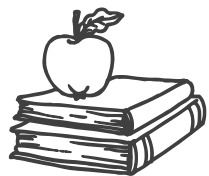Digitizing, topic modeling, and text mining software

Making a Case for the Black DH: Gallon

Findings

Racial hierarchies present in higher education

Black DH: less tool-oriented and more invested in examining the digital as origin of and host to new forms of racialization

Connection

In using tools in DH, lines are drawn between "higher education" and Black people.

The State of the Digital Humanities: Liu

Research

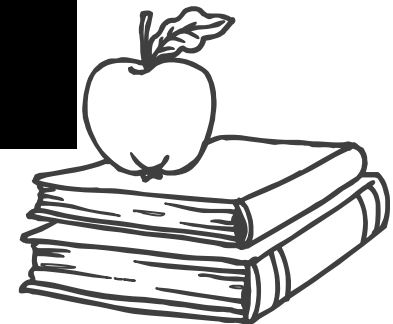- Technology has helped the humanities but what are the limitations?

Method

- *Data*: Recent discussion on the growing Digital Humanities field
- *Methods*: Outlines the arguments without bias

Findings

- Incorporating digital platforms into the humanities is helpful but a concerning limitation is that a computer cant close read a text. The humanities relies on applying theories to data, then a computer is involved to clean the data, they run the risk of erasing potentially important data.

Connection

The same way we have disciplines in the humanities, there should be disciplines in the digital humanities so they can each organize their own data.
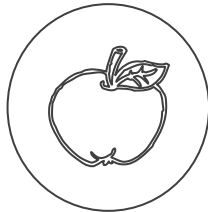
The Digital Humanities Debaticle: Da

Research

Da is looking at the nuances in the Digital humanities and its integration with the current state of the humanities. They focus on Computational literacy studies and its advantages and limitations as it is integrated with the humanities.

Methods

Data: Rising concerns within the digital humanities
Analysis: Critical analysis of the controversies within the digital humanities

Findings

CLS is good at helping humanities experts ask questions they have never even tried asking since technology offers a whole new perspective. The only issue is that there are constant errors with computers. Algorithm can be bias and needs to be properly managed to prevent potentially harmful misinterpretations.
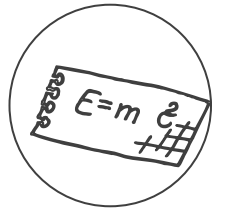
Connection

Research is very fragile and can be easily manipulated to the point it could be unethical and harmful to certain demographics. Since there is error, exterts or members of the studied demographics should take control to prevent harmful bias.

Concluding Argument

- What demographics should research what topics? Why?

Experts or members of the researched demographic should contribute to the study to prevent inherit bias or misconception.

- What is considered ethical when discussing topics on communities that are not your own?

We know there is bias and harmful code that can be harmful to the data gathered by researchers. Therefore, there should always be an expert or member of the community supervising or working hand in hand to prevent stereotyping or erasure of their culture.

- Where are the lines drawn?

The same way there are lines drawn within the different humanities field, it should be transferred to the digital humanities to prevent unethical research.