Title: Ending Your Digital Humanities Project from the Start

Abstract:

Departing from the oft-asked question of “How do I know when my project is finished?”, this presentation centers around the question “How do I end my digital project, even if I don’t think it’s *done*?” Though various criteria have been proposed for evaluating the “done-ness” of a project (see, for example, *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 2009 cluster “Done”), there has been little discussion about how to ensure that your project is archivable, accessible, and stable even if the project’s primary objects—say, an edition of a text—do not completely meet your project’s definition of “done.”

The Endings project, based out of the University of Victoria, is a collaborative project between digital humanities programmers, project directors, and university librarians that focuses less on content-based “done-ness” and more on best practices for archivable and sustainable scholarship. While the digital projects that form the core of the Endings project—*The Robert Graves Diary*, *Le Mariage Sous L’Ancien Régime*, *The Nxaʔamxcín Dictionary Project*, and *The Map of Early Modern London,*—are all at varying stages of completion, they share a common set of principles that lead to maximum archivability and accessibility. In this presentation, I discuss two of these projects at either end of the completion spectrum: *The Robert Graves Diary*, which was technically finished in the mid-2000s but required significant upgrades throughout the last decade; and *The Map of Early Modern London*, a long-standing project whose many objectives include a complete set of the extant mayoral pageants of London from 1585 to 1639 by 2022. Through these projects, I explore what makes a project “Endings-compliant” and offer up some best principles for thinking about how to end your digital humanities project from the start.

Bio:

Joey Takeda is a digital humanities programmer for a number of number of projects, including *The Map of Early Modern London*, *Linked Early Modern Drama Online, The Internet Shakespeare Editions*, and *The Stratford Festival Online*. He is currently an MA student in the Department of English (Science and Technology research stream) at UBC, specializing in indigenous and diasporic literatures in Canada.