The emergence of Digital Humanities

An epistemological cartography of thematic issues in French academic journals

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DH landscape

- *The computational turn* leads to the changes of the practice conditions and the production of knowledge
- DH: a new territory that fosters collaboration, openness and enhancement of knowledge
- (re)discover a close link between technical culture and the culture of "humanities" scholars
- French academics working in the SSH have been devoting attention to DH

(ref. *État des lieux et positionnement de la recherche française dans le contexte international*, Marin Dacos & Pierre Mounier)

THATCamp Paris 2010: "Manifesto for the Digital Humanities"

CONTEXT

We, professionals or observers of the digital humanities (humanités numériques) came together in Paris for THATCamp on May 18th and 19th, 2010. Over the course of these two days, we discussed, exchanged, and collectively reflected upon what the digital humanities are, and tried to imagine and invent what they could become. At the close of the camp – which represents but a first step – we propose to the research communities, and to all those involved in the creation, publication, valorization or preservation of knowledge, a manifesto for the digital humanities.

DEFINITION

1. Society's digital turn changes and calls into question the conditions of knowledge production and distribution.
2. For us, the digital humanities concern the totality of the social sciences and humanities. The digital humanities are not *tabula rasa*.

On the contrary, they rely on all the paradigms, *savoir-faire* and knowledge specific to these disciplines, while mobilizing the tools and unique perspectives enabled by digital technology.
3. The digital humanities designate a "transdiscipline", embodying all the methods, systems and heuristic perspectives linked to the digital within the fields of humanities and the social sciences.

SITUATION

4. We observe:
• that experiments in the digital domain of the social sciences and humanities have multiplied in the last half century. What have emerged most recently are centers for digital humanities – which at the moment are themselves only prototypes or areas of application specific to the approach of digital humanities;
• that computational and digital approaches have greater technical, and therefore economic, research constraints; that these constraints provide an opportunity to foster collaborative work;
• that while a certain number of proven methods exist, they are not equally known or shared;

• that there are many communities deriving from shared interests in practices, tools, and various interdisciplinary goals – encoding textual sources, geographic information systems, lexicometry, digitization of cultural, scientific and technical heritage, web cartography, datamining, 3D, oral archives, digital arts and hypermedia literatures, etc. – and that these communities are converging to form the field of digital humanities.

DECLARATION

5. We, professionals of the digital humanities, are building a community of practice that is solidary, open, welcoming and freely accessible.
6. We are a community without borders. We are a multilingual and multidisciplinary community.
7. Our objectives are the advancement of research quality in our disciplines, the enrichment of knowledge and of collective patrimony, in the academic sphere and beyond it.
8. We call for the integration of digital culture in the definition of the general culture of the twenty-first century.

MANIFESTO
FOR THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES

GUIDELINES

9. We call for open access to data and metadata, which must be documented and interoperable, both technically and conceptually.
10. We support the dissemination, exchange and free modification of methods, code, formats and research findings.
11. We call for the integration of digital humanities education within social science and humanities curricula. We also wish to see the creation of diplomas specific to the digital humanities, and the development of dedicated professional education. Finally, we want such expertise to be considered in recruitment and career development.
12. We commit to building a collective expertise based upon a common vocabulary, a collective expertise proceeding from the work of all the actors involved. This collective expertise is to become a common good. It is a scientific opportunity, but also an opportunity for professional insertion in all sectors.
13. We want to help define and propagate best practices, corresponding to needs identified within or across disciplines, which should derive and evolve from debate and consensus within the communities concerned. The fundamental openness of the digital humanities nevertheless assures

a pragmatic approach to protocols and visions, which maintains the right to coexistence of different and competing methods, to the benefit of both thought and practice.
14. We call for the creation of scalable digital infrastructures responding to real needs. These digital infrastructures will be built iteratively, based upon methods and approaches that prove successful in research communities.

JOIN US

YOU CAN SIGN THE MANIFESTO ONLINE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Web : http://tcp.hypotheses.org
Email : thatcampparis@revues.org
Twitter : http://twitter.com/thatcampparis
Discussion list : dh@cru.fr

Debate on terms

humanités numériques Or **humanités digitales**

Even "**humanités**" is not the correct term because traditionally in France it means Literature and Classical Studies (Greek, Latin).

Objectives

- How to fulfill the traditional missions of the SHS in a landscape largely disrupted by the digital?
- Examine the links between the produced knowledge, the instruments and the "collective" actors that contribute to shape our digital society
- The aim is to map the emerging practices and the dynamics of the phenomenon, and the modalities that allow DH to develop new social and editorial assignments

REVUE d'ANTHROPOLOGIE des CONNAISSANCES

Volume 8 – 2014/4

LES HUMANITÉS DÉLIVRÉES

DOSSIER

VARIA

Les Cahiers du Numérique

Volume 10 – n° 3/2014

Les humanités délivrées

sous la direction de
Claire Clivaz
Dominique Vinck

hermes   Lavoisier

Les Cahiers du Numérique

Volume 10 – n° 4/2014

Quels agencements pour les humanités numériques ?

sous la direction de
Eddie Soulier

hermes   Lavoisier

Revue Française des Sciences de l'information et de la communication

N°8-2016

Humanités Numériques et Sciences de l'Information et de la communication
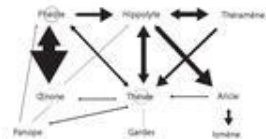
Journal	Title of thematic issue	English title	Date	Themes
Revue Sciences/Lettres	Épistémologies digitales des sciences humaines et sociales	Digital epistemologies of the SSH	Oct 2013	epistemology, neo-structural sociology, anthropology, digital fictions
Tic & Société	Mondes numériques : nouvelles perspectives de la recherche	Digital worlds: new research perspectives	Jun 2014	digital research, qualitative and quantitative data, ethical issues of digital practices
Cahiers du numérique (vol. 10, n° 3)	Les humanités délivrées	The "delivered" humanities	Sep 2014	transliteration, transmedia, delivery, network analysis
Cahiers du numérique (vol. 10, n° 4)	Quels agencements pour les humanités numériques ?	What arrangements for DH?	Dec 2014	holistic approach, arrangement, digital traces, participative science, social simulation
Revue d'Anthropologie des Connaissances	Les humanités délivrées	The "delivered" humanities	Dec 2014	book culture, re-invented reading

| Journal	Title of thematic issue	English title	Date	Themes
Socio	Le tournant numérique…, et après ?	The digital turn... and after?	Apr 2015	digital environment, computational turn, scientific culture, resources
Multitudes (n° 59)	Mineure : Humanités numériques 3.0	DH 3.0	Jun 2015	DH manifesto, computational subjectivity, computer literacy, media archeology
Critique	Des chiffres et des lettres	Numbers and letters	Sep 2015	transhumanism, digital materialism, mutations, algorithmic governance
Variations	Critique et humanités numériques : Pour une approche matérialiste de l'«immatériel»	Criticism and DH: For a materialistic approach of the "immaterial"	Apr 2016	scientific production, social simulation, digital breaking, critical theory
Revue française des SIC	Humanités Numériques et Sciences de l'Information et de la communication	DH and Information and Communication Sciences	Apr 2016	uses of *dispositif*, discourse of the information society, empirical practice of digital, pluridisciplinarity, design turn

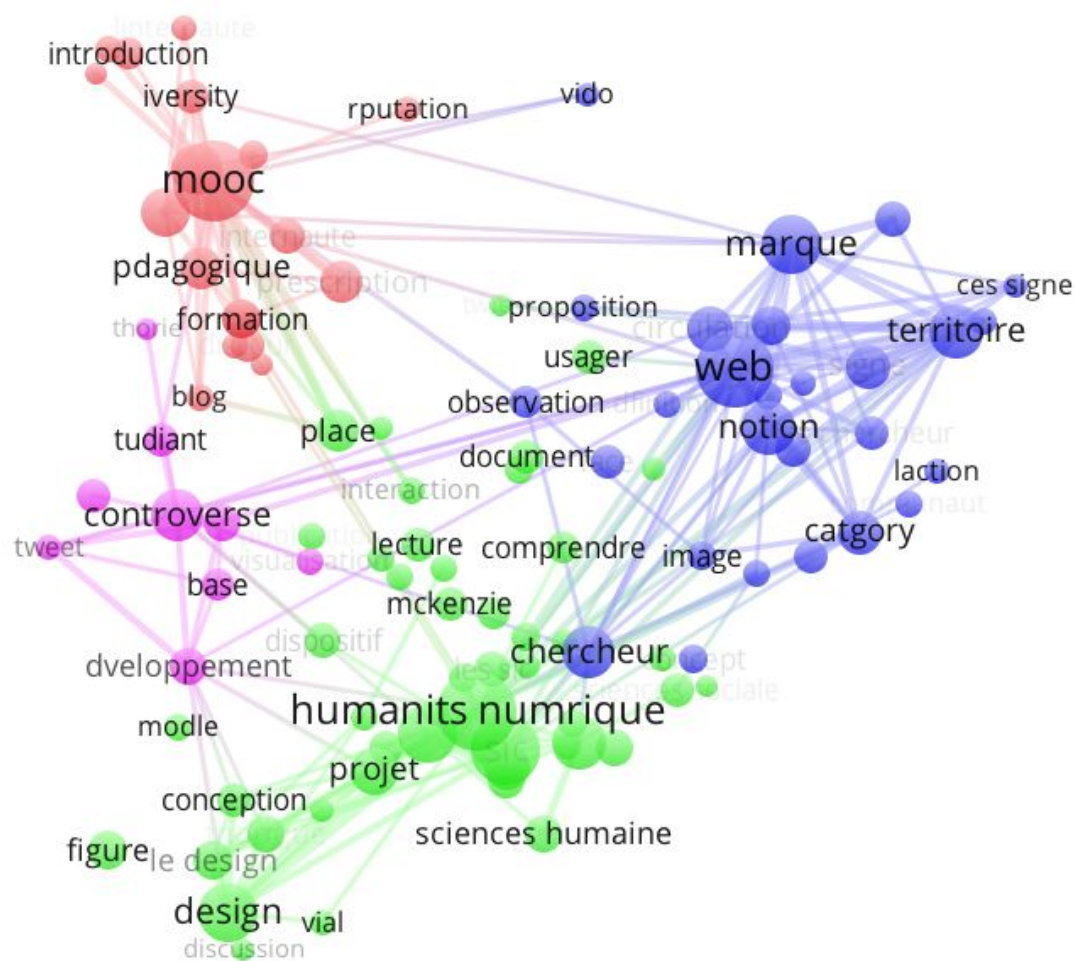Co-occurrence term map of the whole corpus (10 issues)
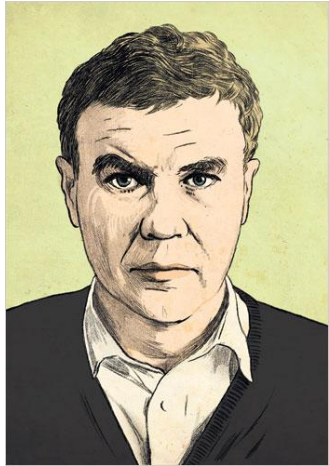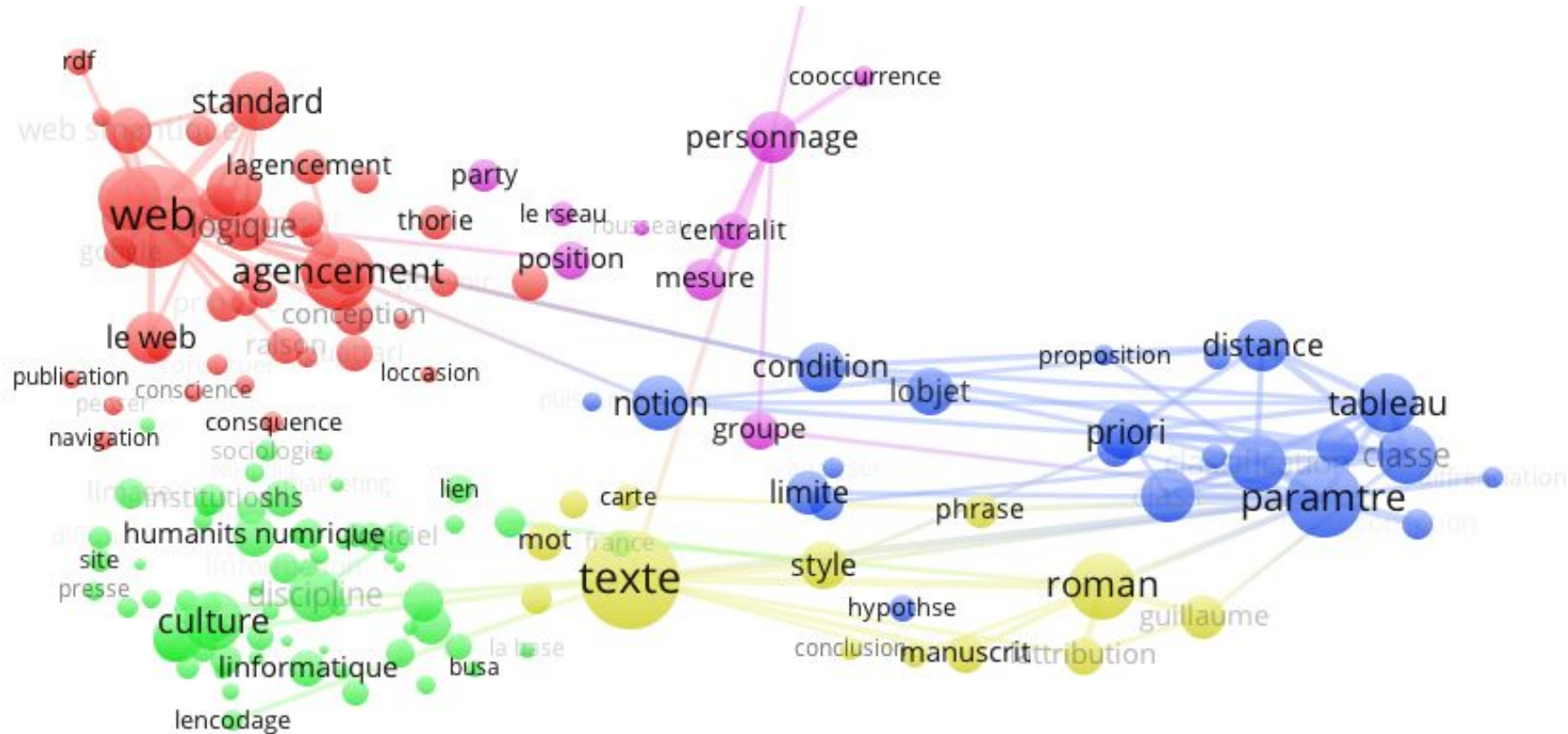
Term map of *Cahiers du numérique* (2 issues, 14 articles)

Term map of Revue française des SIC (1 issue, 8 articles)

- **Cluster 1** (**green**): scientific, discipline, digital humanities, epistemology, SSH, dialogue, design, academic, researcher, free access, Berry, code, domination, liberation, evolution
- **Cluster 2** (**red**): web, image, public, MOOC, content, Internet, terrain, actor, site, Google, content, traffic, Facebook, interaction, emergence, size, ICT, message, review, blog
- **Cluster 3** (**yellow**): text, book, century, page, article, figure, Rousseau, work, manuscript, Diderot, edition, letter, presentation, word, rhetoric, paper, volume, view, version, composition
- **Cluster 4** (**blue**): concept, arrangement, medium, Shakespeare, Foucault, archeology, logic, history, resource, condition, society, virtual, theoretical, human, action, meaning, use, norm, perception
- **Cluster 5** (**pink**): network, center, group, object, measure, class, character, centrality, classification, sentence, novel, hypothesis, value, distance

Item density map of the whole corpus (10 issues)
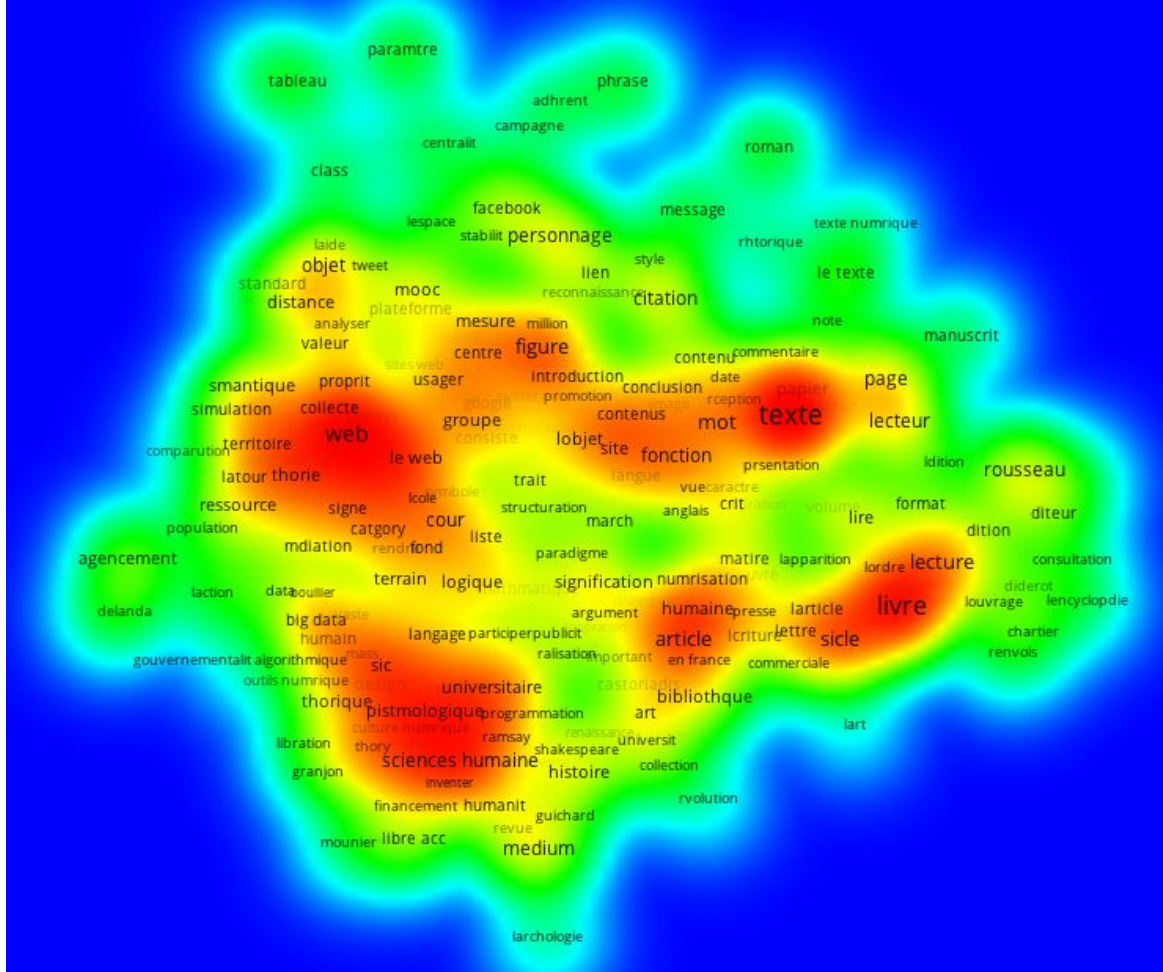
- Epistemological issues posed by the digital humanities: the role of ICT as a tool to support and enhance interdisciplinary research within the SSH, the *making* of citizen participation, its community-based and collaborative essence. (**Cluster 1**)
- Researchers' re-consideration of the role played by social media and new socio-political relationships, and the practices they make possible (**Cluster 2**)
- Digital methods in the humanistic framework: Research and the creation facing the digitization of cultural heritage (**Cluster 3**)
- Rethinking of the scientific ecology (**Cluster 4**)
- DH's opportunities to broaden the spectrum of working and exchange languages, and to push the humanities into new territory of collaboration, openness, and experimentation (**Cluster 5**)

Conclusions and future work