

The Research Life Cycle and Research Data in the Humanities

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About me

BA from University of Manitoba (History and Slavic Studies)

Master of Library and Information Studies from Dalhousie University

MA from Carleton University (Musicology and Cultural Theory)

Currently writing a dissertation on the political theory of intellectual freedom in librarianship

The problem before us

- Academy and research dominated by the natural and social sciences
- A lot of research methods instruction and research data policy prioritizes [social] science research
- How can we understand the research life cycle and research data management from a humanities perspective?

Humanities and Interpretation

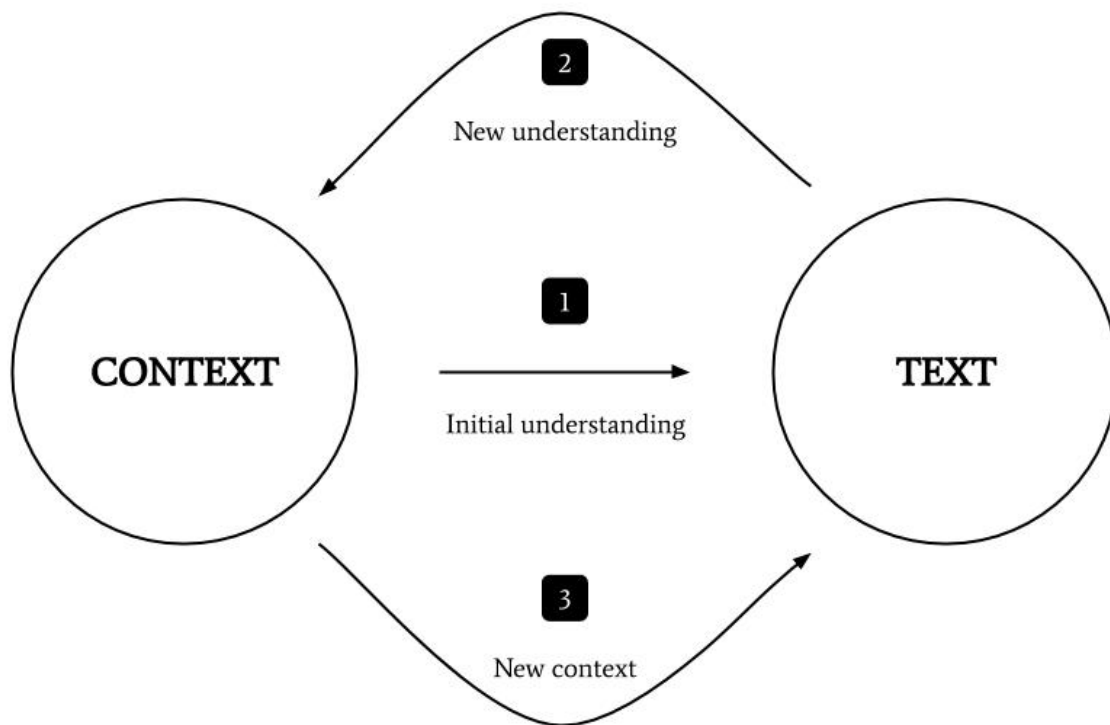
The humanities tend to rely heavily on an *interpretive*. That is we interpret texts (or social phenomena understood as texts) in order to *understand* them. This is different from the [social] sciences, which seek to uncover *evidence* of phenomena which are often presumed to not need interpretation, to speak for themselves. This evidence is data (whether it is derived by quantitative or qualitative methods.

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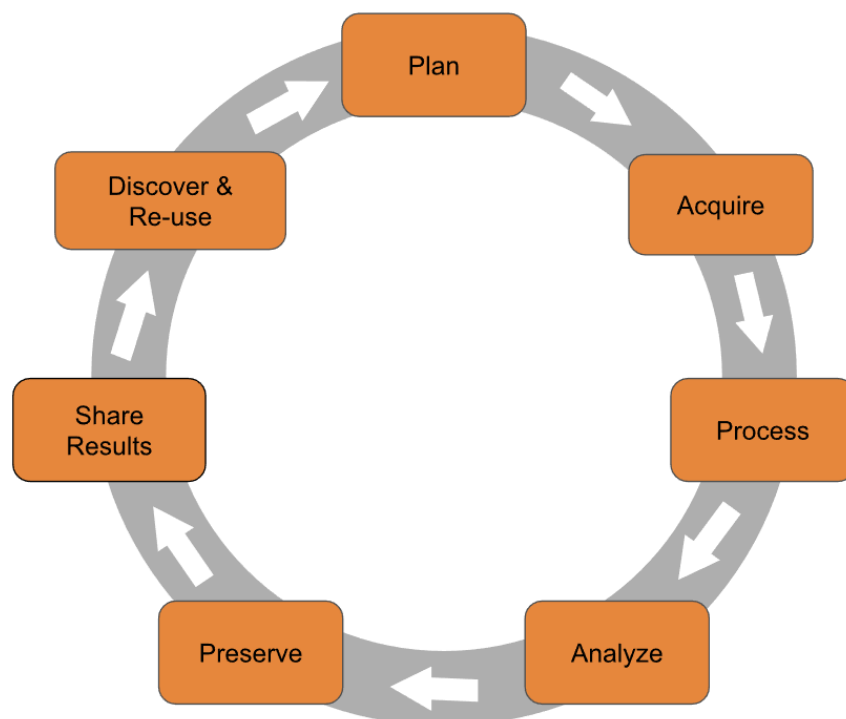
The humanities can take advantage of positive evidence / data / quantitative / qualitative methods, but its primary methodology remains interpretation.

The idea that the humanities can be studied without interpretation, using the same methodologies as the sciences, is called *naturalism*.

Another term you might hear which means the same as interpretation is *hermeneutics*, derived from the Greek "hermēneuein", meaning "to interpret".



The Research Life Cycle



Research Data Management

Similar problems arise when we look into Research Data Management policies, such as those mandated by the Tri-Council (e.g. SSHRC). Research data is often understood in social or natural scientific terms rather than humanities terms. For example, on the SSHRC RDM page, research data is described as:

- used as primary sources to support technical or scientific enquiry, research, scholarship, or artistic activity;
- used as evidence in the research process; and / or
- commonly accepted in the research community as necessary to validate research findings and results.

Literature and Citation Management

Literature and Citation Management is an important aspect of all phases of the research life-cycle.

- Manage reading lists
- Annotate (PDF annotations, summaries, etc)
- Automate citations and bibliographies

Tools



- Refworks / EndNote
- Mendeley
- Zotero
- Integrate with note-taking / writing software

Info Notes Tags Related

Citation Key: Coulthard2014

Item Type Book

Title Red Skin White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition

▼ Author Coulthard, Glen Sean  

Abstract

death of a police officer and provoking a 78-day standoff. On September 26, 1990, the Kanien'kéha:ka surrendered and the golf course expansions was halted. The Canadian government purchased the land, but it has not yet been returned to the Kanien'kéha:ka and the prior land claim is still unresolved (see \autocite[116]{Coulthard2014}).

police, stormed the barricade, resulting in the death of a police officer and provoking a 78-day standoff. On September 26, 1990, the Kanien'kéha:ka surrendered and the golf course expansions was halted. The Canadian government purchased the land, but it has not yet been returned to the Kanien'kéha:ka and the prior land claim is still unresolved (see (Coulthard 2014, 116)).

Thank you

Questions / discussion

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