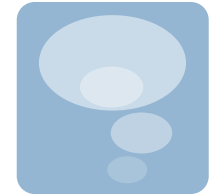




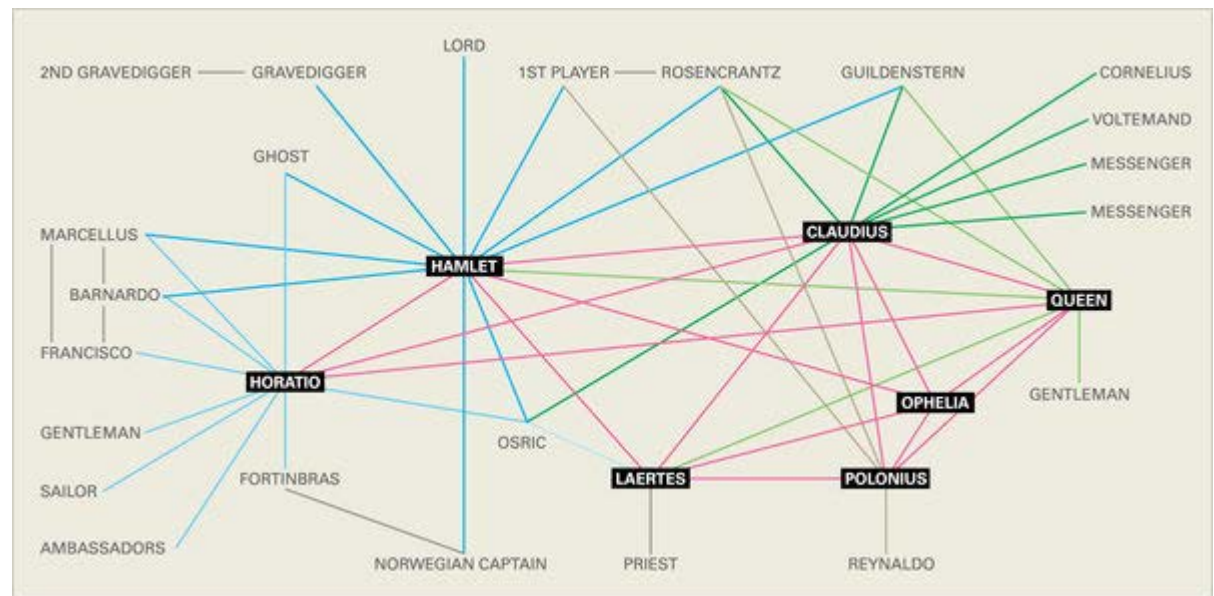
Don't Know Much About [Digital] Humanities?

Katherine Ahnberg, Ryan P. Randall
Indiana University, Bloomington



“Digital humanities focuses both on the application of computing technology to humanistic inquiries and on humanistic reflections of the significance of that technology.”

-C.A. Sula

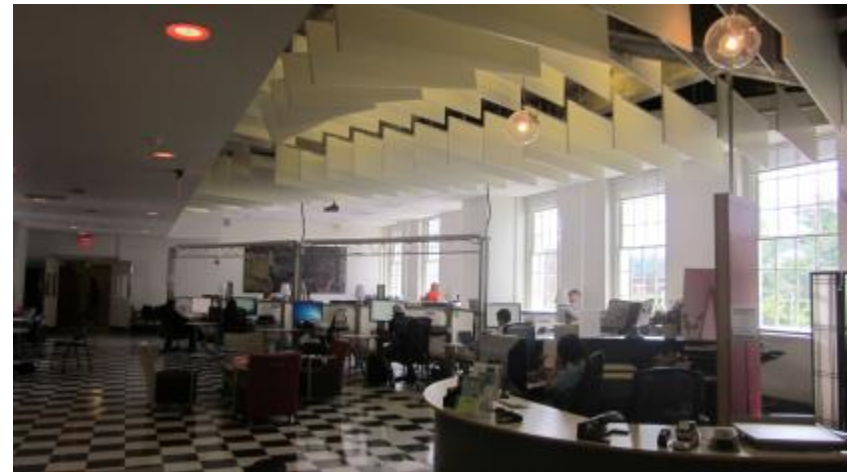


Moretti's "Distant Reading"

DH in the Library Context



University of Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities



University of Virginia Scholar's Lab

What about the “human” part of the “Digital Humanities?”



- Libraries and DH Scholars are natural partners
- DH fluency is important for librarians in the context of evolving service models



Supporting DH in the Library

What happens when we give DH a desk?



The Digital Humanities Center, Columbia University



Why are DH faculty coming to the library?

“Digital Humanities does not have a place in the library. Digital humanists do.”

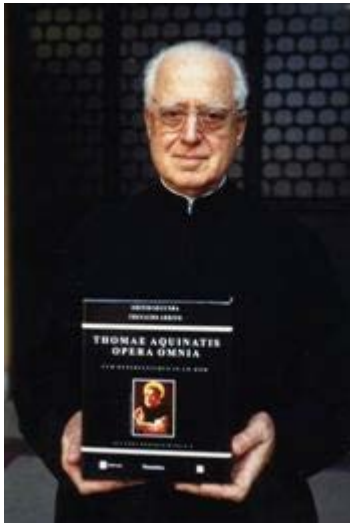
-Vandegrift and Varner



- Library professionals have:
 - Experience hosting and disseminating information
 - An understanding of best practices in project management
 - Knowledge of Open Access issues
 - Consideration for the provenance of digital materials, and their storage

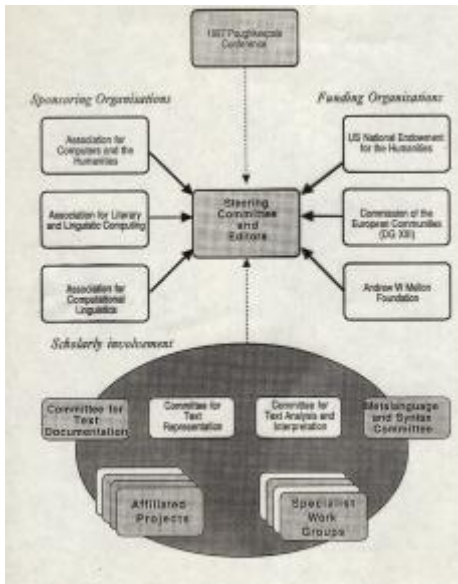
A blue rounded rectangle with three overlapping circles of different shades of blue on the left side. The text "DH can be a blackbox!" is written in white on the right side of the rectangle.

DH can be a blackbox!



DH: Not a new discipline!

- 1949 “Index Thomisticus”
- Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) dates back to 1987



Digital vs. Digitized



Digital

- “Born digital content”
- Original work created using any variety of software

Digitized

- Scanned or otherwise digitized facsimiles of analog content
- Electronic texts

☑ When in doubt, could you create it on paper?

The Post/Humanist Debate:



Traditional Humanist Work

- Stanley Fish
- DH offers a better way to realize traditional humanities goals
- Supportive methodology

Post-Humanist Work

- Tim Hitchcock
- “Bonfire of the disciplines”
- Trailblazing new work



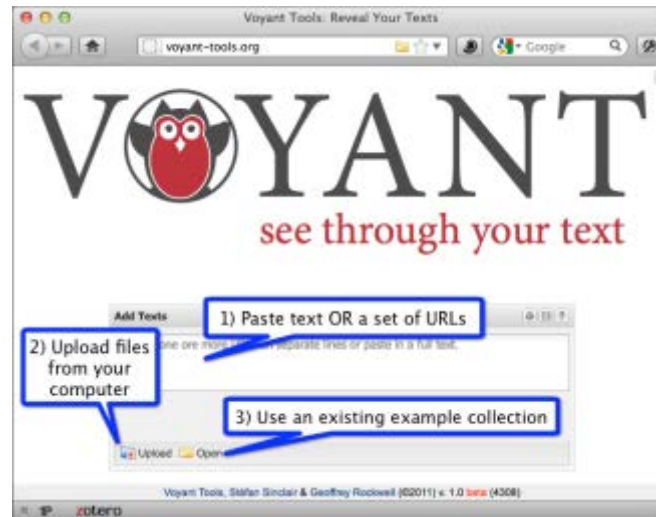
What does DH look like?

Two Take-Home Tools to Get Acquainted



Two tools for easy engagement

- Voyant
- TimeMapper





Interdisciplinary Collaboration

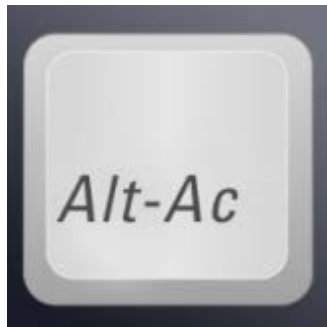


We're already doing DH work...

- Managing data
- Embedded librarianship
- Digitization and curation
- Digital preservation
- Dissemination and discovery

Source: B. Showers

New Opportunities



- Collaboration with “Alt-Acs” and faculty produces a new kind of new DH work
- Creates a community of practice that links library research and development to DH scholarship and publishing
- Encourages further engagement with library resources through the support of student and faculty projects



Use Cases at the NYPL

NYPL Labs Themes



- Transitioning the mission of public service to the Web
- Establishing a Research & Development unit
- Digitization as a beginning rather than an end, encouraging derivative works & collections
- Crowdsourcing as public engagement, transformation of collections into new access methods

NYPL Projects

- Digital Gallery (2005), large-scale public access to 800,000 digitized items
- Time Warper (2010), “wayback machine” for maps
 - Map Warper toolkit is open source
 - Used by NYPL Map Division staff and members of public
 - Citizen Cartography workshops in Map Division reading room
- What's On the Menu (2011)
 - Individual dishes as database objects
 - Low barriers to crowdsourcing
 - Reviewed by interns and other users



From the NYPL's "What's On the Menu" database



Successful Library + DHer Collaboration

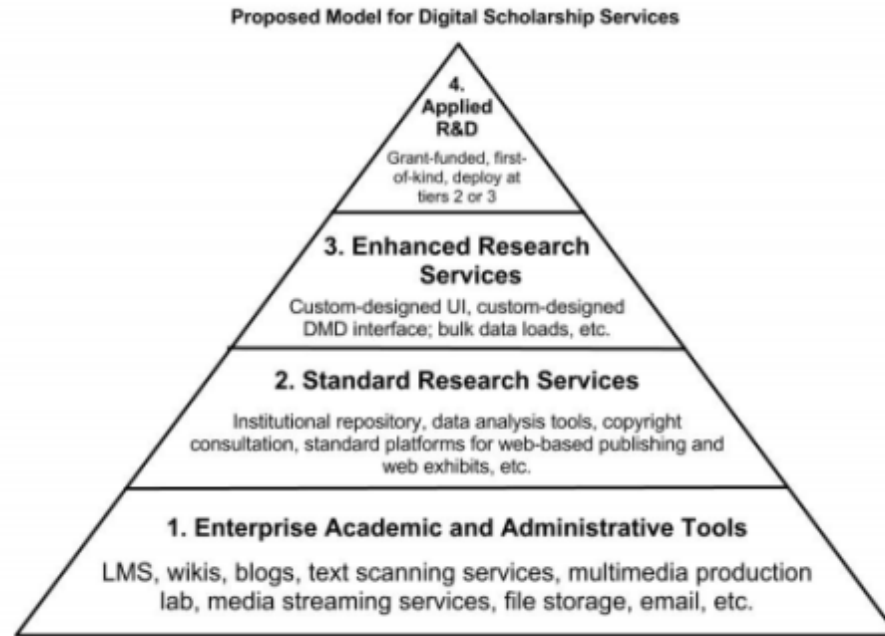
A few examples



■ UCLA

- Research Commons includes DH support
- Project management consulting
- University specific examples to create relevance and promote collections

■ NYU



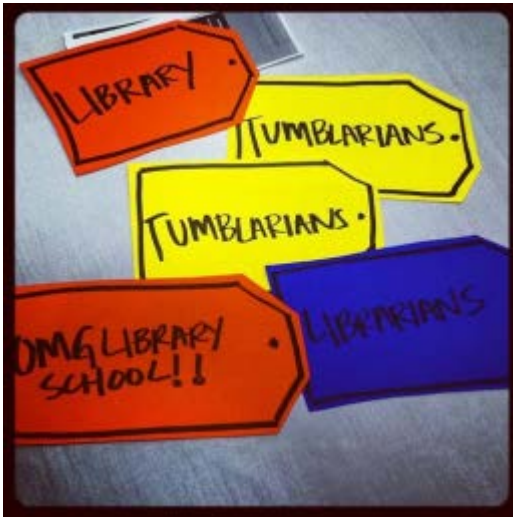
Source: Vinopal and McCormic

“We must be understood as essential partners in knowledge creation...We must be visible, we must be at the table.” –H. Greene



Connect!

Non-Traditional Publishing



- Blogs
- Twitter
- OA Journals
- Etc.





New Trends



Big Data

- DH work often approaches data on a massive scale
- Librarians are, in many ways, already doing DH groundwork
- Macroscopic approach can uncover trends invisible to traditional scholarship
- Crowdsourcing with interns, users, or librarians performing quality control

Contemporary Collections



- Most projects represent the “jewels” of institutional collections
 - Funding support
 - Public interest
- Room for born digital products of contemporary work
 - Current relevancy
 - New mediums
 - Promotes new types & communities of engagement

Conclusions



- “...while accepting that technology changes the experience of being human, it can also enable us to explore in new ways the way in which different textual objects, from manuscripts to films, from papyri to tweets, engage with humans and humanity.”

-Andrew Prescott
Digital Humanities Summer School, OU

Thanks for Listening!



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