HIST6604W Digital Methods and Literacies for History

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PA 406

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This course explores the practical aspects of digital methods and materials for history. It will be assessed via an open notebook containing the student's notes supporting her work on various tutorials and exercises, and reflections tying these exercises to her own particular research problem.

The open notebook will be maintained as a publicly accessible Github repository. The reflections will be in a 'devlog' format, a kind of reflective log that documents what was done (and why), what worked, what didn't, and why that particular result was achieved. There will be one devlog per module, worth 70% of the final grade; there will be a final devlog that develops a plan of attack for the student's own personal research based on the previous devlogs. This final 'moving forward' devlog will be worth 30%

- 7 devlogs, 10% each
- 1 'moving forward' devlog, 30%

Meetings

Meetings will be scheduled once every two weeks

Texts

Shawn Graham, Ian Milligan, and Scott Weingart, Exploring Big Historical Data: The Historian's Macroscope (Imperial College Press, 2015). http://www.themacroscope.org/2.0/

Kieran Healy, Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction (Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2018). http://socviz.co/

Roger Peng, Exploratory Data Analysis with R (Leanpub, 2016). https://bookdown.org/rdpeng/exdata/

Julia Silge and David Robinson, Text Mining with R: A Tidy Approach (O'Reilly, 2017). https://www.tidytextmining.com/

Hadley Wickham and Garrett Grolemund, R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform, Visualize, and Model Data (O'Reilly, 2017). http://r4ds.had.co.nz/

Schedule

Module 1 - Jan 8 - Jan 15th

- git & GitHub
- R basics

Read:

- Arguing with Digital History working group, "Digital History and Argument," white paper, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media (November 13, 2017). https://rrchnm.org/argument-white-paper/
- "Introduction" and "Getting Started" from Computational Historical Thinking. http://dh-r.lincolnmullen.com/introduction.html and http://dh-r.lincolnmullen.com/getting-started.html

Do:

- Exercises 3 & 4 http://workbook.craftingdigitalhistory.ca/module-1/Exercises/

Resource:

- oh shit, git! http://ohshitgit.com/

Module 2 - Jan 15 - Jan 31

- finding Data (extracting from pdfs, OCR transcriptions, apis, etc)

Read:

- Wickham and Grolemund, R for Data Science, ch. 1, 4, 6, 8.
- Shari Rabin, "'Let us Endeavor to Count Them Up': The Nineteenth-Century Origins of American Jewish Demography," American Jewish History 101, no 4 (2017): 419–440, https://doi.org/10.1353/ajh.2017.0060.
- Roger Finke and Rodney Stark, The Churching of America, 1776-

2005: Winners and Losers in Our Religious Economy (Rutgers University Press, 2005), ch. 1, 5. http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt5hhwnc

- Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp, "If It's South Dakota You Must Be Episcopalian: Lies, Truth-Telling, and the Mapping of U.S. Religion" Church History 71, no. 1 (2002): 132–42. http://www.jstor.org/stable/4146694

Do:

- The 'Getting familiar with R' worksheet http://dh-r.lincolnmullen.com/worksheets.html
- The Canadiana API http://workbook.craftingdigitalhistory.ca/module-2/Exercises/#exercise-4-apis

module 3 - Feb 1 - Feb 15

- manipulating data

Read:

- Wickham and Grolemund, R for Data Science, ch. 5, 12.
- Karl W. Broman and Kara H. Woo, "Data Organization in Spreadsheets" PeerJ Preprints 5:e3183v1 (2017): https://doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.3183v1.
- Frederick W. Gibbs, "New Forms of History: Critiquing Data and Its Representations," The American Historian (February 2016). http://tah.oah.org/february-2016/new-forms-of-history-critiquing-

data-and-its-representations/

- Graham, Milligan, Weingart, Macroscope, ch. 1–2.

Do:

- The 'data structures' worksheet. http://dh-r.lincolnmullen.com/worksheets.html

module 4 - Feb 15 - March 1

- exploratory data viz

module 5 - March 2 - March 15

- text Analysis
    - topic models
    - word vectors
    - word reuse

module 6 - March 16 - March 26

- mapping

module 7 - March 26 - April 8

- networks