Defining DH

Digital humanities are “both a broad collection of practices and an intense, ongoing interpretive praxis generative of such practices... [that] contributes to both the construction of knowledge and the education of people... [and provides a] center of gravity [that] is not a particular assemblage of technologies or methods but the ongoing, playful encounter with digital representation itself”

Rafael C. Alvarado, “The Digital Humanities Situation”

“Think less a lone professor writing a book and more a team of academics posting a project version 1.0 online asking for feedback as they envision version 2.0”

Adam Copeland, “What is the Digital Humanities? (In 400 Words or Less)”
Defining DH: Debates

- “Hacking” vs “yacking”
- Process vs product
- “Big Tent” DH
- Close reading vs distant reading (Scale)
- Biases of digital tools
- Digital methods and humanities objects vs humanities methods and digital subjects
What does DH look like in the Graduate Classroom?

Part 1: Contextualizing DH
- Discussing of theory + concepts
- Examining prominent DH tools

Part 2: Project/Tinker time
- In-class work time
- Built-in feedback model
DH in the Classroom: Example Projects

Ex 1. Mapping, GIS, nonlinearity

Ex 2. Vidding, remixing, game studies

Ex 3. Modularity—making something new

Ex 4. Data visualization, textual and visual comparison
Digital Witchcraft

https://bliden.github.io/dhWitchcraft/
What does DH look like in the Graduate Classroom? (cont.)

Alexander Reid recognizes three central needs of graduate students today:
1. “a critical understanding and technical facility with a broadly conceived digital literacy”
2. “some level of technical facility with digital production and programming”
3. “a technical facility and critical, pedagogical understanding of the use of emerging technologies in the classroom”
What does DH look like in the Graduate Classroom? (cont.)

“[S]tudents do love doing DH things, when those DH things are framed around particular skills, often within disciplinary structures [...] the way we should integrate DH into the undergraduate curriculum is as a naturalized part of what literary scholars or historians or other humanists do [...] You do not have to be a DH expert to create—or better yet borrow—a few exciting DH assignments.”

Ryan Cordell, “How Not to Teach Digital Humanities”

Cordell lists of 4 imperatives for a DH course:
1. Start small
2. Integrate when possible
3. Scaffold everything
4. Think locally
What does DH look like in the Graduate Classroom? (cont.)

“[D]igital humanities courses give humanities practitioners literacy, not expertise; our expertise as humanists has always been in our strategies for rethinking and reframing difficult but important questions.”

Developing a syllabus for the graduate classroom requires “balancing a broad-as-possible introduction to DH tools with some instruction on how DH fits into disciplinary research questions and, relatedly, having to decide how much coding to teach”

Scott Selisker, ““Digital Humanities Knowledge: Reflections on the Introductory Graduate Syllabus”
DH in the Classroom: Skills

- Orienting work toward various audiences
- Becoming comfortable with failure
- Familiarity with different models of scholarship
- Tools
- Interdisciplinarity
- Communication + collaboration
DH in the Classroom: Collaboration

- Changing the way graduate students are trained
- Reciprocity and shared interests
- Communicating with scholars outside your field/discipline
- Logistics of composing communally
Hacking: Student Edition

- The mindset of professionalization
- Reaching out to potential collaborators
- Using campus resources
- Exploring alternative methodologies
Hacking: Professor Edition

- Introducing students to new set of methodologies
- Willingness to learn alongside students
- Building time into class
- Seeds for long-term projects
- Mobilizing local networks
- Small-scale integration
Opportunities/Resources

HASTAC
(Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory)

THATCamp
(The Humanities and Technology Camp)

DHSI + listserv
(Digital Humanities Summer Institute)

DH Twitter
https://twitter.com/GrandjeanMartin/lists/digital-humanities

Digital Humanities Now (@dhnow)

Debates in the Digital Humanities
Digital Humanities Quarterly
Digital Scholarship in the Humanities
Digital Studies
CA: Journal of Cultural Analytics
Journal of Digital & Media Literacy
Hybrid Pedagogy
ProfHacker blog in The Chronicle of Higher Education
Resources


Resources


Questions?