

Digital Humanities Module

Manuel Portela

University of
Coimbra

Research Methodology in
European Modern
Languages and
Literatures

Manuel Portela (University of Coimbra)

Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Coimbra. My research addresses writing and reading media and how they impact on literary forms and practices. Main publications: [*Literary Simulation and the Digital Humanities*](#) (Bloomsbury, 2022); [*Scripting Reading Motions*](#) (MIT Press, 2013), and [*LdoD Archive: Collaborative Digital Archive of the Book of Disquiet*](#) (CLP, 2017-2024), edited by Manuel Portela and António Rito Silva.

Session 17

“DH1: Communities of practice in Digital Humanities”

Session 18

“DH2: Project-based scholarship”

Session 19

“DH3: Processes and methods”

Session 20

“DH4: Cultural significance of humanities work”

Session 17

“DHI: Communities of practice in Digital Humanities”

In this session, we will (1) look briefly at the history of Digital Humanities, (2) offer a working definition, and (3) focus on selected projects that enable us to understand the field as a series of distinct communities of practice. As a follow-up assignment students will be asked to select one project from those listed on the website of the European Association for Digital Humanities (EADH - Projects: <https://eadh.org/projects>) and prepare a 5-minute oral presentation of the selected project for the following session. Presentations should address the three dimensions of the digitization of the humanities (1. digitization of cultural artifacts; 2. digitization of humanistic methods of analysis; 3. digitization of the rhetoric of communication) and how each of them can be identified in the selected project.

TEXT 1: Martin Paul Eve, “Introduction,” *The Digital Humanities and Literary Studies*. Oxford University Press, 2022. pp. 1-27. [PDF available on GLOCAL]

Session 18

“DH2: Project-based scholarship”

In this session, we will (1) discuss the DH projects selected and presented by students and (2) discuss the notion of project-based scholarship in DH. As a follow-up assignment students will be asked to organize into groups, and each group will prepare a presentation of one section from the following chapter for our next session.

TEXT 2: Anne Burdick, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, Todd Presner and Jeffrey Schnapp. “A Short Guide to the Digital Humanities,” *Digital_Humanities*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2012. pp. 121-135. [PDF available on GLOCAL]

Session 19

“DH3: Processes and methods”

As a follow-up assignment students will be asked (1) to find DH projects that work with visualizations and (2) to analyze those visualizations in terms of their techniques (a) for generating quantitative data and (b) for translating metrics into graphics.

TEXT 3: Lev Manovich, "What is visualisation?", *Visual Studies*, 2011, 26:1, 36-

49. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2011.548488> [PDF available on GLOCAL]

Session 20

“DH4: Cultural significance of humanities work”

In this session, students will present the visualizations they have selected. The rhetoric of digital visualization will be discussed in terms of the models of knowledge they embody and in the light of the cultural significance of humanities work.

TEXT 4: Johanna Drucker, "Information visualization", *The Digital Humanities Coursebook: An Introduction to Digital Methods for Research and Scholarship*. New York: Routledge, 2021. pp. 86-109. [PDF available on GLOCAL]

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

```
graph LR; A[DIGITAL HUMANITIES] --- B[1. communities of practice]; A --- C[2. discourse fields]; A --- D[3. epistemological models];
```

1. communities of practice

2. discourse fields

3. epistemological models

Session 17

“DHI: Communities of practice in Digital Humanities”

I. What is a “community of practice”?

DH publications (books and journals)

DH associations

DH conferences

DH centres

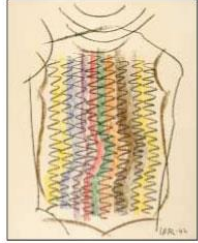
Teaching programmes in DH

DH projects

DH methods

DH tools, resources, standards

Books

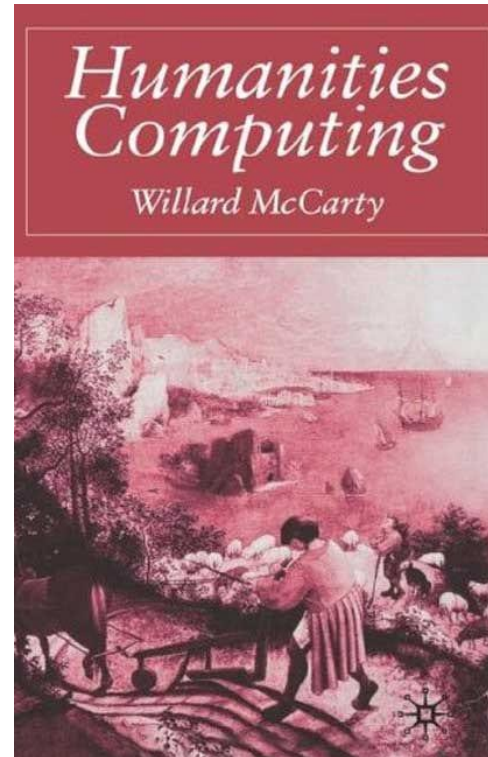


A COMPANION TO
*DIGITAL
HUMANITIES*

EDITED BY SUSAN SCHREIBMAN,
RAY SIEMENS, AND JOHN UNSWORTH



2004



2005



A COMPANION TO
*DIGITAL
LITERARY
STUDIES*

EDITED BY
RAY SIEMENS AND SUSAN SCHREIBMAN

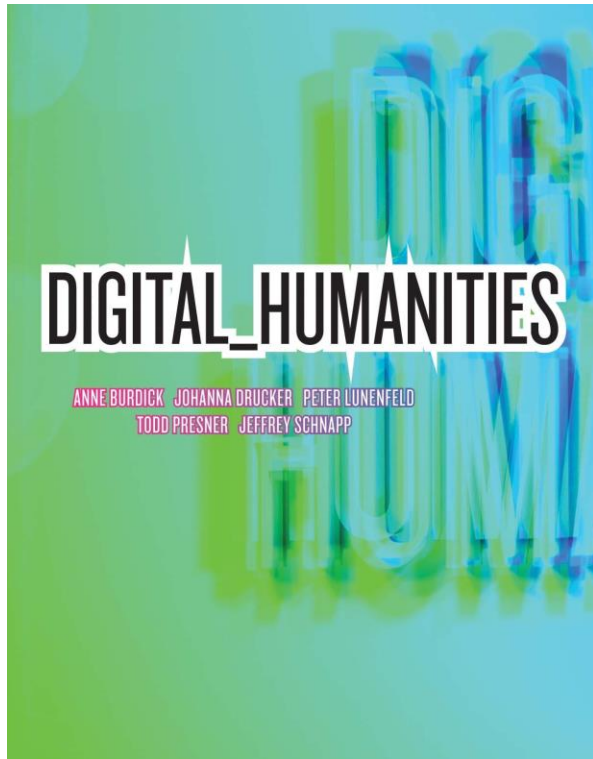


2008

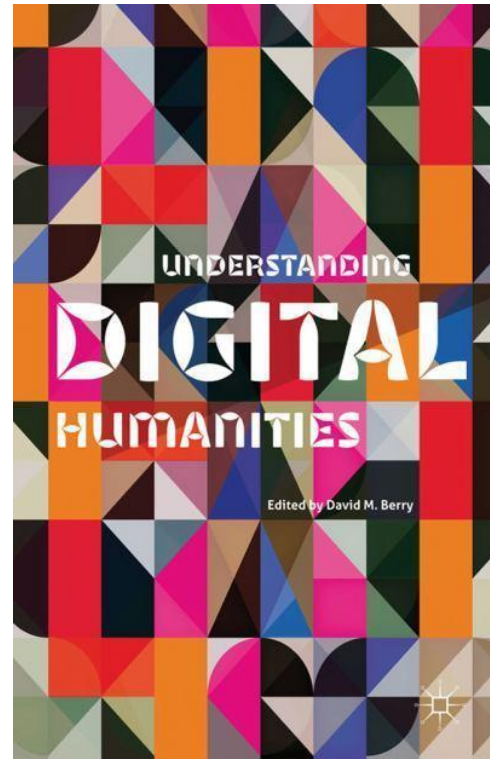


2010

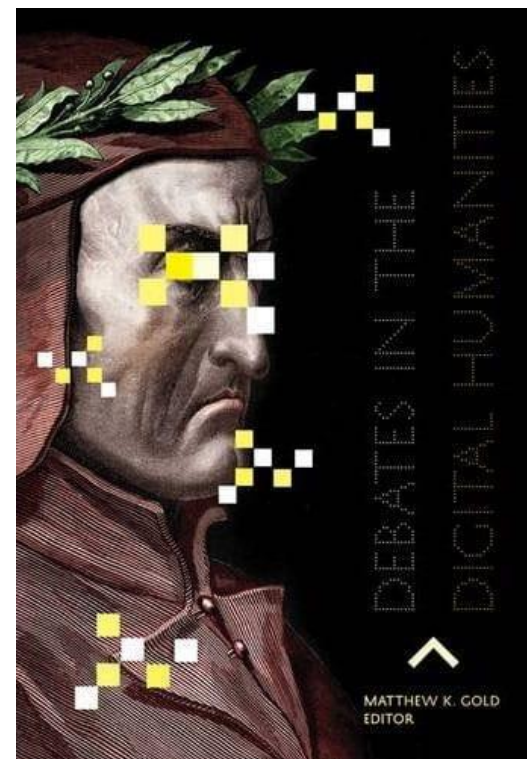
Books



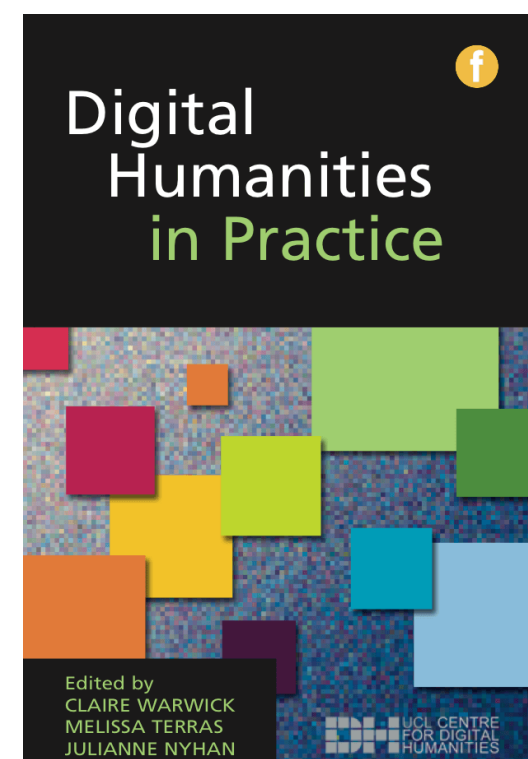
2012



2012

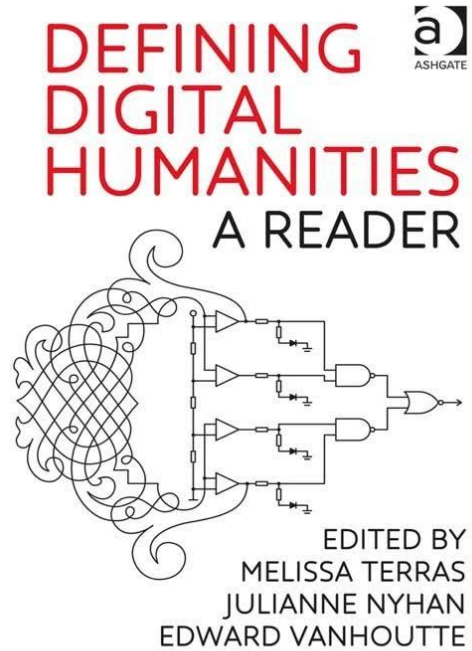


2012

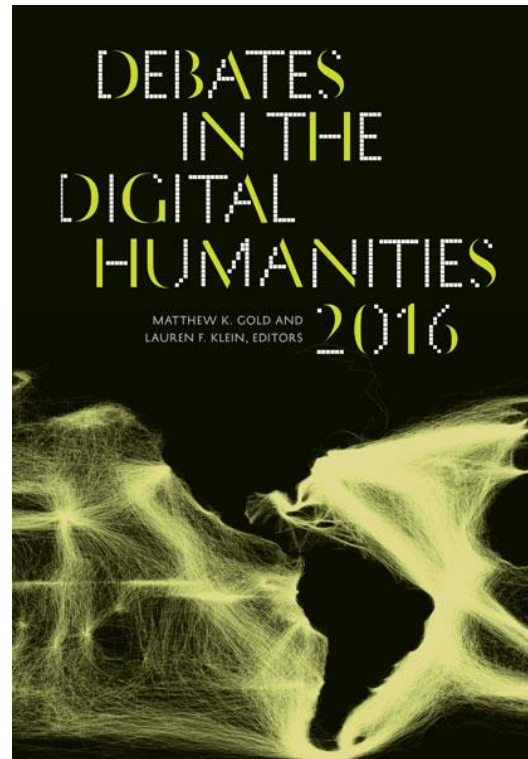


2012

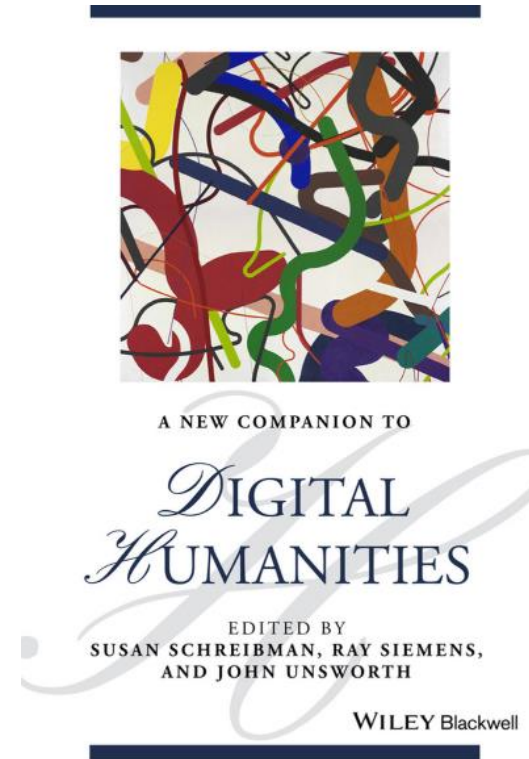
Books



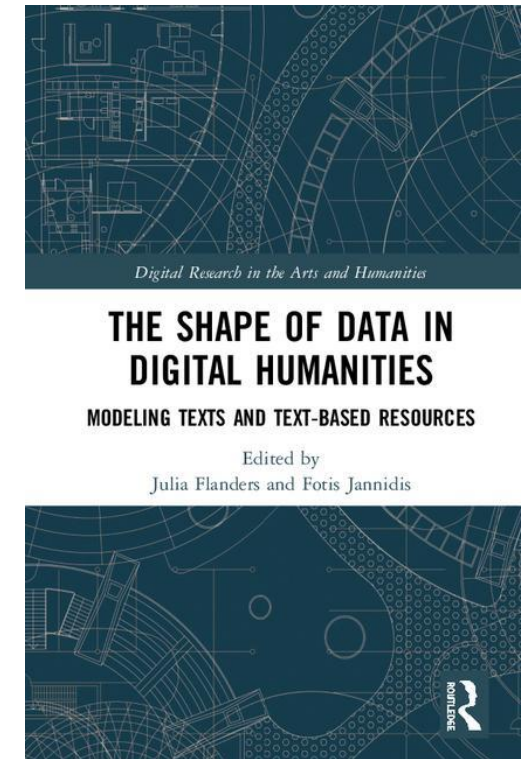
2013



2016

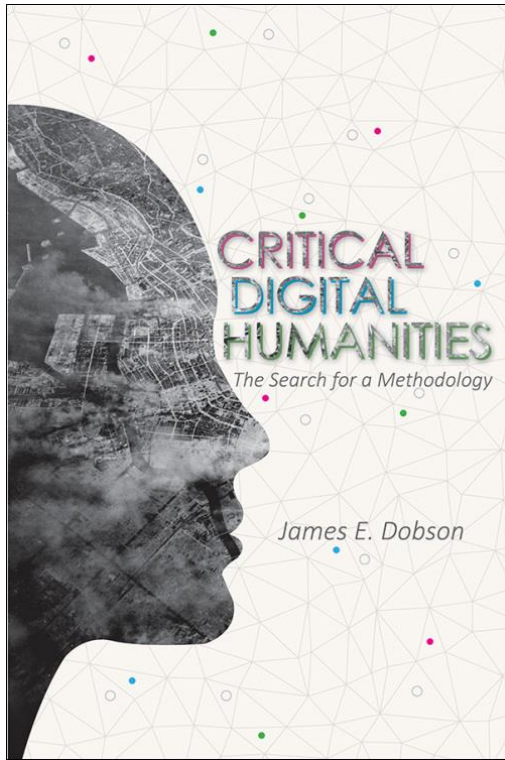


2016

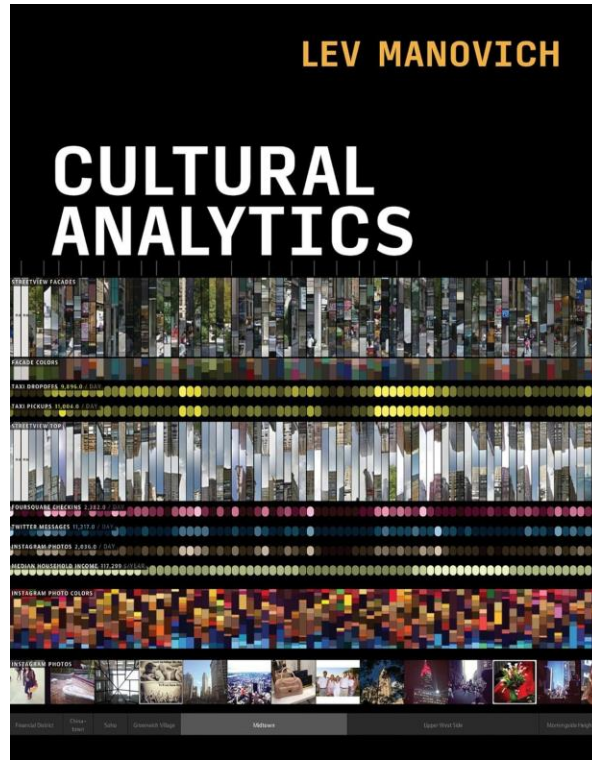


2019

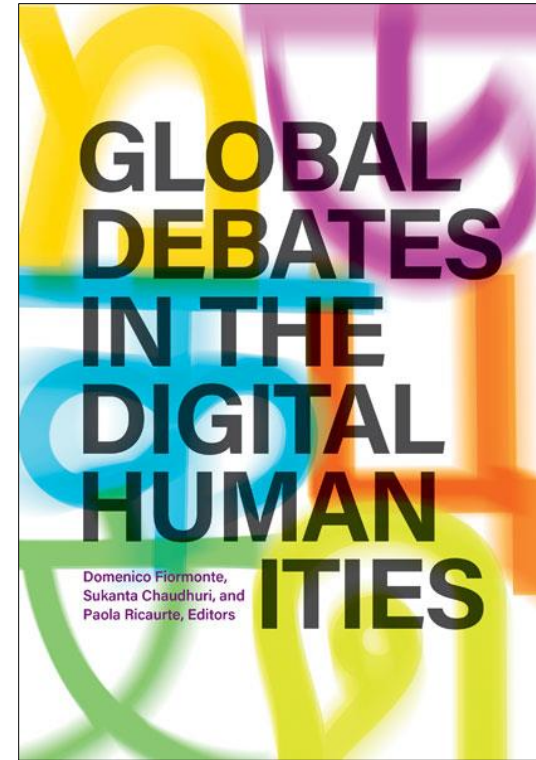
Books



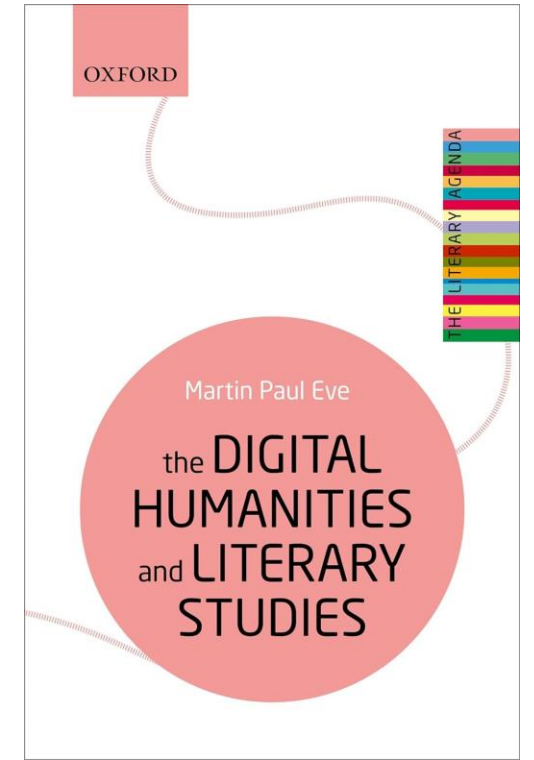
2019



2020



2022



2022

Journals

DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly [2007-present] ISSN 1938-4122. Published by the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO). Editor: Julia Flanders.

<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/>

Digital Studies / Le champ numérique [1992-present] ISSN 1918-3666. Published by for the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organisations under the direction of the Canadian Society for Digital Humanities/Société canadienne des humanités numériques (CSDH/SCHN) by the Open Library of the Humanities. Editor: Daniel O'Donnell. <https://www.digitalstudies.org/>

DSH: Digital Scholarship in the Humanities [2015-present] formerly *Literary and Linguistic Computing* [1986-2014] Online ISSN 1477-4615, Print ISSN 0268-1145. Published by Oxford University Press. Editor: Edward Vanhoutte. <https://academic.oup.com/dsh>

Human IT: Journal for Information Technology Studies as a Human Science [1997-present] ISSN 1402-151X. Published by the University of Borås. Editors: Jonas Söderholm and Maria Lindh. <https://humanit.hb.se/>

International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing [1989-2002; 2007-present] ISSN: 1753-8548, E-ISSN: 1755-1706. Editors: Paul Ell and David Bodenhamer. Published by Edinburgh University Press <https://www.euppublishing.com/loi/ijhac>

Journals

JEP The Journal of Electronic Publishing [1995-2002; 2007-present] ISSN 1080-2711.

<http://www.journalofelectronicpublishing.org/> Published by University of Michigan Library.

Edited by Simon Rowberry.

Journal of the Text Encoding Initiative [2011-present] ISSN 2162-5603. Published by the Text

Encoding Initiative Consortium. Editor: John Walsh. <https://journals.openedition.org/jtei/>

RHD Revista de Humanidades Digitales [2017-present]. ISSN 2531-1786. Published by LINHD-

UNED (España), CONICET (Argentina) and UNAM (México). Editors: Clara Cantón,

Ernesto Priani, and Gimena del Rio Riande. <http://revistas.uned.es/index.php/RHD/index>

Scholarly and Research Communication [2010-present] ISSN 1923-0702. Published by Simon

Fraser University. Editor: Rowland Lorimer. <http://src-online.ca/index.php/src/index>

Umanistica Digitale [2017-present] ISSN 2532-8816. Published by the AIUCD - Associazione

per l'Informatica Umanistica e la Cultura Digitale and by Università di Bologna. Editor:

Fabio Ciotti. <https://umanisticadigitale.unibo.it>

[Informatica umanistica [2009-2011] ISSN 2037-4666. Published by the Università degli Studi

di Milano. Editor: Massimo Parodi. <http://www.ledonline.it/informatica-umanistica/>]

DH Associations

ADHO – Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations [2006-present] <https://adho.org/>

EADH – European Association for Digital Humanities [Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing (ALLC), 1973; 2012-present] <https://eadh.org/>

CSDH – Canadian Society for Digital Humanities / Société canadienne des humanités numériques (CSDH/SCHN) [Consortium for Computers in the Humanities / Consortium pour ordinateurs en sciences humaines, 1986; 2007-present] <https://csdh-schn.org/>

DHD – Association for Digital Humanities in the German Speaking Areas [2011?-present] <https://dig-hum.de/>

Humanistica – Association francophone des humanités numériques/digitales [2012-present] <https://www.humanisti.ca/>

DH – Benelux [2014-present] <https://dhbenelux.org/>

HDH – Humanidades Digitales Hispánicas [2012-present] <https://humanidadesdigitaleshispanicas.es/>

AIUCD – Associazione Informatica Umanistica e Cultura Digitale [2018-present] <http://www.aiucd.it/>

DH Conferences

DH - Digital Humanities Annual Conference (Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations formed in 2005; first conference of DH: 2006) <https://eadh.org/conferences>

EADH - European Association for Digital Humanities Conference (1st conference, 2018) <https://eadh2018eadh.wordpress.com/>

DH Conferences in Portugal

Digital Literary Studies (University of Coimbra, 14-15 May 2015) <https://eld2015.wordpress.com/>

Humanidades Digitais em Portugal (NOVA-New University of Lisbon, 8-9 October 2015) <https://congressohdpt.wordpress.com/>

DH 2025 “Building access and accessibility, open science to all citizens” (NOVA-New University of Lisbon, 14-18 July 2025) <https://dh2025.adho.org/>

Projects

Ciula, Arianna, Øyvind Eide, Cristina Marras, and Patrick Sahle, 2016-2018. *Modelling Digital Humanities*. <https://modellingdh.uni-koeln.de/>

EADH European Association for Digital Humanities – List of Projects: <https://eadh.org/projects>

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. 1996-2024. *The William Blake Archive*, Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia (1996-2006)/ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and University of Rochester (2007-2018). <https://www.blakearchive.org/>

Folsom, Ed, and Kenneth M. Price, eds. 1995-2024. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (1995-2007), Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (2007-present). <https://www.whitmanarchive.org/>

McGann, Jerome, ed. 1993-2008. *Rossetti Archive*. Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia. <https://www.rossettiarchive.org/>

Fraistat, Neil, Elizabeth Denlinge, and Raffaele Viglianti, eds. 2013-2018. *The Shelley-Godwin Archive*. College Park, MD: Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities. <http://shelleygodwinarchive.org/>.

Projects

Portela, Manuel, and António Rito Silva, eds. 2017-2024. *LdoD Archive: Collaborative Digital Archive of the Book of Disquiet*. Coimbra: Centro de Literatura Portuguesa da Universidade de Coimbra. <https://ldod.uc.pt/>

Schreibman, Susan, ed. 2015-2024. *Letters 1916-1923*. Maynooth University. <https://letters1916.maynoothuniversity.ie>

Wall, John N., ed. 2012-2014. *Virtual St. Paul's Cathedral Project*. North Carolina State University. <https://vpcross.chass.ncsu.edu/>

Werner, Marta, Julie Enszer, and Jessica Beard, eds. 2012-2024. *DEA2 - Dickinson Electronic Archives*. College Park, MD: Maryland Institute of Technology in the Humanities. <https://www.emilydickinson.org/>.

Van Hulle, Dirk, e Mark Nixon, eds. 2011-2024. *Samuel Beckett Digital Manuscript Project*. Centre for Manuscript Genetics (University of Antwerp), the Beckett International Foundation (University of Reading), Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (Austin, Texas) and the Estate of Samuel Beckett. <https://www.beckettarchive.org/>

Centres

CCH – Centre for Computing in the Humanities (CCH) [1991-2011, Kings College London], Department of Digital Humanities [2011-present] <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ddh>

IATH – Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities [1992-present, University of Virginia] <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/>

MITH – Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities [1999-present, University of Maryland] <https://mith.umd.edu/>

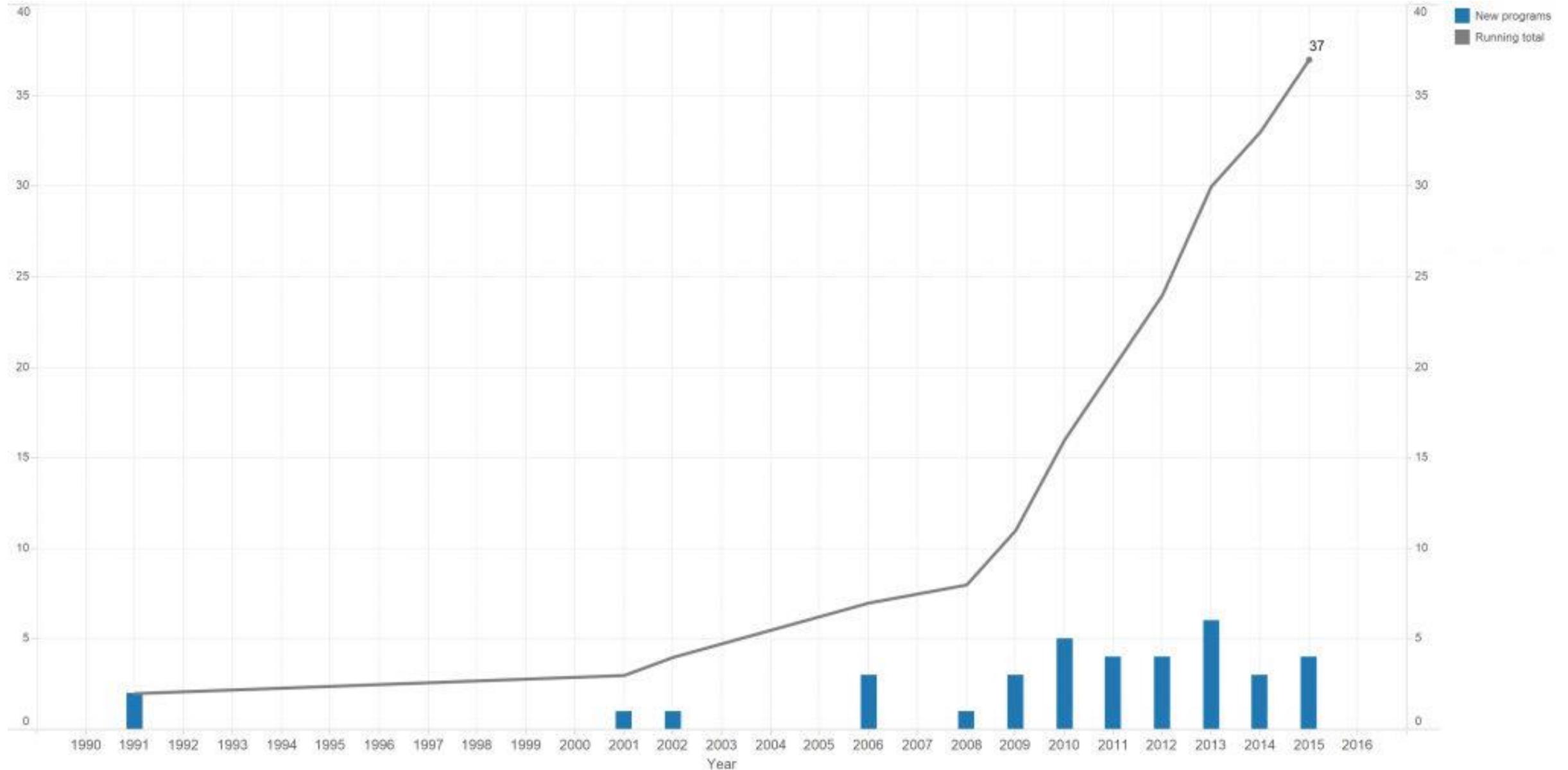
CDRH – Center for Digital Research in the Humanities [2005-present, University of Nebraska–Lincoln] <https://cdrh.unl.edu/>

ETCL – Electronic Textual Cultures Lab [2005-present, University of Victoria, Canada] <https://etcl.uvic.ca/>

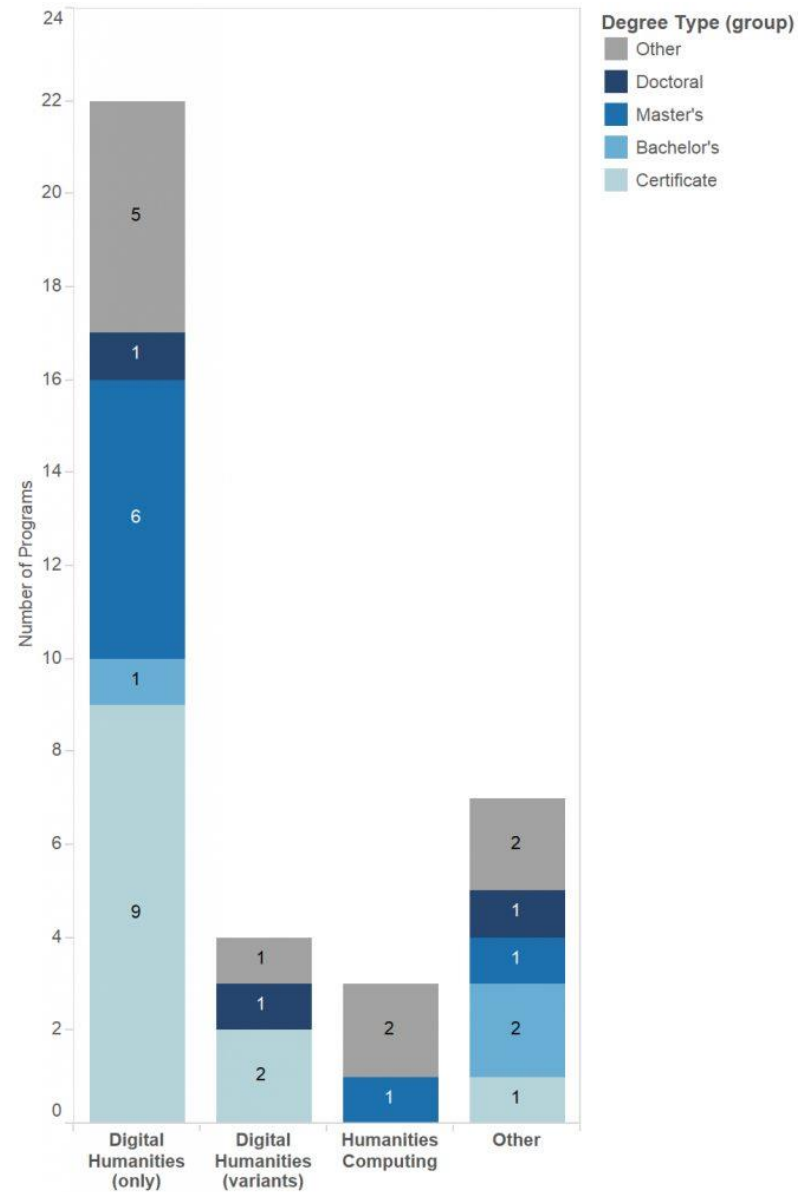
Cologne Center for eHumanities [2009-present, University of Cologne, Germany] <https://ceeh.uni-koeln.de/>

Utrecht Digital Humanities Lab [2009-present, University of Utrecht, Netherlands] <https://dig.hum.uu.nl/>

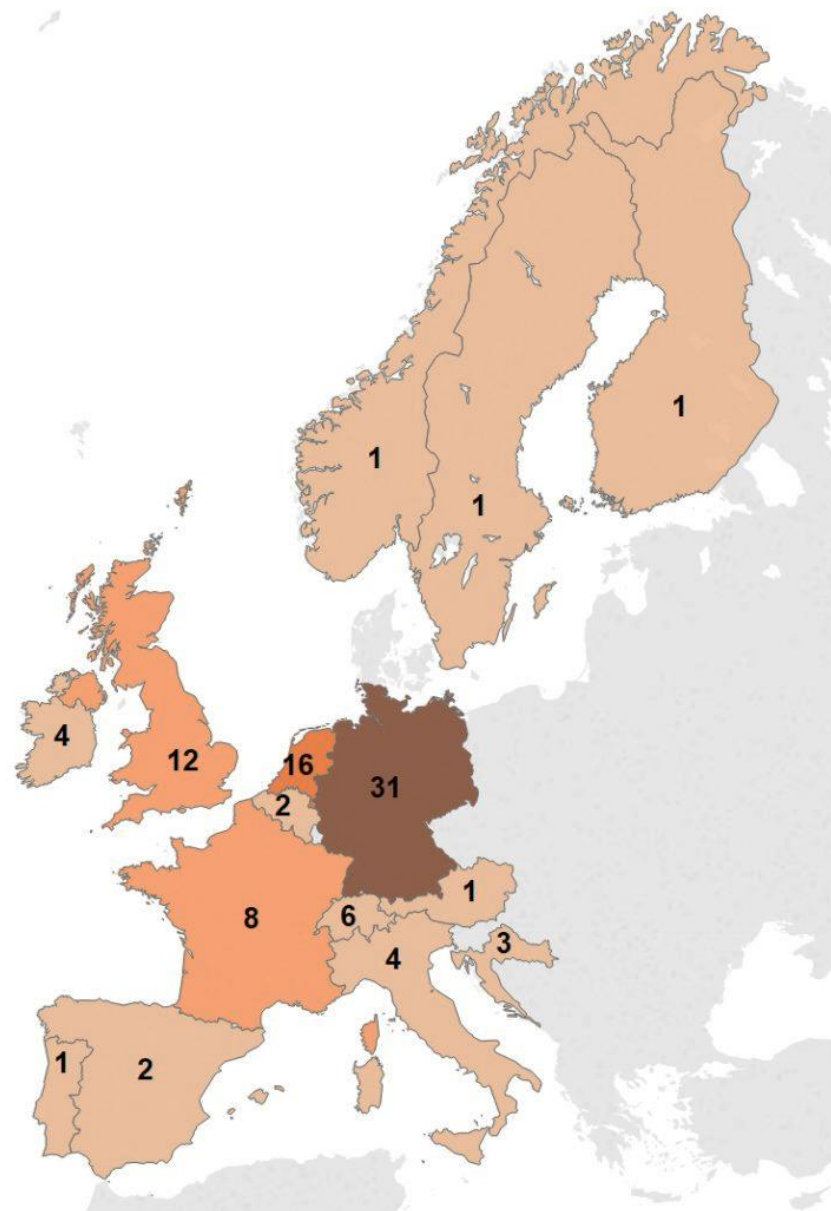
Teaching



Digital humanities programs in our collected data by year established [Anglophone countries].
(Sula, Hackney, and Cunningham 2017 [online])



Titles of digital humanities programs in our collected data [Anglophone countries]. (Sula, Hackney, and Cunningham 2017 [online])



Geographic location of programs in DARIAH/EADH data
(Sula, Hackney, and Cunningham 2017 [online])

Institution	Degree	Theorizing		Meta: Give Overview	
		Program	Courses	Program	Courses
Australian National University	Minor (undergraduate)	●	●	●	●
Brigham Young University	Minor (undergraduate)				●
Brock University	multiple			●	
Carleton University	MA	●	●	●	●
CUNY Graduate Center	MA (program track)	●	●	●	●
Farleigh Dickinson University	Minor (undergraduate)			●	
Illinois Institute of Technology	BS	●			
King's College London	BA	●	●	●	●
	MA	●		●	
Loyola University Chicago	MA		●		
Michigan State University	Certificate (graduate)	●			●
	Specialization (undergraduate)		●		●
National University of Ireland Maynooth	MA		●	●	●
	PhD	●		●	
North Carolina State University	Certificate (graduate)	●			
Pratt Institute	Certificate (graduate)	●	●		●
Rutgers University	Certificate	●	●	●	●
Stanford University	Certificate (graduate)		●		
Texas A&M University	Certificate (graduate)	●		●	
Texas Tech University	Certificate (graduate)	●			
Trinity College Dublin	MPhil	●		●	●
UCLA	Certificate (graduate)	●		●	
	Minor (undergraduate)			●	
University of Alberta	MA	●	●		●
University of California, Santa Barbara	Specialization (undergraduate)	●			
University of Georgia	Concentration (graduate)		●		
	Concentration (undergraduate)		●	●	
University of Iowa	Certificate (graduate)	●	●	●	●
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Certificate (graduate)		●	●	●
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Certificate (graduate)		●	●	
University of Victoria	Certificate (graduate)	●	●	●	●
University of Washington	Certificate (graduate)	●		●	
Western University Canada	Minor (undergraduate)		●		

Theory and critical reflection in digital humanities programs in our collected data [Anglophone countries].
(Sula, Hackney, and Cunningham 2017 [online])

Methods

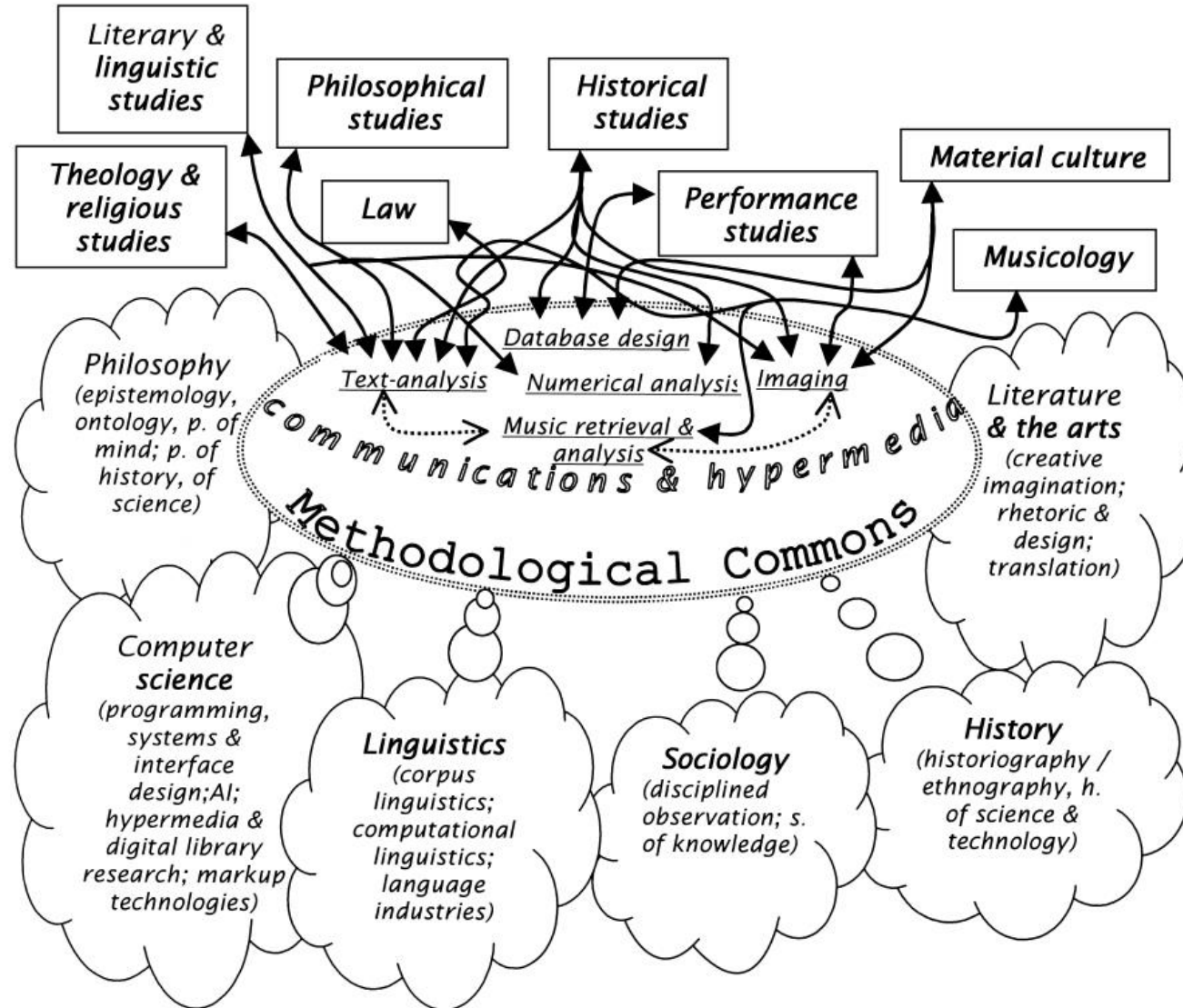


Fig. 1 A rough intellectual map for humanities computing. (Courtesy W. McCarty and H. Short.)

Tools, resources, standards

CLARIN - European Research Infrastructure for Language Resources and Technology

[2012-present] <https://www.clarin.eu/>

DARIAH - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities [2014-present]

<https://www.dariah.eu/>

HathiTrust Digital Library [2003-present] <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

TAPoR3: *Text Analysis Portal for Research* [2003-present] <https://tapor.ca/home>

TEI: Text Encoding Initiative [1987-present] <https://tei-c.org/>

CIDOC-CRM: International Committee for Documentation - Conceptual Reference

Model: <https://cidoc-crm.org/>

2. What is a “discourse field”?

DH definitions

DH theoretical frameworks

DH methodologies

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

```
graph LR; A[DIGITAL HUMANITIES] --- B[self-descriptions of the field]; A --- C[emergence of new theories, new methods, and new scholarly genres]
```

self-descriptions of the field

emergence of new theories,
new methods, and new
scholarly genres

The phrase *Digital Humanities* thus describes not just a collective singular but also the humanities in the plural, able to address and engage disparate subject matters across media, language, location, and history. But, however heterogeneous, the Digital Humanities is unified by **its emphasis on making, connecting, interpreting, and collaborating.**

(Burdick, Drucker, Lunenfeld, Presner, and Schnapp 2012: 24)

The digital environment offers expanded possibilities for exploring multiple approaches to **what constitutes knowledge** and what methods qualify as valid for its production. This implies that the 8-page essay and the 25-page research paper will have to make room for the game design, the multi-player narrative, the video mash-up, the online exhibit and other new forms and formats as pedagogical exercises. **Playful, imaginative, participatory work** is not the enemy of education, but its exuberant and vital engine. New **standards of assessment** will be necessary as skills change. We struggle less to remember facts than we do to remember where and how to find them—and how to assess their validity.

(Burdick, Drucker, Lunenfeld, Presner, and Schnapp 2012: 24-25)

The problem scholars face is twofold: first to develop a **computational discourse** adequate to the best artefactual theories we have; second to reconceive their computational practices as a **matter of tooling** rather than tool-use. For computer science the biggest challenge is to understand and implement **dynamical scholarly practices** as they metamorphose from one temporary state to the next.
(McCarty 2014: 103)

3.What is an “epistemological model”?

Quantitative models of knowledge in DH

Modelling phenomena as processable data in DH

In the DH context models are always created with **the objective of being operationalised**. This means that they are created in a way so as to lend themselves to be used and manipulated in a computational setting. However, **the form models take can vary extensively**, from a formal schema, to the logics informing the running of code (programs or apps) as well as to digital objects such as maps or 3D models. Such frameworks can be local to one institution, one project, or even to one single researcher, but can also be generalisable and scalable, as we see in the development of common formalisms or standards such as the recommendations of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) guidelines to encode textual sources.

(Arianna Ciula *et al.* 2018: 11)

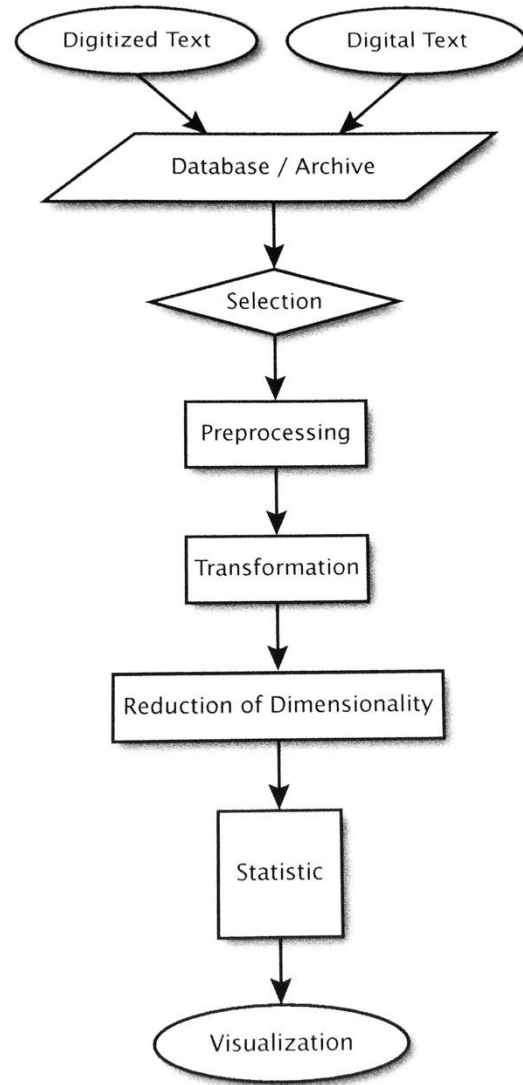


FIGURE 1.1 Generic computational workflow for the Humanities

(Dobson 2019)

DIGITAL HUMANITIES IS BORN OF THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN TRADITIONAL HUMANITIES AND COMPUTATIONAL METHODS.

WITH THE MIGRATION OF CULTURAL MATERIALS INTO NETWORKED ENVIRONMENTS, QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PRODUCTION, AVAILABILITY, VALIDITY, AND STEWARDSHIP OF THESE MATERIALS PRESENT NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUMANISTS. IN CONTRAST WITH MOST TRADITIONAL FORMS OF SCHOLARSHIP, DIGITAL APPROACHES ARE CONSPICUOUSLY COLLABORATIVE AND GENERATIVE, EVEN AS THEY REMAIN GROUNDED IN THE TRADITIONS OF HUMANISTIC INQUIRY. THIS CHANGES THE CULTURE OF HUMANITIES WORK AS WELL AS THE QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE ASKED OF THE MATERIALS AND OBJECTS THAT COMPRISE THE HUMANISTIC CORPUS.

(Burdick, Drucker, Lunenfeld,
Presner, and Schnapp 2012: 3)

HUMANITIES KNOWLEDGE USED TO HAVE A RECOGNIZABLE FORM.

WE KNEW IT WHEN WE SAW IT BECAUSE IT HAD LOOKED THE SAME FOR CENTURIES: PRINTED PAGES WITH LINEAR PROSE AND A BIBLIOGRAPHIC APPARATUS WRITTEN BY AN AUTHOR AND PUBLISHED IN THE FORM OF AN ARTICLE OR BOOK. THOUGH THE FORMAT COULD VARY WIDELY, FROM MATERIALS TO LAYOUT, SUCH DESIGN DECISIONS WERE RARELY CARRIED OUT BY THE SCHOLARS WHO CREATED THE CONTENT. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE HUMANITIES HAVE ADOPTED HOMOGENEOUS APPROACHES TO PRODUCING SCHOLARLY RESEARCH. YET ARTIFACTS CREATED BY DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES THAT “LIVE” IN DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS ARE COMPARATIVELY DIFFERENT—IN TERMS OF MATERIAL COMPOSITION, AUTHORSHIP, MEANING-MAKING, CIRCULATION, READING, VIEWING, NAVIGATION, EMBODIMENT, INTERACTIVITY, AND EXPRESSIVITY—FROM ARTIFACTS CREATED BY THE WORLD OF PRINT.

(Burdick, Drucker, Lunenfeld,
Presner, and Schnapp 2012: 29)

ENHANCED CRITICAL CURATION

AUGMENTED EDITIONS AND FLUID TEXTUALITY

SCALE: THE LAW OF LARGE NUMBERS

DISTANT/CLOSE, MACRO/MICRO, SURFACE/DEPTH

CULTURAL ANALYTICS, AGGREGATION, AND DATA-MINING

VISUALIZATION AND DATA DESIGN

LOCATIVE INVESTIGATION AND THICK MAPPING

THE ANIMATED ARCHIVE

DISTRIBUTED KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND PERFORMATIVE ACCESS

HUMANITIES GAMING

CODE, SOFTWARE, AND PLATFORM STUDIES

DATABASE DOCUMENTARIES

REPURPOSABLE CONTENT AND REMIX CULTURE

PERVASIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

UBIQUITOUS SCHOLARSHIP

EMERGING METHODS AND GENRES

(Burdick, Drucker, Lunenfeld,
Presner, and Schnapp 2012: 31)

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

```
graph LR; A[DIGITAL HUMANITIES] --- B[digitization of cultural artifacts  
[objects of study]]; A --- C[digitization of humanistic methods  
[methods of study]]; A --- D[digitization of scholarly genres  
[rhetoric of communication]]
```

digitization of cultural artifacts
[objects of study]

digitization of humanistic methods
[methods of study]

digitization of scholarly genres
[rhetoric of communication]

References

Burdick, Anne, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, Todd Presner, and Jeffrey Schnapp. 2012.

Digital_Humanities. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/digitalhumanities>

Ciula, Arianna, Øyvind Eide, Cristina Marras & Patrick Sahle, eds. 2018. *Models and Modelling between Digital and Humanities: A Multidisciplinary Perspective*. Historical Social Research Supplement 31.

DOI: 10.12759/hsr.suppl.31.2018.7-29.

Dobson, James E. 2019. *Critical Digital Humanities: The Search for a Methodology*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

Eve, Martin Paul 2022. *The Digital Humanities and Literary Studies*. Oxford University Press.

Manovich, Lev. 2011. "What is visualisation?", *Visual Studies*, 26:1, 36-49.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2011.548488>

References

McCarty, Willard. 2003. "Humanities Computing." *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. New York: Marcel Dekker Inc. 1224-1235.

<https://www.mccarty.org.uk/essays/McCarty,%20Humanities%20computing.pdf>

McCarty, Willard. 2014. "Special Effects; or, The Tooling Is Here. Where Are the Results?" Dershowitz, Nachum, Nissan, Ephraim, eds. *Language, Culture, Computation: Computing of the Humanities, Law, and Narratives*. Lecture Notes in Computer Science Volume 8002: 103-117.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-45324-3_7

Sula, Chris Alen, S. E. Hackney, and Phillip Cunningham. 2017. "A Survey of Digital Humanities Programs." *The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*, 11. 24 March 2017.

<https://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/a-survey-of-digital-humanities-programs/>