

A Vertical Seminar in Digital Humanities

Seminar sessions: Mondays from 3:00 to 5:30, Umrath 201

Workshop sessions: Fridays from 1:00 to 2:30, Olin Library, The Arc

Participants

Anupam Basu
Kurt Beals
Douglas Knox
Heidi Kolk
John Ladd
Joe Loewenstein
Lisa Lillie
Melanie Micir
Lauren Robertson
Brooke Shafar
Lynne Tatlock
Amy Thompson
Rafia Zafar

Schedule of Topics

Jan 13. Introduction
27. Remediation I: Media and Intellectual Novelty
Feb 3. Remediation II: Editing and Markup
10. Stylometrics, Cliometrics, and the Prehistory of DH
17. Aggregated Histories of Reading
24. Voodoo I: Attribution
March 3. Voodoo II: Docuscope and Genre
17. Data and Corpora
24. Corpus Linguistics and Search
31. Voodoo III: Topic Modeling
April 7. Visualization I: Prosopography
14. Visualization II: GIS
21. Remix, Blog, Simulation, App: Citizen Scholarship
28. DH, Critique, and Institutional Politics

Syllabus

N.B. This syllabus is a work in progress. Please read it through as soon as possible and if any aspect of it seems to need adjusting, let me know. Sooner is better than later, but later is good, too. Large adjustments will be harder to make than swapping a reading.

I've listed several categories of activity in this syllabus. Normally, we'll prepare for the seminar by doing some *reading* and by *exploring* some websites or spending time getting a feel for some software. Please plan on devoting lots of time to the "Explore" part of each assignment. (It's not enough simply to go to a site or to download a piece of software. . . .) Just as preparation will often be bimodal, so will the seminar be: we'll spend most of our time talking about the reading and discussing the tools and websites, but we'll frequently spend time trying things out during the seminar session.

I've also asked the staff of the HDW to run workshops on Fridays, coordinated with the seminar work. Most of these workshops are optional, although they're very strongly recommended. But I'd ask that, at the very beginning of semester (or even before), you make an appointment to meet with Doug Knox to discuss the skills or tools you'd like to master at the outset. (I'd like to sit in on these meetings if I can, but my presence isn't crucial.) In many cases, your seminar proposals imply or explicitly indicate what those skills or tools are: one of you wants to know how to make a web site and mount a blog, others have admitted to awkwardness in using Excel (and you'll need to get better at it so that the exercises on literary attribution go smoothly), someone else wants a better feel for sentiment analysis, someone else wants to get comfortable with Zotero, I'm interested in mastering elementary statistics, and so forth. We're all in different places, of course, but we want to figure out your obvious technical needs quite early on, since we'll be arranging for workshops and tutorials to get you up and running. Again, we're not trying to get everyone to the same place, but we strongly believe that learning new technical skills is a crucial part of critical engagement with DH, so please be aggressive *at the beginning of term* about identifying one or two skills or tools that you want to master. (Doug and Anupam get a pass on this since they already know everything about everything.)

The Mellon Foundation and the university expect us each to "finish something consequential" as part of our seminar work – write a dissertation chapter, finish an article, build a website, compile a database, make a big grant application. It's one of my duties to kibbitz as you design that project, to help you secure the technical support you need, to attend to your progress, and to work out ways to integrate reports, the reading and discussion of drafts, or project demonstrations into the flow of the seminar. I've made a guess at where your work will fit and, in one or two instances, I've guessed at how. I'll ask the grad students to submit a new chapter, a draft article, or a term paper or comparable digital project on May 1; we may wish to arrange an informal symposium for that work.

Most of the assigned reading is available on line or will be placed on Blackboard. (For the purpose of discussion, it's best if we work from fixed-paginated text, so when the on-line source is unpaginated, I'll make it available as a PDF on Blackboard.) You'll need to purchase Jockers' *Macroanalysis* and Ramsay's *Reading Machines*. I would also encourage you to purchase Moretti's *Graphs, Maps, and Trees*, Murray's, *Hamlet on the Holodeck*, and Cohen and Rosenzweig's *Digital History*, although I'll post PDFs of the selections from these texts. Grad students should submit their receipts, for the cost of

their books will be reimbursed.

Jan. 13 **Introduction**

Explore: [Bamboo Dirt](#)

Readings:

1. Jockers, *Macroanalysis* (chapters 1 and 2 carefully; skim the remainder)
2. Hoover, [“Textual Analysis,”](#) in *Literary Studies in the Digital Age*.
3. Matt Kirschenbaum. [“What is Digital Humanities and What’s It Doing In English Departments?”](#) *ADE Bulletin* 150 (2010).
4. Unsworth, [“What is Humanities Computing and What is Not,”](#) a talk delivered at MITH in 2000.
5. Jockers, [“Advice for DH Newbies”](#)

Also recommended:

6. Jonathan Shaw. [“The Humanities, Digitized.”](#) *Harvard Magazine*
7. Cathy Davidson. [“Humanities 2.0.”](#) *Debates in Digital Humanities*.
8. [One Culture: Computationally Intensive Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, a Report on the Experiences of First Respondents to the Digging Into Data Challenge](#)
9. Unsworth, et al. [“How Not to Read a Million Books”](#)
10. Lisa Spiro, [Getting Started in Digital Humanities](#), *Journal of Digital Humanities*, Vol. 1, No. 1 Winter 2011
11. Evgeny Morozov, *To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism*

In seminar: [Google N-grams](#) v. [Davies’ Google N-Grams](#)

Separately scheduled: Tech consultations and workshops

Jan. 27 **Remediation I: Media and intellectual novelty**

Beals

Explore: [NINES](#) and [TAPoR](#)

Readings:

1. Robert C. Binkley, “New Tools, New Recruits, for the Republic of Letters,” [full version](#), but see also the more influential [shorter version](#).
2. Hayles, N. Katherine. *How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis*. (U of Chicago Press, 2012), 19-80
3. Anne Knowles, [Mastering Iron: The Struggle to Modernize an American Industry, 1800-1868](#), appendix, “A Note on Historical GIS,” pp. 249-252
4. Jerome McGann, *Radiant Textuality*, Pt. II
5. John Guillory, “[Genesis of the Media Concept](#),” *Critical Inquiry* (2010)

Also recommended

6. Lev Manovich. *The Language of New Media*. Introduction, Part I (What is New Media?)
7. Drucker, “[Humanities Approaches to Interface Theory](#),” *Culture Machine* 12 (2011).
8. Bolter & Grusin, *Remediation: Understanding New Media* (MIT, 2000), 20-86
9. Gitelman, Lisa, *Always Already New* (MIT, 2008)
10. Dan Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, [Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving and Presenting the Past on the Web](#).

Workshops: “Everything you ever wanted to know about [Wordpress, Excel, Blackboard, Zotero, whatever seminar participants have during the tech consultations], Part I”

Feb. 3

Remediation II: Editing and Markup

Robertson, Knox

Explore: [Van Gogh Letters](#), [Early Modern Letters Online](#) (and please glance at the earlier version), [The Spenser Archive](#) (Logon: folger; folger), and [Textual Encoding Initiative: Electronic Textual Editing](#). (Also of interest: [Bess of Hardwick's Letters](#))

Readings:

1. [Women Writers Project Guide to Scholarly Text Encoding: Introduction.](#)
2. Allen Renear. [“Text Encoding.”](#) *A Companion to Digital Humanities.*
3. Martin Mueller. [“A Very Gentle Introduction to the TEI Markup Language.”](#)
4. Renear, Mylonas, and Durand, ["Refining our Notion of What Text Really Is: The Problem of Overlapping Hierarchies"](#)
5. James Cummings, [“The Text Encoding Initiative and the Study of Literature,”](#) in *A Companion to Digital Literary Studies*

Also recommended:

6. McGann and Buzzetti, ["Electronic Textual Editing: Critical Editing in a Digital Horizon"](#)
7. Sperberg-McQueen, [“Text Encoding and Enrichment,”](#) in *The Humanities Computing Yearbook 1989–90*, ed. Ian Lancashire (Oxford UP, 1991)

In seminar: Encoding exercise with the Merrill papers.

Workshop: either Juxta or [“Everything you ever . . . ”](#) Part II

Feb. 10 **Stylometrics, Cliometrics, and the Early History of DH** *Knox, Basu*

Explore: [TAPoR](#) (again; it’s worth going back to look at more tools)

Readings:

1. Burrows, *Computation into Criticism* (selection)
2. Will G. Thomas, [“Computing and the Historical Imagination,”](#) *Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities*
3. Susan Hockey, [“The History of Humanities Computing,”](#) *Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities*
4. Clement, [“Text Analysis, Data Mining, and Visualizations in Literary Scholarship,”](#) in *Literary Studies in the Digital Age*
5. St. Clair, *The Reading Nation* (selection; to set up next week)

Also recommended

6. Sinclair & Rockwell, “Teaching Computer-Assisted Text Analysis: Approaches to Learning New Methodologies,” in *Digital Humanities Pedagogy*.
7. William Sewell, Chapter 2 of *Logics of History*
8. “Interchange: The Promise of Digital History,” *Journal of American History*.

Workshop: Voyant and other selected tools from TAPoR

Feb. 17 **Aggregated Histories of Reading** *Tatlock*

Explore: What Middletown Read and HDW tools for further investigating coordination between [reading in Muncie](#), including visualizations linking [readership and title](#) and [readership and author](#)

Readings:

1. Jockers and Flanders, “A Matter of Scale”
2. Moretti, “Graphs” and “Maps,” from *Graphs, Maps, and Trees*
3. Stephen Ramsay, *Reading Machines*

In seminar: Presentation on transnational *Jane Eyre*; exercise in using regular expressions to manipulate the Muncie data

Workshop: working with Excel or Python

Feb. 24 **Voodoo I: Attribution** *Thompson, Basu*

1. Burrows, “Textual Analysis,” *A Companion to Digital Humanities*
2. Hugh Craig. “Stylistic Analysis and Authorship Studies,” *A Companion to Digital Humanities*.
3. Juola, “Authorship Attribution,” *Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval* 1.3 (2006): 233-334.
4. Jeff Collins, et al., “Detecting Collaborations in Text: Comparing the Authors’ Rhetorical Language Choices in *The Federalist Papers*,” *Computers and*

the Humanities, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Feb., 2004), pp. 15-36

5. Allison, et. al “[Style at the Scale of the Sentence](#),” Stanford Literary Lab, Pamphlet V

In seminar: Attribution exercise

Workshop: Building and cleaning up a corpus, or more Python

March 3 **Voodoo II: Docuscope and Genre**

Basu

Explore: Docuscope

1. Jonathan Hope, “The Language of Genre,” Chapter 6 of *Shakespeare and Language*
2. Allison et al., “[Quantitative Formalism: An Experiment](#),” Stanford Literary Lab, Pamphlet I
3. Suguru Ishizaki and David Kaufer, “Computer-aided Rhetorical Analysis,” in *Applied Natural Language Processing: Identification, Investigation, and Resolution*, Philip McCarthy and Chutima Boonthum, eds.
4. “[How to Read a Dendrogram](#)”

Also recommended:

5. David Kaufer And Robert Hariman, “Discriminating political styles as genres: A corpus study exploring Hariman’s theory of political style,” *Text & Talk - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Language, Discourse Communication Studies*. Volume 28, Issue 4, Pages 475–500

6. Jonathan Hope and Michael Witmore, “[The Hundredth Psalm to the Tune of *Green Sleeves*: Digital Approaches to Shakespeare’s Language of Genre](#),” *Shakespeare Quarterly*

In seminar: Working with [Ubiq+Ity](#)

Workshop: The vocabulary of Statistics

March 17 **Data and Corpora**

Shafar

Explore: [Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives at Ohio State](#)

Readings:

1. Deegan & Tanner, "[Conversion of Primary Sources](#)," in *A Companion to Digital Humanities*
2. H. Lewis Ulman, "[Reading the DALN Database: Narrative, Metadata, and Interpretation](#)"
3. Nancy Ide, "[Preparation and Analysis of Linguistic Corpora](#)," *A Companion to Digital Humanities*

In seminar: What's wrong with your corpus, the case of EEBO

Workshop: More corpus cleanup work (or more Python or Stats)

March 24 **Corpus Linguistics and Search:** *Basu, Loewenstein*
the problem of lemmatization

Explore: [Wordhoard](#), [COHA](#) (The Corpus of Historical American English) and [Tesserae](#). (Also recommended: [AntConc](#) ([there are tutorial resources in [text](#) and [video](#) form] and Getty image markup and search)

1. Mark Davies, "A corpus-based study of lexical developments in Early and Late Modern English" *The Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics* (if available)
2. Martin Mueller, "[Towards a digital carrel: A report about corpus query tools](#)"
3. Gregory Crane, "[Rediscovering Philology](#)"

Also recommended:

4. Davies, "Expanding Horizons in Historical Linguistics with the 400-million Word Corpus of Historical American English," *Corpora*, 7:2 (2012), 121-57.

In seminar: more work with Wordhoard

Workshop: more search techniques

March 31 **Voodoo III: Topic Modeling**
visit from Matt Erlin

1. Scott Weingart. "[Topic Modeling for Humanists: A Guided Tour](#)," *The*

Scottbot Irregular.

2. David Blei. [“Introduction to Probabilistic Topic Models”](#)
3. Martyn Jessop. “Digital Visualization as a Scholarly Activity.” *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 23.3 (2008): 281-293.
4. Ryan Heuser and Long Le-Khac, [“A Quantitative Literary History of 2,958 Nineteenth-Century British Novels: the Semantic Cohort Method,”](#) Stanford Literary Lab, Pamphlet IV

In seminar: Mallet

Workshop: Working with WMatrix and Mallet

April 7

Visualization I: Prosopography

Zafar

visit from Peter Kastor

Explore: [Early Modern Letters Online](#) (again), [Six Degrees of Francis Bacon](#), [Kindred Britain](#). (Also recommended: the carcass of [Making Publics](#), worth examining both for its intellectual achievements and for its institutional history)

1. Lauren Klein, “The Image of Absence: Archival Silence, Data Visualization, and James Hemings,” *American Literature*, 85.4 (forthcoming)
2. Johanna Drucker, ["Humanities Approaches to Graphical Display,"](#) *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 5:1 (2011)
3. Tim Hitchcock, ["Big Data for Dead People: Digital Readings and the Conundrums of Positivism"](#)
4. Lawrence Stone, [“Prosopography,”](#) *Daedalus*, 100:1 (1971), 46-79
5. Lev Manovich. [“Trending: The Promises and Challenges of Big Social Data”](#)

Also recommended:

6. Johanna Drucker, *SpecLab: Digital Aesthetics and Projects in Speculative Computing*

7. Maureen Stone, [“Information Visualization: Challenge for the Humanities,”](#) in *Working Together or Apart: Promoting the Next Generation of Digital Scholarship* (CLIR Report, March 2009)

8. Sinclair, Ruecker, and Radzikowska, “[Information Visualization for Humanities Scholars](#),” in *Literary Studies in the Digital Age*

In seminar: best practices in visualization

Workshop: demo of JMP and D3

April 14 **Visualization II: GIS**

Lillie; Ladd

Explore: [The Map of Early Modern London \(MoEML\)](#), [Hypermedia Berlin](#), [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) (much more than a collection of maps). (Also recommended: [Mapping Gothic France](#))

Readings:

1. Sells, “[Mapping Novels with Google Earth](#),” *Chronicle of Higher Education* (April 6, 2011)
2. Richard White, “[What is Spatial History](#).” Stanford Spatial Lab (2010)
3. Jo Guldi, “[The History of Walking and the Digital Turn](#),” *Journal of Modern History* (2012)
4. Anne Knowles et al., “[A Cutting Edge Second Look at the Battle of Gettysburg](#),” (be sure to click a red marker and try the “Show Viewshed” or “Show Panorama” links)
5. Anne Knowles, *Mastering Iron: The Struggle to Modernize an American Industry, 1800-1868* (2013), chapter 1, “[Mapping the Iron Industry](#),” pp. 11-62, but especially pp. 30ff

Also recommended:

6. Kretzschmar, “[GIS for Language and Literary Study](#),” in *Literary Studies in the Digital Age*

7. Edward Tufte, *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*.

Workshop: more work with visualization software (D3 and JMP)

Apr. 21

Remix, Blog, Simulation, App: Citizen Scholarship

Kolk

visit from Ellen Mackay

Explore: *ShaLT* (Shakespeare's London Theatres), *The Valley of the Shadow*, *Old Weather*, *The September 11 Digital Archive*. (Also recommended: Omeka, which was born of the September 11 Digital Archive)

Readings:

1. Sharon Daniel & Erik Loyer. "Public Secrets." *Vectors* 2.2 (Winter 2007).
2. Janet Murray, Parts I and II of *Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace*, (Free Press, 1997)
3. Kuhn & Callahan, "Nomadic Archives: Remix and the Drift to Praxis," in *Digital Humanities Pedagogy*.
4. N Katherine Hayles, "Prologue: Computing Kin," *My Mother Was a Computer*, 1-12
5. *The Curse of Cow Clicker*: on Ian Bogost's Cow Clicker, game as engaged critique

Also recommended:

6. Some background on Bogost
7. [The London Charter for the Computer-Based Visualisation of Cultural Heritage](#)
8. Katherine Rowe, "Shakespeare and Media History," *The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare* (the best stuff is in the first few pages)
9. Dan Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving and Presenting the Past on the Web*

Workshop: working with Scalar

Apr. 28

DH, Critique, and Institutional Politics

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Explore: *Critical Commons*, *Eigenfactor.org*

Readings:

1. Langdon Winner. "Do Artifacts Have Politics?" *Daedalus* 19.1 (Winter 1980), 121-136.

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2. Lawrence Lessig. “Code is Law,” *Code: Version 2.0*. 1-8.
 3. John Willinsky, “Toward the Design of an Open Monograph Press,” *Journal of Electronic Publishing*, 12:1 (2009).
 4. Bethany Nowviskie, “Resistance in the Materials”: presentation at the Presidential Forum on “Avenues of Access” at the 2013 MLA Convention
 - 5 Lisa Nakamura,”Introduction to *Digitizing Race: Visual Cultures of the Internet*
 - 6 Alan Liu, “Digital Humanities and Academic Change,” *English Language Notes* 47 (2009): 17-35

Also recommended:

7. Robert Darnton, “Google and the Future of Books,” *New York Review of Books* (2009)
8. Matt Kirschenbaum, *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination* (MIT, 2008)

Eventually: Party