Digital History Comprehensive Exams
Reading List

Jason Heppler, Stanford University
jason@jasonheppler.org

Overview


Dan Cohen, “History and the Second Decade of the Web”

Jason Heppler, “What is Digital Humanities?”


Vannevar Bush, “As We May Think” The Atlantic (1945).


William Fogel and Stanley Engerman, Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Slavery (Norton, 1972), plus the reviews by Haskell and Gutmann.


Critical Readings

Moya Z. Bailey, “All the Digital Humanists are White, All the Nerds are Men, but Some of us are Brave,” Journal of Digital Humanities 1 (2011).

James Smithies, “Digital Humanities, Postfoundationalism, Postindustrial Culture,” Digital Humanities Quarterly


Media

Marshall McLuhan, The Medium is the Massage (Ginko, 2005).


Lisa Gitelman, Always Already New: Media History and the Data of Culture (MIT, 2006).


Henry Jenkins, Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide (NYU, 2008).
Data

Roy Rosenzweig, “Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past in a Digital Era,” Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media.
Daniel Rosenberg, “Data Before the Fact”
Hadley Wickham, “Tidy Data,” Journal of Statistical Software
Tracy Kidder, The Soul of a New Machine (Back Bay Books, 2000).

Digital Archives and Digitization

Robert Danton, A Case for Books: Past, Present, and Future (PublicAffairs, 2010.)
Public History


Digital Scholarship


Bethany Nowviskie, “Evaluating Collaborative Digital Scholarship (or, Where Credit is Due),” *Journal of Digital Humanities* 1 (2012).


Theory


Jaron Lanier, *You Are Not a Gadget* (Knopf, 2010).


Jonathan Zittrain, *The Future of the Internet and How to Stop It* (Yale, 2008.)


**Texts / Text Analysis**


Franco Moretti, Graphs, Maps, and Trees (Verso, 2005).


Benjamin Schmidt, “When you have a MALLET, everything looks like a nail”, Sapping Attention, November 2, 2012.


Franco Moretti, Distant Reading (Verso, 2013).

Jerome McGann, Radiant Textuality: Literature after the World Wide Web (Palgrave, 2002).


Andrew Piper, Book Was There: Reading in Electronic Times (Chicago, 2012).
Visualization


David Staley, “Historical Visualizations” Historical Visualizations 3 (November 2000).


David Staley, Computers, Visualization, and History: How New Technology Will Transform Our Understanding of the Past (Sharpe, 2002).

Networks


Spatial History


Anne Knowles, Past Time Past Place: GIS for History (ESRI, 2002).
Jo Guldi, “What is the Spatial Turn?” and “The Spatial Turn in History”.

Projects

Tools

Voyant
Zotero
Paper Machines
MALLET
Gephi
Palladio
AntConc

Scholarship

Quantifying Kissinger, Micki Kauffman
9/11 Archive, George Mason University
Valley of the Shadow, University of Virginia
Infinite Ulysses, Amanda Visconti
Photogrammar, Yale University
Old Bailey Online, HRI
Bentham Papers, UCL
William F. Cody Archive, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities
Willa Cather Archive, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities
Walt Whitman Archive, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities
Our Marathon, Northeastern
Questions

- What is digital history? Should we be worried about defining digital history?
- Are there differences between digital humanities and digital history?
- Is history a “book discipline”? Should it remain one?
- What does digital history offer that you cannot do otherwise?
- What is the history of digital history?
- Where is the field of digital history headed? Where should it be headed?
- How does the history of digital history connect to the history of the discipline?
- What does digital history mean for your dissertation and other research?
- Let’s say you’re hired to teach at a small liberal arts college. How would you define digital history for them? What kind of challenges would you face vs. a larger institution, and how would you overcome them?