

Situation the Digital Humanities: analyzing a DH project

Presentations: Sept. 22nd

Analysis essays due: Sept. 29th

Purpose

While we've been looking at the breadth of what Digital Humanities means and what DH projects are out there, it is time to look more closely. For the first major assignment, you will be analyzing a DH project, looking critically at its purpose, audience, and significance, while also paying attention to **materials, processing, presentation, and participation**—considering its design, medium, interface, visuals, interactivity, etc. You will give a **presentation**, sharing your discoveries about your project, introducing it and its purpose, where it fits in under the broad DH umbrella (is it curation, data analysis, archive, etc.), and where you are going with your analysis. This will allow you to talk about the project, voice your thoughts and ideas, before committing them all to paper. The **analysis** will provide you the opportunity to practice even deeper analysis of a work of Digital Humanities, the research, practice, methods, and technology involved behind the scenes, before you move on to work with these types of tools and DH projects.

Method

We will begin by looking at several projects in class and finding terms (from the chapters and also within our class) of talking about them, what they do, and how they work. You will then choose a DH project that interests you from a course list to analyze within the context of Digital Humanities. The assignment has 3 parts:

Sign/ups and proposals are due by Sept. 10th, via the sign-up sheet and email and will include the work you would like to review/analyze, why you chose it, and what you might focus on in your essay (& presentation).

For the **presentation, Sept. 22nd**, you will show your piece to the class, summarize, provide context, and share some of your analysis before finalizing your essay. You will also post your files and notes (and any questions you have) to the assignment on Canvas for instructor feedback.

Based on feedback from your instructor and your peers, you will then finish writing your **analysis essay, due Sept. 29th**. **As in any critical analysis, your thesis is your interpretation of the text and you will want to provide context, summary, evidence, and significance.** In addition, attention must be paid to DH elements—materials, processing, and presentation, as well as multimodal affordances—the medium, design, audio, interactivity, etc. You may want to use the textbook and/or other theoretical or critical texts on DH as context to situate the project and for terms for analysis. You will need **MLA format** in-text citations and a works cited page for these.

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. Consider someone unfamiliar with Digital Humanities and who has not seen the project you are evaluating. Digital Humanities Quarterly (DHQ)?

Length & Format

Presentation: You will present your preliminary analysis and get responses/feedback on your project breakdown. **Approximately 5 minutes. PowerPoint, Google Slide, Prezi, or video format** (also MLA format).

Essay: Minimum 4+ pages (around 1200-1300 words). Double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, etc. You will need citations for the textbook or other sources (MLA format) and a **works cited page**.

This assignment (including the proposal) is worth **20%** of your final grade.