

What are Digital Humanities?

an introduction survey by Amelia Ishmael

Also known as Digital Scholarship, Digital Humanities is not necessarily a new field or field of librarianship, but rather a recognition of the ways that digital technologies have extend humanities research and presentation—since the 1960s—through innovations in digital-processing methods and digital representations.

Projects include exhibitions, publications, data visualization, mapping, text analysis, 3D imaging, multimedia presentations, and timelines.

Although most researchers are already using these tools and methods independently, libraries have a unique opportunity to rise with the technology and strengthen services by recognizing and facilitating this sort of research and the projects that they produce.

Digital Humanity librarians are also involved frequently in Data Research, Digital Asset Management, Digital Preservation, and Digital Archiving.

This presentation of 4 Tiers of Digital Humanity methods serves to help librarians and researchers identify how they may already be using Digital Humanities methods, and how they may progress.

Tier 1: Enterprise Academic and Administrative Tools – BEGINNER LEVEL

including content creation and primary-source transformation

local library catalogues
websites: Wordpress, blogs, social-media website (FaceBook, Intragram, Twitter, etc., YouTube, BandCamp)
geospatial: GoogleMaps, GoogleAnalytics, Open Street Map
image and text processing: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite
publishing: PDF, GoogleDocs, GitHub Pages, ViewShare
textual analysis: OCR searching
search and retrieval: tagging, reviews, annotations, transcription
basic terminal commands
data: Excel (create, view, search, visualize/charts)
AudioVideo: Audacity, iMovie, automated video annotation, Zoom, Skype
digital scanning

Tier 2: Standard Research Services – INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

including basic software-as-service products, contributing data to CMS/DAMs, and basic programming and querying

Cloud-based library catalogues (example: Alma)
digital collections at institutional libraries and museums:Project Gutenberg, HathiTrust, databases, InernetArchive
publishing: Wikipedia contributions, e-Book, Dreamweaver, basic HTML
digital exhibitions: Omeka,
interactive data visualizations/network analysis: Voyant, Tableau, Gelphi, SketchUp, Cytoscape
textual analysis: TEI
geospatial: GeoArc, ArcMap, ArcGIS,
publishing Scalar (interactive website, mutimedia): <https://scalar.me/anvc/scalar/features/>
programing analysis: XML, XSLT, SQL, JSON, Jupyter Notebooks
search and retrieval: metadata standardization. such as DC, MARC21, EAD, RDA
data: structured datasets, formulas, Airtable, OpenRefine, FileMaker
intermediate terminal commands for automated workflows, digital forensics, analysis

Tier 3: Enhanced Research Services – ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

creating and utilizing custom-built processing platforms

custom-made or advance-adaptations for websites: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP
search and retrieval:
bulk data: government websites (such as Illinois State Geological Survey, ISGS), Web of Science
programming for data analysis, cleaning, standardization, and mining: R, Python
digital archiving and preservation
custom metadata schema creation: MODS, METS, PBCore
database creation
advanced terminal commands

Tier 4: Advanced Research and Development – EXPERT LEVEL

collaborations with various specialists, grant-funded, large/expansive multimedia projects

digital library/archive collections (Blake Archive - <http://www.blakearchive.org/>)
interactive publications
linked data websites (Linked Jazz - <https://linkedjazz.org/network/>)
online scholarly-catalogue publication (Mapping Senufo - <http://www.mappingsenufo.org/>)
funding & review examples:
Getty Foundation Awardees
(https://www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/dah/dah_grants_awarded.html#IMAGE%20ANALYSIS%20PROJECTS)
ARLIS digital project reviews (<https://www.arlisna.org/publications/multimedia-technology-reviews>)