

# 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](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>)