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Digital Humanities

Research Projects and Grants

2016

Digital Humanities Faculty Fellows Showcase

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Cherubim Quizon - Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work: *Language Maps, Language Clouds*

This project seeks to deepen students' awareness of human language through data visualization as well as guided use of existing language databases. The aim is to make the abstract anthropological concept of culture a concrete and immersive experience. This will be achieved by linking data that students generate from their own experiences with existing language databases (such as those maintained by the Smithsonian Language Institute and Ethnologue.org, among others), and to interactive digital humanities tools such as ViewShare. The results will be shared in a Wordpress blog that can be augmented by different students each semester. The project includes a training and collaboration component for undergraduate students in building and maintaining this language resource. Ultimately, this multi-semester project will provide a dynamic picture of Seton Hall students' collective language cloud, including their historical/geographical origins as well as the emergence of local varieties, and help contribute to global language initiatives both in terms of data generation as well as innovations in digitally enhanced analysis.

Terence Teo - Department of Political Science and Public Affairs: *Defunct Economists: An Examination of Ideas*

This pilot project introduces students to the classic works of political economy, with an emphasis on close reading and analysis, and the role that historical and cultural context plays in the development of ideas. To do so, students will learn text mining and analysis using the free statistical computing environment, R. Readings will draw from Project Gutenberg (https://www.gutenberg.org/), a repository of books in the public domain. Finally, to complement text mining, students will learn to use Git as a collaborative tool, R Markdown as an authoring tool to create web pages, documents and presentations, and Seton Hall's Amazon Cloud to host their websites.

Follow the <u>Digital Humanities Blog</u> (<u>http://blogs.shu.edu/digitalhumanities/</u>) and the <u>Technology</u> <u>Blog (http://blogs.shu.edu/technology/</u>) for the latest information on all things Digital Humanities and Teaching, Learning and Technology.

Digital Humanities Faculty Fellows Showcase

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 3 – 4:30 p.m. Walsh Library – ITV Classroom

Digital Humanities Faculty Fellows Projects Showcase is hosted by the Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable Faculty Development & Best Practices Committee. The Provosts Office, in collaboration with the Digital Humanities (DH) committee, awarded six grants to faculty focused on DH work. Digital Humanities represent the intersection of research and teaching with technology in the disciplines recognized as part of the humanities or liberal arts. The grants support the integration of Digital Humanities in teaching and learning at Seton Hall University.

2016 Digital Humanities Faculty Fellows Grant Recipients and Projects

Xue-Ming Bao - University Libraries: Data Visualization of Library Databases

This project will explore the best ways of visualizing 350 library databases to improve library instruction. "What does a library database include?" is one of the important questions to answer in a library instruction class. It is a persistent challenge to introduce library databases to students in an engaging, interesting, and meaningful way. Most library databases contain bibliographic information such as the names of authors, book and article titles, journal names, year of publication, reference citations, keywords, abstracts, full-text and so on. Any of these fields can be visualized to provide a better understanding of database content.

Nathan Kahl - Department of Mathematics and Computer Science: *Building a Corpus of American Song Lyrics*

This project will construct a large, searchable database of American popular song lyrics. Specifically, this database will contain the lyrics of the Billboard Top 100 songs of the year, for each of the years 1960 to present, (i.e., the lyrics to 5,600 songs, almost 300 hours worth of music). This will represent a lyrical corpus larger than any other by an order of magnitude. A stripped-down version of the database will be "Ngrammed" in line with Google's Ngram Viewer for books (https://books.google.com/ngrams). This will create a web-based tool for anyone to visualize and measure lyrical word use over time. It will also avoid copyright issues that would arise from publishing the full lyrics online. The full database will also be available for academic use to SHU faculty and students for study and analysis. Topics that have been investigated previously using small sets of lyrics include—sentiment analysis, use of narcissistic language, and contextual use of the word "love".

Shigeru Osuka - Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures: *DH Graduate Internship for Japanese Language and Culture*

This project entails working with four graduate students interested in applying current digital technology to create Japanese language teaching materials including how to utilize and integrate digital humanity projects to the community at large. The proposed project encompasses digital storytelling and Japanese onomatopoeia. The digital storytelling project is a combination of traditional Japanese compositions (essays and/or scripts) with photos/pictures/sound. All Japanese language students (approx. 60) are encouraged to submit their projects by working with the graduate students. The highest quality works will be given digital storytelling awards during the annual Japan week events (April 4-8, 2016) and will then be published on SHU tube.

Melinda D. Papaccio - Department of English: Using the Digital Humanities to Explore the Dialog between Christianity and Culture in the Core II class

Since reading and engaging in core texts is important to the University Core (as well as First Year Writing and many other disciplines) a tool will be created to support the Core II course so that students can develop a deeper connection to ancient texts like 1 Corinthians or the Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas. Such a tool will enable students to think more critically about the issues therein by providing a better sense of the historical, social, religious, and philosophical contexts of the texts and authors. The use of this tool will support the following: (1) text transforms into an outline or sequence of events, (2) charting of characters using images with clickable links that take the student to pertinent passages in the text, (3) geographical maps connected to the narrative's events, (4) a "social network" section that shows how characters are connected, (5) a "research" tab which contains analytical and critical information, (6) external links to YouTube videos and other online resources, (7) and an image gallery. Students will be actively engaged in developing the resource as part of their coursework and will be contributors of the content.