Humanities Goes Digital in Greece

An introductory workshop on Digital Humanities

30 May 2014, 9:30-17:00

Athens School of Fine Arts
"Giorgio de Chirico" Hall, 256 Peiraios st, 182 33, Athens Greece

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Workshop program

09:30 - 10:00
Coffee- Greetings

10:00 - 10:45
Digital Humanities in Greece-
Dr Helen Katsiadakis, Academy of Athens

10:45 - 11:30
Many, varied and disputed: defining Digital Humanities
Dr Julianne Nyhan, Lecturer in Digital Humanities UCL

11:30 - 12:15
Knowledge representation, digital curation and the humanities
Professor Panos Constantopoulos, AUEB, DCU

12.15 - 13:00
Discussion

13:00 - 14:00
Lunch break

14:00 - 14:45
Taking that Next Step: Methods for Automatic Extraction
of Semantic Data from Large Corpora
Matthew Munson, Researcher, Alexander von Humboldt Chair for Digital Humanities in Leipzig

14:45 - 15:15
Digital Humanities scholarship:
new perspectives for the Humanities?
Dr Julianne Nyhan

15:15 - 16:00
Discussion

16:00 - 17:00
Dialogue-driven session.
Conclusion and looking ahead: next steps-ideas-needs

δυάς

The Greek Research Infrastructure
Network for the Humanities.
Supports and promotes the
access, use, creation and long-
term preservation of research
data, both primary and
secondary, in digital form.
Broadens the scope and
opportunities for research
through the interconnection of
various distributed digital
resources.

DARIAH-GR

DYAS activities are aligned with
those of the European Digital
Research Infrastructure for the
Arts and Humanities DARIAH
(www.dariah.eu), in which
Greece participates through
DYAS.

Speakers

Dr Helen Katsiadakis, Academy of Athens

Digital Humanities in Greece

My presentation is an introduction to the introductory workshop on Digital Humanities. After a brief account of the state of affairs regarding Digital Humanities in Greece, I aim to present the humanities scholar's point of view and expectations on the subject, i.e. how he/she expects to benefit from the present and from future workshops, how his/her own research can profit from and contribute to the development of the field.

Dr Julianne Nyhan, Lecturer in Digital Humanities, University College of London

Many, varied and disputed: defining Digital Humanities

Answers to the question 'What is/are (the) Digital Humanities?' are many, varied and disputed. The numerous publications on the topic over the past forty years demonstrate that it is a topic of central and enduring concern to the field. Indeed, the first 'Reader' published for Digital Humanities (DH) explored exactly this question (see (Terras et al. 2013)).
Contested as particular definitions of DH may be it is possible to make a number of general observations about its problems, methods and contexts. Whether in universities, museums, libraries or individuals' homes the application of computing to cultural heritage is transforming how the Human record can be transmitted, shaped, understood, questioned and imagined. The discipline of DH orientates itself to exactly this. Computing is by now routine in all aspects of research and teaching, for example, in the form of email and word processing. However, DH usually uses computing technologies in an advanced or specialist way to ask old questions of the Humanities in new ways, or to ask questions that could not otherwise be asked. In this lecture I will give a general overview of the shape of the field, what is known of its history and the state of the art.

Terras, M.M., Nyhan, J. & Vanhoutte, E., 2013. Defining digital humanities: a reader. Ashgate

Professor Panos Constantopoulos, Athens University of Economics and Business, Digital Curation Unit

Knowledge representation, digital curation and the humanities

The last two decades have witnessed an ever increasing penetration of ICT in the management and study of materialculture, as well as in the humanities at large. From collections and data management, to documentation, domain modelling and discourse, to supporting the creative synthesis and re-interpretation of data, significant progress has been achieved in the development of relevant knowledge structures and software tools. As a consequence of this progress digital cultural memories and digital infrastructures are developed to support the humanities which, in turn, are increasingly adopting digital techniques. The advantages offered by technology, data storage and management, replication, transformation, access and analysis on a large scale, only partially fulfill their potentialunless reliability, long-term preservation, and the ability to re-use, re-combine and re-interpret digital content are ensured. To this end digital curation is exercised.
In this talk we discuss some aspects of knowledge representation and digital curation in the context of digital humanities.

Matthew Munson, Researcher, Alexander von Humboldt Chair for Digital Humanities in Leipzig

Taking that Next Step: Methods for Automatic Extraction of Semantic Data from Large Corpora

Large digital corpora exist in many different languages and for many different disciplines. The Digital Humanities, however, have only taken baby steps in accomplishing what is the central task for most humanists: determining meaning, whether that meaning be literary, historical, or something else. This talk will describe one method for "taking that next step" of extracting meaning, in this case word meaning, from these corpora. It will start with a description of how Zellig Harris's distributional hypothesis provides an entry point into automatic extraction of semantic information. Based on my own research into how Greek words changed meanings within the Greek biblical corpus (Septuagint and New Testament), I will present a detailed method that could be applied to any plain text corpus in any language to calculate semantic relationships among words within one corpus or among several corpora.
The talk will include the advantages and limitations of the chosen algorithms, brief information about other possible algorithms, and a call for Digital Humanists to move beyond data creation and into data analysis by learning about these algorithms and exploring their myriad possibilities on their own corpora.