

DH-in-Action Presentation

engl 325 B / spring 2013-14 / drew university / chang



What is digital humanities or DH? What does it do? What does it not do? Who is doing it? And what is it really all about? These are just a few of the questions that are being raised, answered, countered, revised, and reconfigured about the digital humanities. To help begin to answer these questions, you will explore DH in action. One of the best ways to explore and understand an object, a text, a process, or an idea is through direct experience, experimentation, sharing, and showing others. Another way to explore and understand an object or text—using what you have gained through reading and doing—is through lively discussion and questioning both the medium and your experience of it. You will sign-up for such a presentation individually or in pairs (each person must have a speaking part). You will read the readings for that week and then generate explications, connections, and questions to get class discussion started for the day. Presentations are 5 to 10 minutes, should include demonstration or media, and a handout is appreciated.

Goals and Outcomes

For the date of your presentation, you are to pick a specific example of a current, relevant, demonstrative example of digital humanities work, production, scholarship, design, collaboration, community-building, or creativity. For your presentation:

- Analytically describe and explicate your DH project or object. You may wish to very briefly provide a little history, context, use, design, mechanics, and connections to other projects.
- Articulate a claim about your DH project or object. What are the project's or object's goals? How does it demonstrate, reveal, complicate, or critique the digital humanities? How does it connect to your understandings of DH?
- Focus your presentation on connections to the ideas, concepts, and questions raised by the week's readings. Choosing one or two particular ideas from our readings might also help you organize and focus your own presentation.
- Generate critical connections and questions to help get the conversation started for the day, particularly addressing the readings.

Outstanding presentations are focused, intertextual, organized, prepared, conscious of time, and engaging. The presentation may take any format—use of media is encouraged—and should reflect your understanding of and relationship to the DH project or object. Be creative. Less successful presentations simply describe and summarize. Your presentation should demonstrate your own understanding of the DH project or object in question, how well you engage with some of the ideas of DH we are studying, and the quality of your overall claim.

Guidelines and Due Dates

- Format:** 5 to 10 minute oral presentation
light but relevant and focused research on the media object is encouraged
refer to specific passages and the texts for the week
1-page handout copied for the class is encouraged, including a bibliography of sources used
- Due:** on your sign-up date, at least once during the semester
please post your presentation materials to the class blog with a subject line that includes the presentation date and topic (e.g. "1/30 PRESENTATION: HASTAC")