Digital Humanities:
From the past to the future

Katherine L. Walter
Co-director, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH)
Professor and Chair, Digital Initiatives & Special Collections
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Definitions


• “…using technology to illuminate the human record and bringing an understanding of the human record to bear on the development and use of information technology.”—Schreibman, Siemens, Unsworth

• Digital humanists are “concerned with applications of computing to research and teaching within subjects loosely defined as the humanities”—Hockey
Selected Early Adopters

CCH, King’s College London
IATH, University of Virginia
STG, Brown University

Selected Adopters 2.0

Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH), University of Nebraska-Lincoln
MATRIX, Michigan State University
Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH)
TokenX, text analysis
Abbot, schema harvesting (developed for the MONK project)
Preserving Virtual Worlds
Mannahatta Project, http://welikia.org
(GIS)
Rome Reborn, (3D modeling) http://www.romereborn.virginia.edu
Walt Whitman Archive, (scholarly editions) http://www.whitmanarchive.org
Willa Cather Archive, http://cather.unl.edu (scholarly editions, ref works, google maps, TokenX)
USC Interactive Media Lab, game design
Professional Associations:

Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO):

- **members**: Assn of Computers & the Humanities (ACH), Assn for Literary and Linguistic Computing (ALLC), Society for Digital Humanities (SDH-SEMI)
- **peer-review journals**: DHQ, LLC

centerNet: regional affiliates in 4 regions of the world

TEI Consortium (more on this later)

NINES: peer review

Association for Documentary Editing’s *Scholarly Editing*:
Open Source Resources

Open source software (Free, non-proprietary and built by community of users)

- SourceForge, [http://sourceforge.net](http://sourceforge.net)
- Databases: MySQL with PHP
- Ruby on Rails, [http://rubyonrails.org](http://rubyonrails.org)
Metadata Standards and Best Practices

• eXtensible Markup Language (XML)
See W3C Schools at http://www.w3schools.com

Tag Libraries: TEI, EAD, etc.
See http://www.tei-c.org/index.xml
See http://www.loc.gov/ead
See http://www.loc.gov/premis
See http://www.loc.gov/mets, etc.
More to think about

Character encoding:
ISO-10646 UNICODE, UTF-8

International Organisation of Standards (ISO) [http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html),

National Institute of Standards (NISO) [http://www.niso.org](http://www.niso.org)

Document, document, document
Funding

• University seed grants
• State humanities council funding or state library funding or state foundations
• National Endowment for the Humanities, [http://www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov)
• Institute of Museum and Library Services
• National Science Foundation
• Department of Defense
• Private Foundations: See *Foundation Directory Online Professional*
New on the Cather Archive

Mapping a Writer’s World: A Geographic Chronology of Willa Cather’s Life

The Geographic Chronology is an effort to research, articulate, and visualize Cather’s extensive travel to help teachers, readers, and scholars better understand this travel and its effect on Cather’s writing.

➡️ Call for Proposals: ALA 2011 and Woodress Visiting Fellowship at UNL
➡️ A Bibliography of Translations of Willa Cather’s Work, compiled by Hannah German, has been published.
➡️ Call for Papers: 2011 International Seminar at Smith College
➡️ Several new summaries added to the Calendar of the Letters of Willa Cather (17 added on May 5, 2010)

New Texts

More Nonfiction Writings Added

Several new nonfiction writings by Cather are now on the Archive, including many pieces from the Home Monthly, Cather’s 1922 essay “The Novel Démeublé,” and her 1916 essay “Mesa Verde Wonderland Is Easy to Reach.”

➡️ Fifteen new articles added to Cather’s journalism
➡️ The Willa Cather Scholarly Editions of One of Ours and Alexander’s Bridge are now available
➡️ Cather Studies, Volume 6: History, Memory, and War and Cather Studies, Volume 7: Willa Cather as Cultural Icon are now available
Published Works
Leaves; Foreign Editions; Other Books; Periodicals

Manuscripts
Transcriptions and Images; Finding Aids; More...

Biography & Correspondence
Life; Letters; Chronology

Criticism
Reviews; Commentary; Disciples; Bibliography

Pictures & Sound
Portraits of Whitman; Audio

Resources
Search; Teaching Materials; Tools; Downloads

About the Archive
People; Policies; History; Follow us; More...

News & Updates

October 2010
Page images of the New York Aurora, a newspaper Whitman edited in early 1842, are now available.

July 2010
Whitman’s Complete Prose Works (1892) and Memoranda During the War (1876) are now available.

June 2010
Great news! The Archive has been awarded a grant from the NHPRC to continue its work on Whitman’s correspondence from the end of the Civil War through Reconstruction.

April 2010
The Civil War correspondence of Whitman is now available. In editing more than 600 letters, we have created the first two-way record of these key years in Whitman’s life.
Battlefields have long commanded popular and scholarly interest, but in recent years they have become an important focus of archaeological research. Battlefield archeology studies material reflections of past conflict with the goal of understanding of specific battles and, more generally, war and human conflict. It is a new field, having emerged over the past two decades. The goal of modern battlefield archeology is to meld oral, documentary, and material records with knowledge of local contexts and...
Vue d'ensemble:

Ce site se propose d'illustrer la manière dont Louis XIV se servait de l'image pour soulever et diffuser l'idée du pouvoir de la monarchie au dix-septième siècle. Chez le Roi-Soleil, l'expression artistique s'employait à réaliser des buts politiques. Nous examinerons comment la force et la grandeur royale se manifestaient à travers 1) la peinture, 2) la sculpture, 3) l'architecture et les décors et 4) les jardins.

Notre attention se fixera sur le château de Versailles, mais pour fournir davantage d'exemples du rapport entre l'art et le pouvoir, il sera utile d'étudier aussi le château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, résidence principale de Nicolas Fouquet, le Surintendant des Finances de Louis XIV.

En analysant les ouvrages de l'ère louisquatorzienne, nous tâcherons de mettre en relief certains thèmes, tels que 1) l'autolutisme, 2) le rapport entre le roi et les nobles, 3) le lien entre la monarchie et la mythologie classique et 4) les comparaisons et les contrastes entre le néo-classicisme et le baroque.

Cliquez ici pour des renseignements sur l'histoire politique et artistique de l'époque.
Contact information

Katherine L. Walter
Professor and Co-director
Center for Digital Research in the Humanities
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
kwalter1@unl.edu
402-472-3939
Digitization Workshop

Katherine L. Walter
Professor and Co-Director, CDRH
Digitization Concepts

• Is digitization preservation?
• Advantages—access, public engagement, alternative to print
• Disadvantages—costs, data loss, migration issues, equipment obsolescence, etc.
• Knowing when not to digitize
Copyright Basics

• U.S. Copyright Office,
  http://www.copyright.gov/ Copyright FAQ and copyright investigative services

• Orphan Records

• Your own work—copyright and licensing

• Creative Commons:
  http://creativecommons.org

• Electronic Freedom Foundation,
  http://www.eff.org (Blogger’s rights, etc.)
Project Management

• Staffing
• Training
• Providing documentation for student staff and volunteers
• Documentation (copyright permissions, policies, procedures, processes and workflow)
• Communication
Project manager resources

- Summary of project goals
- Outline of expectations
- Training manual
- Templates
- Quality Control Checking
Estimating Project Time

• It takes longer than you think
• Use benchmarks or action items to track progress (esp. for grant funded projects)
Sustainability

- Document what you do
- Use non-proprietary software or write contracts with commercial companies that will allow you to export or extract your data in non-proprietary formats
- Redundancy of data is good; ditto off-site storage of data
- Consider the life cycle of your data from creation to migration