



"Archives to Networks and Back Again"

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ABSTRACT

A talk on the other parts of digital humanities that aren't often discussed and can dramatically improve the results from our DH projects.

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Archives to Networks and Back Again

the *other* parts of DH

THATCampHSS, 12/11/2017

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Outline

1. Focus, time, and trouble in DH projects
2. Some small, finite number of morals for the *other* parts of digital humanities projects
 - 2.1 Framing your research question
 - 2.2 Processing your results
 - 2.3 Generating future work

The take-home: Don't let yourself become too tool-centric!
You can get *lots more* out of your digital projects.

DH Project Structure

1. Generating a research question
2. Obtaining your data
3. Curating/annotating your data
4. Tool availability
5. Tool usage
6. Processing your results
7. Generating further work

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2. Obtaining your data



3. Curating/annotating your data

4. Tool availability

5. Tool use

6. Processing your results

7. Generating further work





2. Obtaining your data



3. Cleaning your data

4. Transforming your data



5. Tool use

6. Processing your results

7. Generating further work





2. Obtaining your data



g your data



5. Tool use

6. Processing your re

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2. Obtaining your data



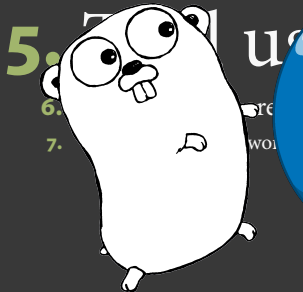
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Some Morals

Generating Research Questions

How do I know I have a project that's
suitable for digital analysis?

Think counterfactually,
work backwards, and dream big.

- Thinking counterfactually and working backwards
 - What questions do I wish I could ask?
 - What kind of data would I need to ask them?

- Thinking counterfactually and working backwards
 - What questions do I wish I could ask?
 - What kind of data would I need to ask them?
- Dreaming big
 - Don't worry that you don't have the data, or don't know how to get the data.
 - *Especially* don't worry that you don't have the tools, or don't know how to use the tools!

Processing Results

Strike a balance between
hypothesis-driven work and letting
yourself be surprised.

- Hypothesis-driven research
 - Vital: Every dataset has random patterns, and you can't let yourself be led astray.
- The role of surprise
 - But! That doesn't mean that you can't find interesting things by accident.
 - Think about ways that you can *validate* the patterns that you stumble upon.

Generating Further Work

Think in advance about how your work
could **open up new research questions.**

- Ask yourself, early on, what new avenues could be opened up if you're successful.
 - Could you apply the same analysis to different data?
 - If you got more data, could you broaden the conclusion?
 - What about applications to other areas? Is there a general trend here? (Is there... *gasp*... an integrated-HPS conclusion in philosophy of science?)

Questions?

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