

Question, Create, Reflect

A Holistic & Critical Approach to Teaching Digital Humanities

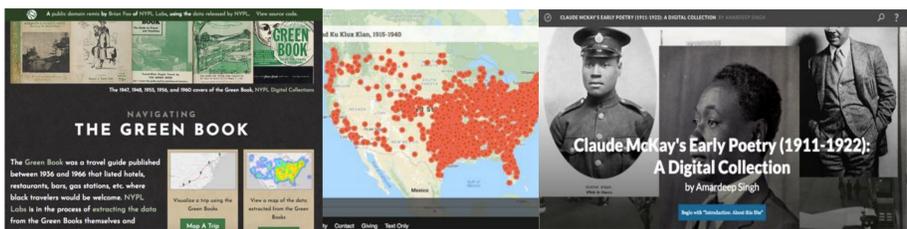
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Undergraduate Minor in DH

- 2 required, sequential courses → foundations of DH values & methods
- Flexible electives structure → students from any major connect DH to their core discipline
- Experiential component → hands-on experience (e.g. internship, work in a lab)

Introduction to DH (DH285)

- Centered around the theme of the "Harlem Renaissance and its context"
- Approach DH methods by analyzing existing projects and remotely meeting with guest speakers
- Culminates in a student-led final project on the topic of a student's choice



Learning about DH methods and issues via existing projects on the Harlem Renaissance and its context allows the students a cohesive topic through which they can evaluate the impact and role of digital projects.

Subject-based DH?

- **Integrate** DH course work with a semester-long subject (e.g. the Harlem Renaissance and early-20th Century comics)
- **Goal:** Teach students to work with DH not only as a set of tools, but also as mode of inquiry embedded in politics and ethics of representation that has been shaped by questions of race, class, and technology throughout the 20th Century.

Individual Project Components:

- Select a topic and define a research question
- Search for & collect appropriate data
- Prepare data for analysis
- Choose method(s) for analysis & find tool appropriate for that method
- Analyze the data
- Present the analysis (often a website) and share methodology

DH Seminar (DH340)

- Focus: interweaving DH skills, critical theory, and the evolving relationship between text and technology
- Theory & Praxis: students engage in semester-long group project to digitize and create an online collection of archival materials @ MSU
 - Historical criminology documents / 20th Century comics
- Employ digital tools to analyze the digitized materials and critical theory to explore the technological and ethical aspects of digitization

The final sites offer scholars and students greater access to MSU's archival materials which are often inaccessible to those outside of the mid-Michigan region.



They also contextualize these documents through critical reflections on the technologies, ethics and politics of putting these materials online.

Question - Readings

- Set conceptual background
- Mix critical and critical-DH texts, e.g.:
 - Walter Benjamin on digitization
 - Lauren Klein on data visualization

Reflect

- Reflect critically on questions of media-technology, race, gender, and class raised by digital work
- The process serves as the basis of individual projects

Create

- Explore tools with sample data
- Apply tools to project data

Group Project Components:

- Data preparation
- Digitization
- Creating an online collection
- Data visualization
- Maps and timelines
- Text analysis / markup

→ Students complete component to create the site / reflections

