

# Data in the Humanities CDH 507

Wk. 01: Introductions;  
Platforms; AI



**Grant Wythoff**  
("WHITE-off")



# today's plan

1. 🖐️ Introductions
2. 🌐 Getting our bearings: the class, platforms, requirements, tools
3. 📖 Discuss readings
4. 🛠️ Overview of some campus resources

## Introductions 🖐️

- Your name & department?
- What do you work on / what are you interested in?
- What brings you to this class / what do you hope to learn?

# Getting our bearings 🌐





## CDH projects



Bearings   
Platforms  
we'll use

HOME  
SCHEDULE ▪ GLOSSARY  
ADMINISTRIVIA ▪ FINAL PROJECT

## Data in the Humanities

CDH 507 / HUM 507  
Spring 2026  
Wed 1:20–4:10  
New South Building 619

Grant Wythoff  
office hours by appointment

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<https://gwiwthoff.github.io/CDH507/>



## Bearings

# Main questions

1. What is DH, past, present, and future?
2. How have quantitative methods historically been deployed in the humanities?
3. What is the political economy of contemporary artificial intelligence, and how can humanities scholars intervene in these technologies?
4. How can we distinguish a) genuinely new arguments and discoveries produced by those methods from b) techno-solutionism and hype?

## Bearings

# Tools introduced

- command line `>_`
- tabular data `author,title,year`
- bidirectional linking `[[Note Title]]`
- OpenRefine `facetCount(value) > 1`
- Jupyter notebooks `import pandas as pd`
- web scraping `from bs4 import BeautifulSoup`
- GIS `[-84.375, 31.952162238024975]`

### BEARINGS

Wk. 01 | Jan 28 | Introductions;  
Platforms; AI

### HISTORIES

Wk. 02 | Feb 04 | Histories of the  
Humanities

Wk. 03 | Feb 11 | Histories of DH:  
From IBM to the Big Tent

### DH TODAY

Wk. 04 | Feb 18 | DH Today: Meaning &  
Signal

Wk. 05 | Feb 25 | Is "DH" Now Just  
"H"?

### WHAT IS DATA

Wk. 06 | Mar 04 | Scraping & Curating  
Structured Data

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Wk. 07 | Mar 18 | The Sociocultural  
Context of AI

Wk. 08 | Mar 25 | AI as a Paradigm  
Shift

Wk. 09 | Apr 01 | DH and the  
Environment

Wk. 10 | Apr 08 | Knowledge Work,  
Automation, and Scholarship

Wk. 11 | Apr 15 | The Politics of Tools

### PROJECTS

Wk. 12 | Apr 22 | Project Proposal  
Presentations

## Bearings

# Requirements

1. Attend class and participate in class discussions.
2. Present on one of the readings in class, by yourself or as a pair (20 min max).
3. Attend one DH workshop on campus (alternatively, complete one tutorial from *The Programming Historian*) and report back to class on the experience.
4. Final project.

## Wk. 01 Readings

- Meredith Whittaker, "The Steep Cost of Capture," *Interactions* 28, no. 6 (November 10, 2021): 50-55.
- Matthew Kirschenbaum, "The US of AI," Public Draft, February 25, 2025.
- Lise Jaillant and Lingjia Zhao, "Introduction: When Data Turns into Archives: Making Digital Records More Accessible with AI," *AI & SOCIETY* 40, no. 8 (2025): 5787-91.
- Optional
  - A.W. Prihandita, "Negative Scholarship on the Fifth State of Being," *Clarkesworld*, Issue 218 (November 2024). Audio version.

## Campus Centers

Full list of PUL workshops at [this link](#)

[Digital Scholarship](#)

[Maps & Geospatial Information Center](#)

[MakeNet](#)

[Research Data Service](#)

[Research Computing](#)



# Campus Centers



Digital Scholarship  
Foundations Program

Apps due today

Four Spring workshops in “...version control, data wrangling, coding templates, web publishing, and more as they transform research into spatial data and build their own interactive map.”

# Survey

*(if time)*

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