

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



The Center for
Digital Humanities



CDH projects



Home About Languages

Languages for Linguistic Diversity Humanities

Workshop-I Annotation & Linguistic Data | June 2
Workshop-II Model Training | January 10-14,
Workshop-III Presentations and Publication | May

[Register for Workshop-III](#)

Center for Digital Humanities
Princeton University

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LABS

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

+

<https://gwythoff.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)*

Fonts:

iA Writer Duospace