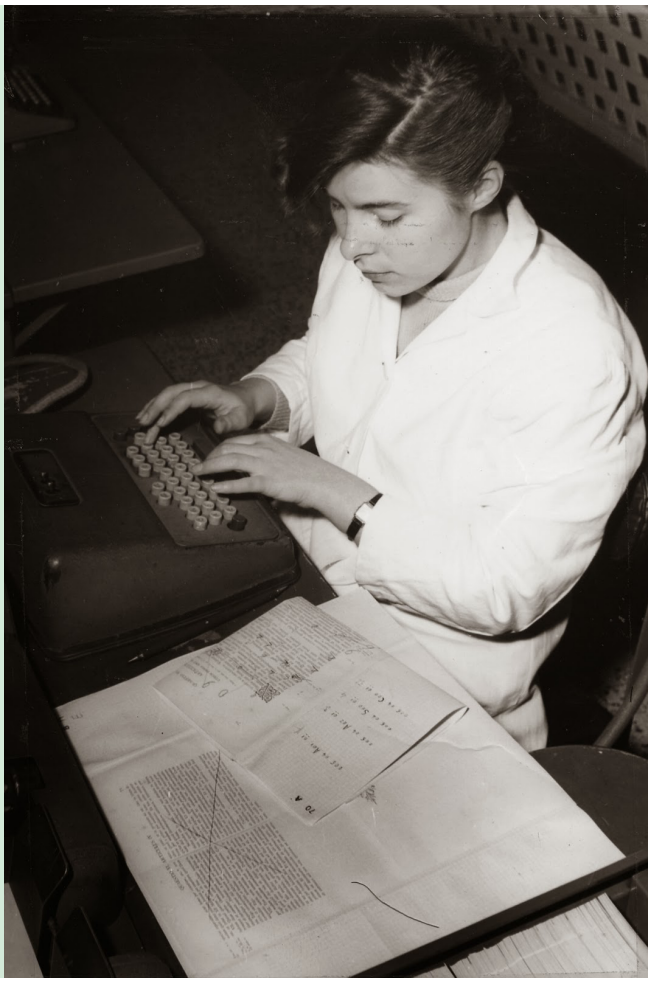
2024-02-14

Data in the Humanities

Wk. 03: Histories of DH From IBM to the Big Tent; Command Line



THIS WEEK

Workshops

- All week: Love Data Week
- Fri 2/13: 30 Minutes Towards Better Bibliographies and Footnotes (online)
- Mon 2/16: Select and Analyze Geographic Features and Data with QGIS

Lectures & Events

- Fri 2/13 Annual Douglass Day Transcribathon (w/ HTR) (CDH, PUL, PPL, et al.)

CFPs

- due 2/23 Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) 2026, June 24–26, 2026 (virtual)

OIT's Gen AI @ Princeton page

https://oit.princeton.edu/generative-ai

Readings

1940s: Arun Jacob, "Punching Holes in the International Busa Machine Narrative," in *Alternative Historiographies of the Digital Humanities*, ed. Dorothy Kim and Adeline Koh (Punctum Books, 2021), 121–44.

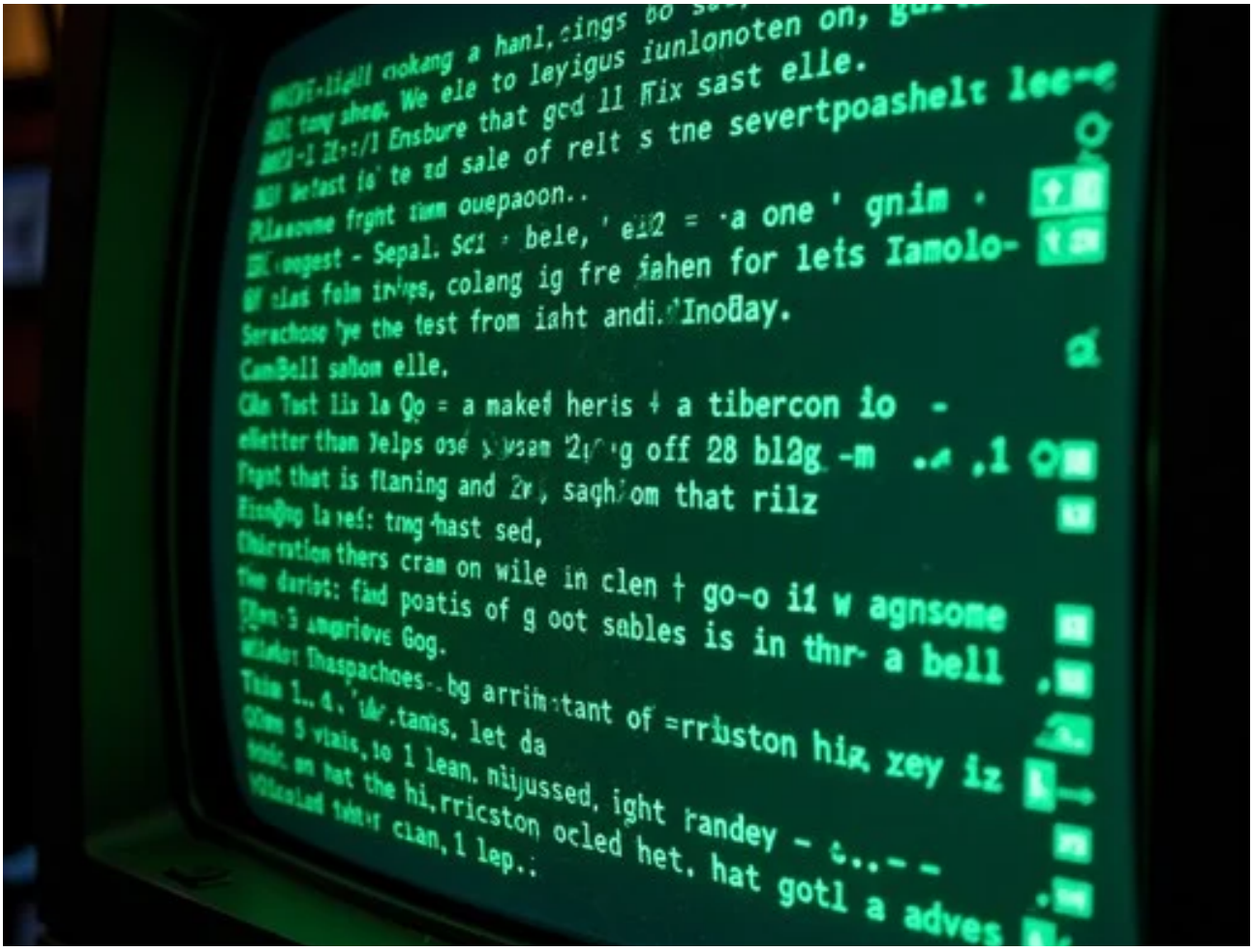
1950s: Brad Pasanek, "Extreme Reading: Josephine Miles and the Scale of the Pre-Digital Digital Humanities," *ELH* 86, no. 2 (2019): 355–85.

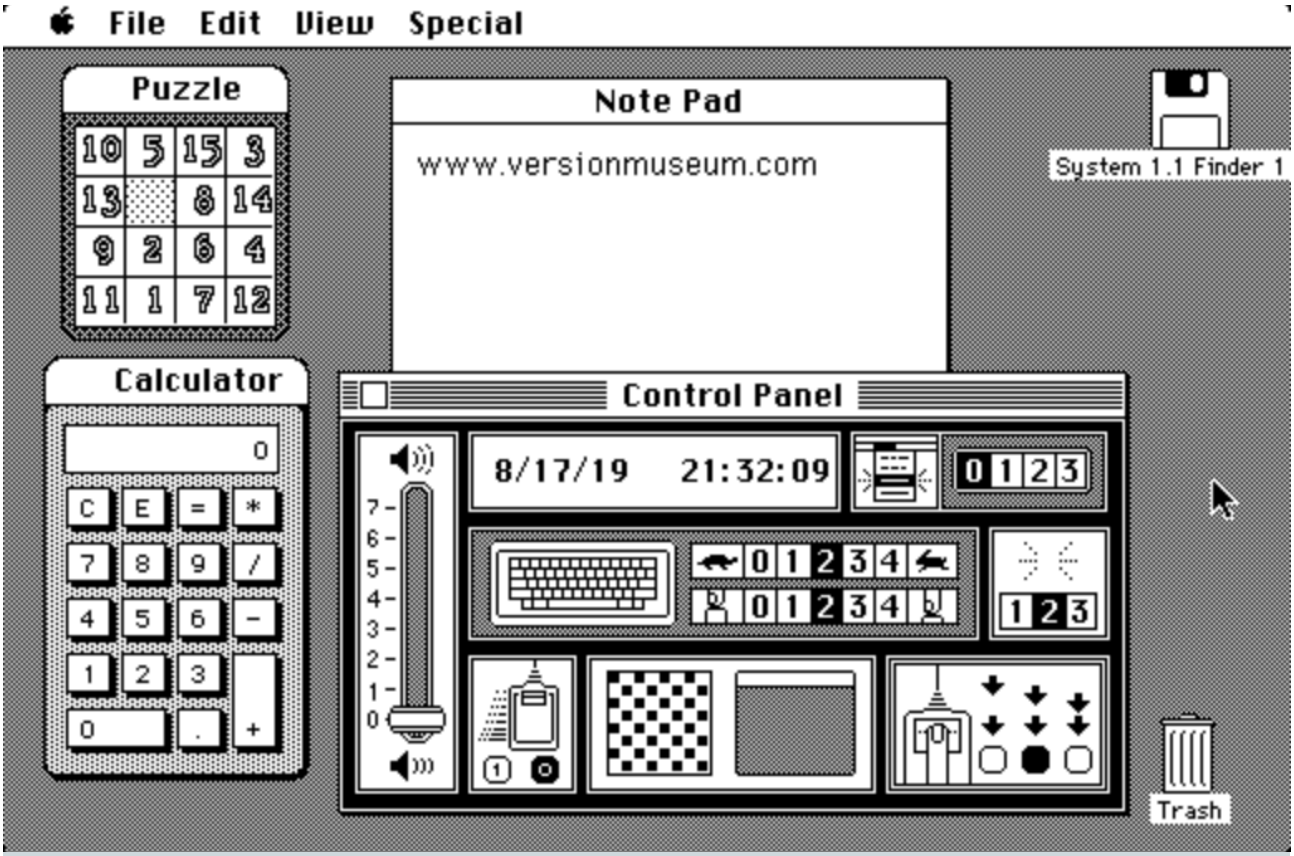
1990s: Claire Warwick, *Digital Humanities and the Cyberspace Decade, 1990–2001: A World Elsewhere* (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2024), Chapters 1, 5, 6.

2000s: Michael Hancher, "Re: Search and Close Reading," in *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2016* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016).

The Command Line `>_`

Windows users: see WSL guide





Source: *Version Museum*

Goals in learning the command line

1. Get “closer to the metal.” Stripping away layers of abstraction to understand more clearly how our computers work.
2. Having a mental map of your local file / folder system, which will be your research database over the long term.
3. The command line is still the starting point for new and powerful computational tools, including AI.

Navigate

`pwd` = print working directory

`ls` = list directory contents

`cd FolderName` = change directory to this folder name

`cd /` = root

`cd ~` = “home” folder on Macs (Contains applications, desktop, downloads, etc)

`cd ..` = one directory up / parent directory

`open .` = open current directory in GUI/Finder folder

Create

`mkdir FolderName` = create new folder

`touch filename.txt` = create a new file

`rm filename.txt` = removes file. *Caution!* permanently gone.

`mv filename.txt subfolder/filename.txt` = move file

`mv filename.txt newname.txt` = rename that file in same directory

Download

`curl -O url` = download file at a URL.

Flag must be capital O, which means write output to a local file named like the remote file

Try the text of Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!*

`curl -O https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/24/pg24.txt`

It's possible to bulk download text files from the web (curl w/ filetype)

Manipulate

- `open pg24.txt` = open a file in default program
- `cat` = print file contents
- `less pg24.txt` = print file page by page
  - `q` to quit
  - `↑` and `↓` to navigate one line at a time
  - `{SPACE-BAR}` to advance a full page, `b` for previous page
  - `/` to search the text. `n` for next result, `N` for previous result
  - `g` for beginning of file, `G` for end of file
- `nano` = edit a text file's contents
  - `^o` write to that file, add new filename or hit `{ENTER}` to edit the current file
  - `^x` exit nano
- `man` + command = manual for that command. `q` will quit

Exercise

1) Draw your system's file tree structure.

2) Use the command line to create an interesting tree to share with your neighbor: this could be nested files you could think of as a poem, or a choose your own adventure story using files containing questions and answers you've typed using `nano`.

`pwd` = print working directory

`ls` = list directory contents

`cd {FOLDER}` NewFolder = change directory to this folder name

`{TAB}` autocompletes the directory / file you've begun to type

`cd /` = root

`cd ~` = "home" folder on Macs (Contains applications, desktop, downloads, etc)

`cd ..` = one directory up / parent directory

`open .` = open current directory in GUI/Finder folder

Miscellaneous

`top` = shows current processes running

`^c` = exit a program

`curl wttr.in` = get your local weather

`finger princeton@graph.no` = graph recent rainfall

`lynx {URL}` = text-based web browser (1992)

bombadillo = an interface for accessing the pre-WWW Gopher protocol and other 1990s experiments in text-only protocols (like Gemini)

Install Homebrew

homebrew is a package manager for the command line. Allows you to install and update software.

Paste the command on the Homebrew homepage into your command line prompt, and hit `{ENTER}`

`brew install {PROGRAM}` Allows you to install useful programs like `tree` and `visidata` and `lynx` or fun programs like `lolcat` and `fortune` and `phoon` and `cowsay` and `thefuck` and `sl`

VisiData


```
brew install saulpw/vd/visidata
```

Jeremy Singer Vine, Visidata in 60 Seconds

Resources

other command line resources

- Explain Shell: Full explanation of any command
- Command Line Cheatsheet: Comprehensive list of basic commands
- Asciinema For recording screen captures of terminal sessions / commands. You can even copy-paste text from the video!!
- Julia Evans, "A list of new(ish) command line tools"

command line tutorials

- DHRIFT Command Line Tutorial
- John Ladd, Text as Interface
- Kenneth Ward Church, Unix for Poets - basic text analysis using the Book of Genesis
- William Turkel, Basic Text Analysis with Command Line Tools in Linux and Pattern Matching and Permuted Term Indexing with Command Line Tools in Linux
- Shell scripting tutorial, specifically for writing command programs

The Programming Historian

- Introduction to the Bash Command Line
- Counting and Mining Research Data with Unix

Acknowledgments

The command line intro draws in part on the following tutorials:

- John R. Ladd, "Text as Interface: Analyzing Data on the Command line"
- Kenneth Ward Church, Unix for Poets
- DHRIFT Command Line Tutorial
- Thanks Laure Thompson for the WSL instructions!

Fonts:

MD Polychrome

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