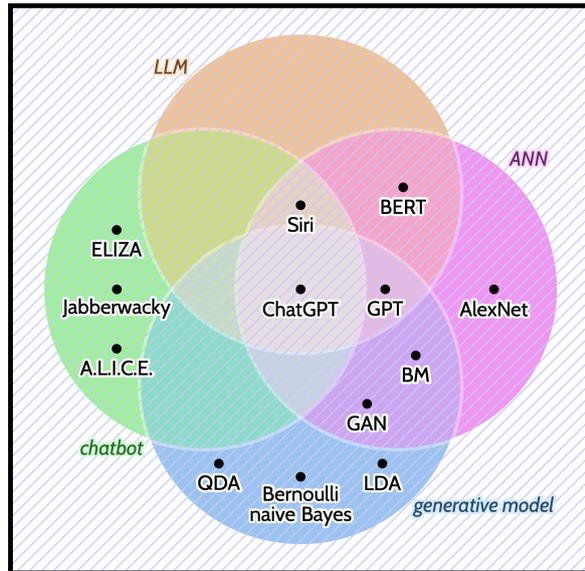


2026-02-18

DATA in the HUMANITIES

Wk. 4 — DH

Today: Meaning & Signal



AI

Happenings This Week

WORKSHOPS

- Wed Feb 18 - [Getting Started with LaTeX](#) (PUL)
- Thu Feb 19 - [Getting Started with Deep Learning Using PyTorch](#) (RC)
- Fri Feb 20 - [Citations for Music Research: Answering the “weird” questions](#) (PUL)
- Mon Feb 23 - [Connecting Visual Studio Code to the Research Computing Clusters](#) (RC)
- Mon Feb 23 - [Finding the Best Location using QGIS](#) (Map Library)

CFPS

- Fall 2026 [CDH Graduate Fellowship](#), due 3/31
- [2026 Summer Institute: Digital Humanities for Hellenic Studies – Historic Athens in 3D](#), July 2026, due 3/15

Today's plan

1. 🎤 Presentations from Amy (on HTR Prog Hist tutorial) and from Annie & Amber (on Liu)
2. 📖 Discuss readings on state-of-the-art DH
3. 🖥️ Introduction to personal knowledge management in Obsidian

If you haven't already...

install Obsidian

<https://obsidian.md>



READINGS

- Lauren Klein et al., “Provocations from the Humanities for Generative AI Research,” preprint, arXiv, February 26, 2025.
- Lauren Tilton et al., “What Gets Counted: Computational Humanities under Revision,” in *Computational Humanities*, Debates in the Digital Humanities (University Of Minnesota Press, 2024).
- Alan Liu, “Data Science and the Post-Liberal Arts University,” *Critical Inquiry* 51, no. 4 (2025): 597–618, <https://doi.org/10.1086/735621>.
- Olivia Guest et al., “Against the Uncritical Adoption of ‘AI’ Technologies in Academia,” preprint, Zenodo, September 5, 2025.
- Tom Scheinfeldt, “Meet AcadiMeet; or, Adventures in Vibe Coding,” *Found History*, October 20, 2025, <https://foundhistory.org/meet-acadimeet-or-adventures-in-vibe-coding/>.
- Marisa Parham, “break.dance.,” *archipelagos journal*, no. 3 (July 2019).

Klein et al.’s provocations:

1. Models make words, but people make meaning
2. AI requires an understanding of culture
3. AI can never be “representative”
4. Bigger models are not always better models
5. Not all training data is equivalent
6. Openness is not an easy fix
7. Limited access to compute enables corporate capture
8. AI universalism creates narrow human subjects

Guest et al. on the AI–university relationship

- (3.1) Rejection of expertise, ironically including our own
- (3.2) We do not have to ‘embrace the future’ & we can turn back the tide
- (3.3) Ahistoricism and the AI hype cycles
- (3.4) Anthropomorphism and other circular reasoning
- (3.5) Supposedly students are all cheating now
- (3.6) Do we have to teach AI because otherwise our students will not get jobs?
- (3.7) AI is more like a calculator than you think

The image shows a screenshot of the Obsidian vault interface. The central pane displays a note titled "Start Here" with the following text:

Obsidian is a text editor that sits atop a folder of [plain text](#) files. It allows you to create links between your notes and visualize their relationships. This paradigm is referred to as [personal knowledge management](#) (PKM).

While the notes in this folder (a "vault," in Obsidian's parlance) are plain text, they are written in a convention called [Markdown](#). You can enter [Markdown](#) syntax manually, for example adding `*astorisis*` to underline a word to italicize it, or automatically using keyboard shortcuts as you would in Microsoft Word, by hitting `⌘ i`.

All notes in this vault are visible in the panel to the left. To navigate to a new note, type `⌘ o` and begin typing that note's title to filter the list of possibilities. You can navigate back `←` and forward `→` as you would in a web browser using the icons at the top of this window.

To familiarize yourself with the Obsidian user interface, try typing `⌘ p` to open the command palate and browse commands. You can begin typing a natural language command to filter the possibilities. You can also view and customize hotkeys — keyboard shortcuts — by clicking

The interface includes a left sidebar with a file explorer, a top navigation bar, and a right sidebar with "LINKED MENTIONS" and "UNLINKED MENTIONS" sections. A large "VAULT DOWNLOAD" watermark is overlaid across the center, with a link icon to its right.

Fonts:

Rakkas

Alegreya Sans