

Digital History Methods

HIST 677-477, Mondays, 05:30PM-08:00PM, Spring 2019

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Course Description

Welcome to Digital History Methods (History and New Media HIST 677-477). This course explores the current and potential impact of digital media on the theory and practice of history. It also counts as a tool of research course, which means that it will provide you with knowledge of “standard tools of research/analysis.” In this course we are going to explore the impact digital technologies on the historian’s craft. The notion of the historian’s craft here is intentionally expansive. Digital tools are effecting nearly every aspect of historical work, including but not limited to; collecting, organizing, presenting and sources; analyzing and interpreting sources; modes of scholarly and broader public communications; techniques for teaching.

As a methods course, our focus is entirely about the *how* of history not the *what* of history. We will focus on how digital tools and digital sources are affecting historical research and the emerging possibilities for new forms of scholarship, public projects and programs. For the former, we will explore new analytic methods (tools for text analysis and data visualization) along with work on issues related to interpreting born digital and digitized primary sources. For the latter, we will explore a range of digital media history resources, including practical work on project management and design. We will read a range of works on designing, interpreting and understanding digital media. Beyond course readings we will also critically engage a range of digital tools and resources.

Course Goals

After the course students will be able to:

1. Thoughtfully and purposefully engage in dialog about history on the public web with a range of stakeholders in digital history: historians, archivists, museum professionals, educators, and amateurs, etc.
2. Discover, evaluate, and implement digital tools and digital sources to support emerging and proven forms of historical scholarship, public projects, and teaching.
3. Develop proposals for digital history resources with detailed plans for project management, design, outreach, and evaluation.
4. Understand and articulate the key issues in collecting, preserving and interpreting digital and digitized primary sources from the perspective of a historian.

Overview of Assignments

Blogging (40% of grade) You must post at least six times to the course blog. Each of your posts should be between 500-1200 words. These six posts must include;

- Intro post (Due on or before Jan 21) Give a bit of background on yourself, what you are hoping to get out of the grad program you are in and what you are most interested in getting out of this course.
- Reading response post (due Saturday by midnight the week before you lead discussion)
- Digital tool or resource review post (due Saturday by midnight the week before you lead discussion).
- Proposal for print project blog post (Due on or before Feb 11)
- Proposal for digital project blog post (Due on or before Feb 25)
- Project reflection blog post (including poster due on or before April 29)
- Commenting: 12 substantive comments on posts on the course blog.

In Class Participation (30% of grade)

- Tools/resources demonstration: Present a 10-15 min demonstrations of tools or resources which you reviewed for the blog to the class
- Lead discussion on a set of readings: What are the arguments of the readings you blogged about? How do they hang together or where are they in conflict? Come prepared with questions to keep discussion going.
- Class attendance and active participation in class discussions. Notify me in advance if you are going to miss class, missing more than two class sessions will significantly impact your class participation grade.

Project (30% of grade)

- Preliminary project pitches: a 3-5 minute “elevator pitch” for your research project or digital project. (In class, Feb 25)
- Research paper (5,000-7,000 words) OR digital resource (digital resource and 300-700 word project statement). (Due April 15)
- Revision of research paper or digital resource. Posted online, either on the class blog or linked to from a post on the class blog. (Due, April 29)
- Final project poster presentation: Create a conference poster and hand out to present your work in a mini-conference held on the last day of class (Due, April 29)

Guidance for Assignments

What follows below is guidance on aspects of all the required assignments for the course. All the due dates for assignments are listed in the Overview of Assignments and also in the Week by Week section of the syllabus.

Read Strategically

Through out all of our readings here you are going to need to read strategically. You need to get what you need out of the book or article, this often does not require reading every word in an article or a book. On how to read for graduate seminars see [Miriam Sweeney's](#) or [Larry Cebula's](#) blog posts. The same is true for digital projects you are going to show and tell, you need to figure out enough of it to talk about it and think about it's implications but there is no expectation for you to master the given tool or digital resource.

Course Blogging

We are not simply going to learn about digital history in this course, we are also going to *do* digital history. That means we need to engage with the public web. To this end, a significant amount of our course communication is going to happen in a public course blog.

On the first day of class I will show you how to use the blog. You are expected to post a minimum of six times, once about the readings you lead discussion on, once about the digital tools or resources you demonstrate, once with each of your project proposals and a reflection on your project. We will sign up for who writes about what on the first day of class.

These are blog posts, and as such they should not be written like five page essays. Part of the goal of this assignment is to become familiar with the genre and format of thoughtful blogging. You need to get in, say something interesting, synthesize some thoughts and get out. Ideally briefly summarizing/explaining/showing what the readings or tools say or do, commenting on them or otherwise offering some new insights you think you can add, and then ending with an invitation to discussion. You should think of your posts as mixing the features of a well-composed academic book review and the well conceived blog post. [Read this for a sense of the features of an academic book review](#). For notes on [how to write blog posts see this post](#). Posts for a given week must be on the web at least four days before class (yes, if you want you can post it at 11:59 PM on that day).

Do not assume your reader has detailed knowledge of the things you are writing about. One of the goals of the blog is to invite interested third parties into a conversation with our course. If we are doing this right you can expect comments and dialog with historians, humanists, librarians, archivists, curators, and

bloggers who are not participating in the course as students but who are participating in the public conversation we initiate through the blog.

Your identity and the blog

This is public so one of our first considerations is going to be personal identity. While this is a practical matter it is also, very directly, part of the subject matter of the course. I would encourage you to blog with your real name, [it is a good idea for you to start building a web presence for yourself](#). It has even been suggested that in the emerging interdisciplinary field of digital humanities you can either “[be online or be irrelevant](#).” With that said, [many people have good reasons not to use their real names on the web](#). With that in mind, if you are uncomfortable with sharing your name publicly, you should feel free to use a pseudonym or a handle. If there is a reason that you do not want to share your work on the web please send me an email or meet with me after class. I feel that this public dialog is an important course goal, but I will of course understand and accommodate anyone that needs a different arrangement. If at the end of the course you would like to continue blogging I will be happy to show you how we can pull all your posts out and into a new blog of your own. We will talk about this identity decision on the first class day.

Keep the conversation going

Posting is not the end of the assignment. After posting you need to foster the discussion you are initiating. When people comment you need to give substantive responses. Try to engage everyone who comments in some fashion and try to use the comments to sustain a conversation you began at the end of your post. Do not hesitate to ask if you would like help with this process or want any advice about how to keep the conversation going.

Commenting is also an assignment

Beyond posting you are expected to contribute substantive comments to a minimum of 12 of your peers posts. Your comments should extend and contribute to the conversation. Good comments are an important genre unto themselves. [Profhacker's guidelines for comments](#) for a sense of the kind of comment ecosystem we are trying to produce. Along with that, see [this piece on how to write a great blog comment](#) for some suggestions on the format for comments. Comment early so that others have a chance to read them.

The course blog is the required reading we write ourselves

Beyond posting and commenting everyone needs to read everything on the blog before class each week. This is the part of the course readings that we write ourselves and in all honesty this is the most important springboard for our

in-class discussions. The blog extends the function of classroom and it is essential that everyone follow and participate in it.

Virtual class days

Several days on the course syllabus are marked as virtual class. For these days we will not meet face to face. Instead, please use the time we would have spent in class to further engage in course discussions and work via the course blog. Virtual class will be asynchronous, so you don't need to use exactly the time set aside for face-to-face class to do this work. For people who sign up to do cover readings and or practicums during these virtual class days go into further depth on your blog posts and spend more time responding to comments from classmates. Depending on how the schedule for the following week works, you may also be called upon to demo a tool or further facilitate discussion of readings. If we end up with inclement weather we will not cancel class but will instead shift to virtual class.

Course Project(s)

Everyone will write **two proposals**: a proposal for a print project and a digital project. You only need to **follow through on one of those two proposals**. In the case of the print project the final result should be a 5,000-7,000 word Chicago style journal article. ([For an example see this article](#) we will read later in the semester.) In the case of the digital project it should be the digital resource you devise and a short 500-1000 word project statement that articulates the goals of the project, connects it to other projects we discussed in class, and briefly offers personal reflections on what you learned from the project.

Print Project, study something digital:

The objective here is to approach digital media and content as historians. To that end, you are going to think about how to write something about digital that has to do with history. This could include using software we discuss to engage with a set of primary sources or exploring born digital material associated with a field you are already familiar. For example, if you are interested in the Civil War you could plan and execute a research project on how a particular Civil War memorial is presented and discussed on Flickr, or compare how it is reviewed on Yelp, or analyze how it is represented in some set of video games, or explore how a particular Civil War site uses Twitter, or use something like [Mike Davies' online corpus of Time magazine](#) to explore trends in discussions of the Civil War or a particular historical figure.

Whatever you do you need to ground the study in both historiography for whatever topic you work on and incorporate material from our readings on digital history. In short, all of the readings offer potential models for this project. If you decide to work on a print project I strongly encourage you to [set up regular appointments with a writing consultant in the writing center](#). (As an aside, you

have no idea how invaluable the sustained attention of someone from a writing center is, outside of a university environment this kind of attention to your writing costs a fortune and it is there waiting for you to use it for free.) Simply put, good writing is re-writing. If you work with them starting at the proposal stage, through your first full draft, and on through your final paper you will end up with something you can really be proud of. Along with that, you will likely end up with something you could publish in an academic journal.

Digital Project, build something scholarly:

In terms of a digital project, you should take one of your interests and develop a digital resource around it. This should explicitly NOT be putting an essay on a webpage. Whatever you propose there should be clear reasons that this should be digital, it should probably draw on something we worked on in class. I would suggest staying away from difficult technical projects. While I would be thrilled if you taught yourself the ins-and-outs of a programming language and wrote your own content management system to build a blog it would be a much better idea for you to simplify the technical decisions in your project and just use something like wordpress.com or omeka.net which does not require you to devote your time to primarily technical issues.

To restate this, the goal of this project *is not* to demonstrate technical competence. Please simplify technology decisions and focus your time on using something that already exists in a novel way. Proposals should include major features from the Brown (2006) book;

- a) A description of audience
- b) A comparison to existing projects
- c) A detailed description of the thing to be created
- d) A plan for outreach and publicity
- e) A plan for how you will evaluate the project.

Examples could include starting and curating a Flickr pool focused on collecting and interrupting representations of the American west, in consultation with the DC historical society you might build an Omeka exhibit to complement one of their physical exhibits, you might create an annotated Google my map or a set of tours using a mobile app like HistoryPin that gives an interpretive tour of the history of the design of the national mall.

In the real world, basically all digital projects in this field are the result of the work of teams. To that end, if you want to work with a partner on a project please feel free to. However, I would like to see you break the work up between the partners and have each of you still do each of the individual parts of the writing and reflection bits.

If you decide to finish your digital project as your final project the expectation is that you have something that is at least a working proof of concept. In some

cases, it will be possible to scope something tightly enough that you can make the whole thing during our course. That is, however, not necessary. The essential part of this assignment is to show that you can conceive of this kind of project and that you can make the large moving parts come together. However grand the thing you would like to see in the world is, [there is some version of it that you can sketch out and put out there for everyone to see that you can get together during our time together in this class.](#)

Project Poster:

One analog genre of scholarly communication that shows no sign of disappearing is the conference poster. The culmination of our class is going to be our own version of a conference poster session. Half the class will present their posters for the first half of class while the rest of the class visits the posters. Then we will swap roles for the second half of class.

This should be a relatively painless process. The easiest way to do this is to make your poster as a single powerpoint slide. You shouldn't need a lot of text (300-500 words) will likely do. I realize it can be difficult to source a big printer (which you will need if/when you participate in a poster session). So, feel free to print them out on regular printer paper and just bring a stack of them as handouts so that people can read them as they visit you presenting your poster. For further guidance on conference posters see these [guidelines from the AHA](#), these [guidelines from NYU](#) and [these from the University of Alabama](#)

Books:

You will need to procure full copies of these eight books. I've given links to them on Amazon where you can likely find relatively inexpensive copies of all of them. I've attempted to only include books that are 1) relatively affordable (many have used copies up under \$20) and 2) the kinds of things that will be worth hanging onto for future use.

You need the first book for the 4th week of class so you should have time to get them. By all means, if you prefer, check them out from libraries. I imagine the university library will have most of them but beyond that many of you should be able to get copies from the various libraries that participate in the [Washington Research Library Consortium](#).

1. Brown. (2006). [Communicating Design: Developing Web Site Documentation for Design and Planning](#). Note: **Be sure you read the 2006 edition.**
2. Farman. (2012). [Mobile Interface Theory: Embodied Space and Locative Media](#).
3. Fitzpatrick. (2011) [Planned Obsolescence: Publishing, Technology, and the Future of the Academy](#)
4. Flanagan. (2013). [Critical Play: Radical Game Design](#)
5. Gitelman. (2014). [Paper Knowledge: Toward a Media History of Documents](#)
6. Jockers, (2013). [Macroanalysis: Digital Methods & Literary History](#)
7. Kirschenbaum. (2012). [Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination](#).
8. Rinehart & Ippolito. (2014). [Re-collection: Art, New Media, and Social Memory](#)

Week By Week Course Schedule

Becoming digital public historians (Jan 14)

This is our first class; we will introduce ourselves to each other and spend a lot of time reviewing the syllabus. I will make sure everyone leaves with an understanding of how to register, post and work with the course blog. By the end of class everyone will have signed up for the weeks they are blogging/presenting on. We will then take a bit of time to quickly read short posts about blogging as an academic practice.

In Class Readings for discussion

1. Cohen, [“Professors, Start Your Blogs”](#)
2. Posner & Croxall, [“Creating Your Web Presence: A Primer for Academics”](#)
3. Scheinfeldt, [Brand Name Scholar](#)

Defining digital history (Week of Jan 21 - Virtual Class)

This week is largely about developing a perspective on what people mean when they say “digital history” and more broadly “digital humanities.” It’s also about what the stakes in all this are. Across all of the readings consider both the arguments and the genre of writing they are being presented in. Format and genre are critical components of our work this semester and the differences between blogging, books and articles are as much on the table for discussion as the points in these pieces. PhillaPlace is an example of the kind of projects folks are creating in digital history and Wordle is here as a kind of toy for starting to think about visualizing texts and the possibility of visualization as a mode of history communication.

Assignment Due: Intro Blog Posts

Readings

1. Cicire, [Theory and the Virtues of Digital Humanities](#)
2. Cohen & Rosenzweig, *Digital History*, [Introduction, Ch. 1](#)
3. Guldi & Armitage, [The History Manifesto](#) Introduction (p. 1-14) and chapter 4 on big questions big data (p. 88-117)
4. Leon, [Returning Women to the History of Digital History](#)
5. Onion, [Snapshots of History: Wildly popular accounts like @HistoryInPics are bad for history, bad for Twitter, and bad for you.](#)
6. Robertson, et. al. [Digital History and Argument](#)
7. Spiro, [Getting Started in the Digital Humanities](#)
8. [The Digital in the Humanities: An Interview with Sharon M. Leon](#)

Practicums:

- a) Practicum: [PhilaPlace](#) : Demo the site, how it works, what it accomplishes
- b) Practicum: [HistoryPin](#): Show us how the site works, how to add pins, how to create tours, how small organizations are using it.
- c) Practicum: [Wordle](#): Show us how it works, try using it to illustrate some kind of interesting historical comparison, for example [it can work well with speeches](#).

Further Reading:

1. Robertson, '[The Differences Between Digital History and Digital Humanities](#)'

The Web: Collaborative or Exploitive? (Jan 28)

In history we work to connect audiences and publics with the past. In this vein, the participatory and collaborative rhetoric that surrounds the web fits many of the values of public historians like a glove. This weeks readings explore issues around crowdsourcing and public participation in history on the web. This includes both the potential to connect with the missions and values of cultural heritage institutions and opens questions about what constitutes participation and what becomes exploitive.

Readings:

1. Brabham, [The Myth of Amateur Crowds: A critical discourse analysis of crowdsourcing coverage](#)
2. Causer & Wallace, "[Building a Volunteer Community: Results and Findings from Transcribe Bentham.](#)"
3. Edson, [Dark Matter: The dark matter of the Internet is open, social, peer-to-peer and read/write—and it's the future of museums](#)
4. Ford, [Why Wasn't I Consulted: The Web as A Customer Service Medium](#)
5. Frankle, [More Crowdsourced Scholarship: Citizen History](#)
6. Miner, [if everything on the internet has to be free, why isn't my healthcare, too?](#) (Read the comment thread too)
7. Rosenzweig, [Can History be Open Source? Wikipedia and the Future of the Past](#)
8. [The Machine is Us/ing Us](#)

Practicums:

- a) [Wikipedia](#): how it works. Analyze three related Wikipedia pages and talk pages what their history is. Teach the class how to do this.
- b) Tell us how [Flickr](#) works, walk us through how the platform works, how search works, how commenting works, try to find some examples that have a historical bent. (Ex, [this course photo pool](#)) include discussion of the [Flickr Commons](#)

- c) [Crowd.loc.gov](http://crowd.loc.gov) show how it works, explain some of the back story on it.

Digital analysis: Distant reading, text analysis, visualization (Feb 4)

One of the most active strands of digital history and the digital humanities more broadly focuses on computational analysis of texts and the interpretations of abstractions of those texts. For the most part, “texts” has meant words, but we starting to get into computational modes of engaging with images and audio too. This week is about all of that, in particular, under the heading of distant reading. Throughout this week’s readings think both about the subject (visualization) and about the formats of the readings (blog posts, books, open review publications, etc.)

Readings:

1. Jockers, Macroanalysis
2. Jessop, [Digital Visualization as a Scholarly Activity](#)
3. Guldi, [The History of Walking and the Digital Turn: Stride and Lounge in London, 1808–1851](#)
4. Bevins, [Space, Nation, and the Triumph of Region: A View of the World from Houston](#) and [Mining and Mapping the Production of Space: A View of the World from Houston](#)
5. Schmidt, [Making Downton More Traditional](#)

Practicums:

- a) [Voyant Tools](#): Show us a bit of how it works, show us an example of how you might use it for historical research
- b) [HistoryWired](#) : Show us a bit of how it works. Does this change how you think about their collections?
- c) [Time Magazine Corpus of American English](#): Think about how this interface enables different kinds of questions. Show us some examples.
- d) [Google n-gram](#) : Think about how this interface enables different kinds of questions. Show us some examples.

Further Reading:

1. Blevins, [Topic Modeling Martha Ballard’s Diary](#)
2. Underwood, [We don’t already understand the broad outlines of literary history.](#)

“Project” as scholarly genre: Designing digital projects (Feb 11)

It's likely that many of you don't have experience with planning and developing projects, in particular digital projects. So, this week is about planning projects and drafting the documents involved in making a digital project, in particular a web project, happen. Brown's book is our main text, providing a roadmap for what decisions get made when. The NEH guidelines contextualize the format for a project proposal in a humanities context. The section from *Digital Humanities* offers consideration of “project” as a unit of scholarship. Kirshenbaum's piece gets at the vexing issue of sustainability. Scheinfeldt's explores differences between common digital collection platforms.

Assignment Due: Print Project Proposals (400-800 Words posted to the Blog)

Readings:

1. Brown, *Communicating Design*
2. IDEO, (2015) [The Field Guide to Human-Centered Design](#).
3. Burdick, Drucker, Luenfeld, Presner, Schnapp. Short Guide to the Digital Humanities Fundamentals p. 122-135 of [Digital Humanities](#)
4. Kirshenbaum, [“Done: Finishing Projects in the Digital Humanities”](#)
5. [NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grants](#) Focus on the narrative section and talk through one of the example proposal narratives.
6. Scheinfeldt, [“Omeka and Its Peers”](#)

Practicums

- a) Practicum: [Omeka.net](#) (See Posner, [Up and Running with Omeka](#))
- b) Practicum: [WordPress.com](#):

No Class (Feb 18)

Proposal pitch week (Feb 25)

Everyone in class is going to give the elevator pitch for the project that they intend to finish. No slides or anything. Just stand up, and in three minutes present the elevator pitch. Answer what you are going to do? Why it's worth doing? You'll explain how it is like things before, but also how it's different. It's important to be able to give the “[MTV Cops](#)” level explanation of your work. So work on that. After discussing the proposals, we will use remaining time in this session to check in on how the course is going. Think of it as a formative evaluation of the content and process of the course. It is great to get this kind of information in the middle so that it is still possible to tweak parts of the course

going forward. **Assignment Due: Digital Project Proposals (400-800 Words Posted to the Blog)**

Digital audio: Oral history and sound studies (Virtual Class March 4)

A huge area of work in history is oral history and at this point that is basically entirely a digital affair. This week we explore what it means to do [oral history in the digital age](#). Aside from the great work tied up in that particular program, we need to think about how [computational approaches to working with audio](#) can change what it is that we do in this space (bring in some pop-up archive links). Similarly, it's critical to remember that all formats and media have histories and politics, hence why we are using this as an opportunity to better understand that through the introduction to Sterne's MP3: The Meaning of a Format.

Readings

1. Frisch, [Oral History and the Digital Revolution](#)
2. Boyd, [Designing an Oral History Project: Initial Questions to Ask Yourself](#),
3. Van Malssen, [Digital Video Preservation and Oral History](#)
4. Sterne, [Format Theory](#) chapter of *MP3: The Meaning of a Format*
5. The [HiPSTAS website](#) and their [grant proposal](#)
6. Hsu, [Digital Ethnography Toward Augmented Empiricism: A New Methodological Framework](#)

Practicum:

- a) [Audacity](#)
- b) [Soundcloud](#)

Spring Break: (March 11) No Class

Digital archives: What are & aren't they? (March 18)

Public historians and other humanists have been exuberant about the possibility of providing broad public access to primary source documents and the contents of archives. In this context, the use of the term "digital archive" has become a bit fraught. With that said, there is some valuable productive friction in that fraughtness. Something useful is emerging in the blending of sources, analysis, and interpretations. This week we figure out what different folks mean by the term in different situations and explore some exemplars of different notions of digital archives and their potential as modes of scholarly output.

Readings:

1. Bailey, [Disrespect des Fonds: Rethinking Arrangement and Description in Born-Digital Archives](#)
2. Christen, K. [Archival challenges and digital solutions in aboriginal Australia](#).
3. Drake, J. M. [#ArchivesForBlackLives: Building a Community Archives of Police Violence in Cleveland](#).
4. Jules, B. [Preserving Social Media Records of Activism](#).
5. McGann, [The Rationale of HyperText](#)
6. Owens, [What do you mean by archive](#)
7. Phillips, [Close Reading, Distant Reading: Should Archival Appraisal Adjust?](#)
8. Schmidt & Ardam, [On Excess: Susan Sontag's Born-Digital Archive](#)
9. Theimer, [Archives in Context and As Context](#) and [A Distinction worth Exploring: "Archives" and "Digital Historical Representations"](#)
10. Owens, [Digital Sources & Digital Archives: The Evidentiary Basis of Digital History](#)

Practicum:

- a) [September 11th Digital Archive](#),
- b) [Bracero Archive](#)
- c) [The Shelley-Godwin Archive](#)
- d) [Rossetti Archive](#)

Further Readings

Understanding Digital Content: Media, materiality & format (March 25)

To really do digital history, we need a very solid understanding of what exactly digital stuff is. This week we try to figure out more about what digital things are. We likely all have a sense of what things like documents, spreadsheets and digital photos and videos are, but it is essential that we go beyond their appearance on the screen to understand a bit about what bits, bytes, files, and file formats are.

Readings:

1. Kirshenbaum, *Mechanisms* (Focus on the chapters 1, 2 & 3 pages 1-159)
2. Gitelman. *Paper Knowledge*
3. Sterne, [Analog](#) in Digital Keywords
4. Arms & Fleischhauer, [Digital Formats: Factors for Sustainability, Functionality, and Quality](#)
5. Bailey, [TAGOKOR: Biography of an Electronic Record](#)

Practicum:

- a) [Demo Mystery House](#): (Be able to explain what Kirshenbaum did with it in Mechanisms with the Hex-editor)
- b) [Glitch some audio and image files](#) -> Show us how to do this and tell us what it means.

Further Reading

1. Nilsson, [File Format Action Plans in Theory and Practice](#)
2. Owens, [The is of the digital object](#)

Digital exhibition, hypermedia narrative & bots (April 1)

What does it mean to collect and exhibit/present/interpret digital objects? This week we explore this issue across new media art, source code and digitized materials. Along with thinking through issues of presenting digital objects we also explore the potential of turning our interpretations and exhibitions over to the machines themselves.

Readings

1. Ippolito & Reinheart. *Re-collection: Art, New Media, and Social Memory* (focus on the chapter on social memory and on their suggestions at the end.)
2. Brennan, ["Getting to the Stuff: Digital Cultural Heritage Collections, Absence, and Memory."](#)
3. Chan & Cope [Collecting the present: digital code and collections](#)
4. Espenschied, [Big Data, Little Narration](#)
5. Lubar, [Museum Bots: An Appreciation](#)
6. Sample, [bots of conviction](#)

Further Readings

1. Owens, [A Draft Style Guide for Digital Collection Hypertexts](#)
2. Sherratt, [Conversations with Collections](#)
3. Kazumi, [@TwoHeadlines: Comedy, Tragedy, Chicago Bears](#)

Mobile media, place & mapping (April 8)

Increasingly, the screens people are turning their attention to are in their hands and their pockets. In this vein, there is tremendous potential for mobile media and mobile media has a direct and clear connection to place and location. There are projects like the [Museum from Mainstreet app](#) and the [Will to Adorn app](#) that try to enable participatory collecting, projects like [Histories of the National Mall](#) that work to situate events in historic sites. This week we look at these, and

related projects, and read [*Mobile Interface Theory: Embodied Space and Locative Media*](#) to add a theoretical layer/framework for thinking about this work. We haven't talked much about maps and place in general yet either, so we will also consider the "spatial turn" as one of the ongoing developments and areas of interest in digital history scholarship.

Readings:

1. Farman, *Mobile Interface Theory*
2. Durlington & Collins, [New App City](#)
3. Guldi, "[What is the Spatial Turn?](#)" and the [Spatial Turn in History](#)
4. Leon, Brennan, Lester [Mobile For Museums](#)
5. Russick, [A Place For Everything Museum Collections, Technology, and the Power of Place](#)
6. Tebeau, [Listening to the City: Oral History and Place in the Digital Era](#)

Practicums:

- a) [Mall History](#)
- b) [ARIS Games](#)
- c) [HistoryPin](#)
- d) [Museum from Mainstreet App](#)
- e) [Will to Adorn App](#)

Playing the Past: Videogames, Interactivity & Action (April 15):

Videogames have rapidly become potent media for communicating ideas about the past. Historians, librarians and archivists have begun creating games and a range of interactive transmedia modes of communicating about the past. At the same time, many very successful commercial games, like Sid Mier's *Civilization*, *SimCity* or *Assassin's Creed* have invited a generation of players to enact or replay models of the past. In this session we will spend half of the class discussing Gee's book, which will help us unpack a range of ways to think about games and learning and how to read games and the other half discussing how ideas are represented and enacted in games that are specifically about the past.

Project Drafts Due: For people writing papers this means a full draft of the paper, not a rough draft, a full well thought out draft of your paper. For people working on digital projects you should have at least a functional proof of concept, a roadmap for how and when you will finish the work on the project, and a revision of your proposal that moves from language about what it will do to what it is doing.

Readings:

1. Flanagan, *Critical Play*
2. Mir & Owens, [Modeling Indigenous Peoples: Unpacking Ideology in Sid Meier's Civilization](#)
3. Nakamura, "[Gender and Race Online](#)," *Society and the Internet: How Networks of Information and Communication are Changing Our Lives*, Mark Graham and William H. Dutton, Oxford University Press, 2014.
4. WNET, [Mission America Online Games about American History](#) (this is a grant proposal, you should also read the [NEH Digital Programs for the Public](#) grant guidelines for context)

Practicums:

- a) Playing and reading [Argument Wars](#) :
- b) Playing and reading [1066](#) :
- c) Playing and reading [Jamestown Adventure](#) :
- d) Playing and reading [Cotton Millionaire](#):

Opening & Expanding Forms of Scholarly Communication (April 22)

Digital technology has changed the possibilities for scholarly communication in the history profession. Historians have long produced scholarly works in a range of media. However, monographs and to a lesser extent journal articles and conference papers have largely persisted as the primary forms of scholarship that "count." This week we will learn a bit about the development and history of scholarly presses and explore a range of novel approaches and technologies for scholarly communications.

1. Fitzpatrick, *Planned Obsolescence*
2. Cohen, [The Ivory tower and open web](#)
3. Transformation of Scholarly publishing
<http://www.arl.org/news/arl-news/3735-transformation-of-scholarly-communications-explored-in-arl-research-library-issues-287#.WiSK1bQ-ciM>
4. Scholarly Communications in the History Discipline
<http://www.sr.ithaka.org/publications/scholarly-communications-in-the-history-discipline/>
5. Supporting the Changing Research Practices of Historians
<http://www.sr.ithaka.org/publications/supporting-the-changing-research-practices-of-historians/>
6. Guidelines for the Professional Evaluation of Digital Scholarship by Historians
<https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/digital-history-resources/evaluation-of-digital-scholarship-in-history/guidelines-for-the-professional-evaluation-of-digital-scholarship-by-historians>
7. Conard, [Review of *Historians in Public*](#)

Practicums:

- a) Scalar <https://scalar.usc.edu/scalar/>
- b) PressForward <http://pressforward.org/> Share examples of <http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/> and <http://acrl.ala.org/dh/>
- c) The Programing Historian <https://programminghistorian.org/>
- d) MLA Core <https://mla.hcommons.org/core/>

Further Reading

- Owens, [Curating in the Open](#)

Class Conference Poster Presentations (April 29)

- Bring a poster reporting on the results of either your research project or your digital project. We are going to run the classroom as a conference and I will invite a few outside experts to join us and talk with all of you about your work.