

DLA

the Digital Liberal Arts Initiative @ Middlebury College

Read on for news from the DLA about what we're up to this year and how we can help you.

January 2020

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Winter Events

Introduction to Text Mining Workshop

Have you heard the phrase "text mining" and wondered exactly what that means? Are you curious about how digital tools can help you analyze large amounts of text? Join Ryan Clement,

Data Services Librarian, Leanne Galletly, User Experience and Digital Scholarship Librarian, and Sarah Payne, DLA Postdoctoral Fellow, for an introductory workshop on text mining. This two-hour workshop will introduce participants to the the text mining tool Voyant and provide further avenues for text analysis exploration. No prior experience with text mining is required. Click [here](#) to RSVP by January 15.

Date: January 17, 2020

Time: 9-11 AM

Location: Wilson Media Lab, Davis Family Library



What Is Deformative Criticism?, or How to Make Weird Videos as Scholarly Inquiry

One of the interesting developments in digital humanities is the emergence of "deformative criticism," an approach to creatively "breaking" an object of study to reveal hidden facets and create innovative new works. Jason Mittell, Professor of Film & Media Culture and American Studies, will demonstrate a number of "videographic

deformations" that he has made by creatively manipulating the classic film *Singin' in the Rain* to consider how deformations might be a useful (and fun) mode of scholarship. Lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) to RSVP by February 13.

Date: February 18, 2020

Time: 12:15-1:30 PM

Place: CTLR Lounge, Davis Family Library

Civic Science

Please join the DLA for a talk by Sara Wylie, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Health Science at Northeastern University. Wylie is the co-founder of the [Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science](#), a non-profit that develops open source, Do It Yourself tools for community based environmental analysis. She is also the co-founder of the [Environmental Data and Governance Initiative](#), a collaboration of academics and non-profits working to track and respond to changes in U.S.



federal environmental governance. Her book, *Fractivism: Corporate Bodies and Chemical Bonds* (Duke UP 2018), is an ethnographic study of the role science based NGOs played in the emergence of public concerns about the human and environmental health impacts of chemicals used in natural gas extraction, particularly hydraulic fracturing. She is developing new ways of studying and intervening in large-scale environmental health issues through a fusion of social scientific, scientific, and art/design practices.

Date: February 21, 2020

Time: 12:15-1:30 PM

Place: CTLR Lounge, Davis Family Library

Look for an email invitation to follow in early February with a link to RSVP for this catered lunch.



Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age

Discussing his recently published book, *Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age* (Princeton UP 2019), Tarek El-Ariss explores the way modes of confrontation, circulation, and writing shape contemporary knowledge production and critiques of power. Focusing on a new generation of activists and authors from the Arab world and beyond, El-Ariss connects Wikileaks to *The Arabian Nights*, Twitter to mystical revelation, cyberattacks to pre-Islamic tribal raids, and digital activism to the

affective scene-making of Arab popular culture. Tarek El-Ariss is Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at Dartmouth College. His research interests include Arabic literature, culture, and art, modernity studies, and comparative literature and critical theory. He is also the author of *Trials of Arab Modernity: Literary Affects and the New Political* (Fordham, 2013) and editor of *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda* (MLA, 2018).

Date: February 24, 2020

Time: 4:30-6 PM

Place: Axinn Center 229

The DLA is pleased to co-sponsor this event, which is hosted by the IGS Program (Middle East Studies Track).

The DLA is excited to announce that our videographic criticism workshop, "Scholarship in Sound & Image," will be offered again this coming summer! During this two week workshop, led by Christian Keathley, Jason Mittell, and Catherine Grant, participants will learn how to conceive and produce film and media criticism via digital sound and moving images. The workshop will be held in Middlebury, VT from June 14 – 27, 2020. Tuition, which includes food, lodging, instruction, and access to campus resources, is \$2,750. Participants should be scholars working in film and media studies or a related field – the workshop is appropriate for faculty, graduate students, or academic professionals.

[Click here for more info](#)

Deadline for Applications: February 1, 2020

Apply for Funding

Want to attend a digital scholarship conference or hire a student research assistant to work on a digital project? We've got funds for that. **Our next funding deadline is January 15.** Subsequent applications will be due by March 15 and May 15. Click [here](#) for more information on the types of funding we provide. Applicants are strongly encouraged to [consult](#) with DLA Postdoctoral Fellow, Sarah Payne, prior to submitting applications.

Apply [here](#) by January 15

Project Highlight

Digital History in the Classroom

By Amy Morsman, Professor of History

For most of my 18 years teaching at Middlebury, I have offered the History of American Women course in the fall semester. The Fall 2019 semester presented some unusual opportunities related to this history, which prompted me to take new steps in my course, all of which depended upon a collaboration with well-trained staff in the DLA and the library. This year marks the centenary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the change in the Constitution that granted American women the right to vote in 1920. The students in last fall's History of American Women course learned about this important element of women's history a bit differently than students have in years past, because they had the benefit of a [sizeable museum exhibit I had curated on this topic at the College museum](#), which opened just as the semester began. We drew heavily on the exhibit materials for the students' learning about woman suffrage, but I also decided to use the physical exhibit as a challenge to the students. The exhibit was only going to exist for three months. What could they do to capture the best of it – the most important questions, the most challenging ideas, the most engaging images or artifacts – before it was taken down, and then how could they build upon that telling of the suffrage story in a different format, a digital format?

The goal was for my 33 women's history students to create a digital history project on the story of woman suffrage in America, based upon their own interests and their well-informed

understanding of the historical issues and how to relay them to a public audience digitally. DLA Postdoc Sarah Payne and User Experience & Digital Scholarship Librarian Leanne Galletly were essential to the successful execution of this endeavor. They were instrumental in designing this substantial class project, instructing the class about Omeka – the platform used to create digital exhibits – and assisting students as they struggled with questions about metadata, permissions, and file size, as well as more aesthetic considerations around theme options, the appropriate amount of text, and the arrangement of visual objects. By December, small student groups from my class had created nine distinct mini-exhibits, each exploring a particular aspect of the history of woman suffrage. In the spring semester, I will incorporate the hard work of my students into a digital history project that will then be made available to the public in time for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment's ratification this summer. I am certain that I will turn again to Sarah and Leanne for their expertise and advice. Thanks to all 33 of my adventurous students and to our digital experts on staff!

If you're interested in doing something similar in your own class, please reach out to [Leanne Galletly](#) or [Sarah Payne](#) to schedule a consultation.

External Opportunities

Programming4Humanists

Programming4Humanists provides courses designed to introduce participants to methodologies, coding, and programming languages associated with the Digital Humanities. We focus on creation, editing, and searchability of digital archives, but also introduce students to data mining and statistical analysis. The Spring 2020 Programming for Humanists (P4H) course will be two separate 8 week courses. Part I – Digital Editions, Start to Finish begins January 17, 2020 through March 6, 2020 and Part II – Python for DH Crash Course begins March 20, 2020 through May 6, 2020. Those who should attend include faculty, staff, librarians, undergraduates, and graduate students, and anyone interested in acquiring skills for work in digital humanities and cultural analytics.

[Click here for more info](#)

Registration for Part I opens on January 3, 2020

Registration for Part II opens on March 2, 2020

Recounting Algorithms: A Workshop on Critical Algorithm Studies in the Library

How can libraries and archives best contribute to emerging critical discourses around algorithms, machine learning, and artificial intelligence? Recounting Algorithms is a two-day

workshop, supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources and hosted by the University of Toronto Mississauga Library, that aims to enrich the intersections of critical algorithm studies and academic librarianship. We invite proposals for pedagogical resources, creative projects, and library services that explore how libraries can support and build on investigations of algorithmic systems (including, machine learning and AI) and their enabling social conditions. While proposals should be oriented toward the library as a context for sustaining and supporting instruction and critical inquiry, we encourage submissions from non-librarians, particularly from educators, researchers, graduate students, artists, journalists and advocates.

[Click here for more info](#)

Deadline for proposals: January 17, 2020

NYCDH Week

NYCDH is happy to announce the 5th Annual NYCDH Week, February 3-7, 2020. Taking place at institutions throughout New York City, NYCDH Week gives individuals across the region who are interested in digital humanities an opportunity to learn new techniques and skills, hear about DH projects from across the city, and become part of a vibrant and diverse community of scholars and practitioners. This year's theme is Histories and Representations of Communities Across the Five Boroughs. The day-long kickoff event features speakers, roundtables, lightning talks and networking sessions. This year's keynote speaker will be Matt Knutzen, the Linda May Uris Director of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Divisions in the New York Public Library. The rest of the week will consist of a diverse selection of free workshops, demonstrations, and events hosted at a wide range of institutions across the city,

[Click here for more info](#)

Event Date: February 3-7, 2020

If you have any questions about the DLA, please contact us at dla@middlebury.edu.

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