

The Humanities in Our Lives



THE VALUE OF THE HUMANITIES ONLINE

Digital humanities allow scholars to see patterns they might otherwise miss, and make humanities materials available to the public in new ways. For instance, they have revealed that women wrote half of all published fiction in 1870, but only a quarter in 1970. They have documented the impact of Alzheimer's disease on the novels of Agatha Christie and Iris Murdoch, and mapped the social and intellectual links among key Enlightenment thinkers.

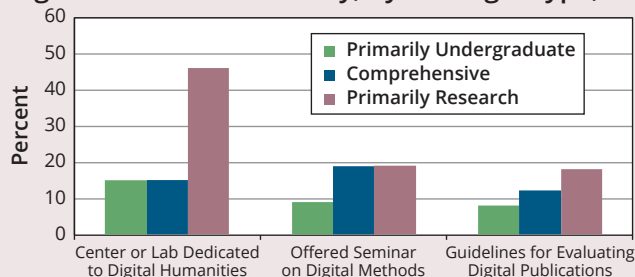
DIGITAL HUMANITIES

The information revolution has long been perceived as a boon for business, science, and technology, but it has also had a profound effect on the humanities. Stanford offers a famed online encyclopedia of philosophy with almost 1,600 entries; *Slate* magazine's animation of the Atlantic slave trade illustrates the trafficking of ten million human beings in two minutes; multimedia archives host the complete works of Shakespeare, Whitman, and Cather; while other websites allow readers to trace the evolution of texts such as Darwin's *Origin of Species* or Melville's *Typee*.

KEY FACTS

- Over 70 centers across the country foster research and projects rooted in digital humanities.
- A Fall 2012 survey found that a third of colleges offered at least one online course, and one in six offered courses in digital methods.

Share of Humanities Departments Engaged with Digital Humanities Activity, by Carnegie Type, 2012



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

At Cleveland State University, the department of history runs the **Center for Public History + Digital Humanities**. The Center pioneered a free mobile app called Cleveland Historical, which offers an interactive map of the city featuring walking tours and multimedia exhibits. In addition to promoting the city's history, the app draws visitors and promotes economic development by enriching tourists' experiences.

"The Center aspires to create rich collaborations with community partners and students in an effort to reimagine Cleveland as a place, and to reconnect the city's history to the history of the nation and the world."

The Center has also made the Cleveland Historical software, Curatescape, available to other communities and organizations worldwide.

The Humanities in Our Lives series (#HumInOurLives) highlights the many and diverse forms of humanities activities in the nation, and key facts about the health of the field.



For more on the broad trends that mark American engagement with various forms of the humanities, visit humanitiesindicators.org or email humanitiesindicators@amacad.org.