

Digital Humanities: A New Field

Digital humanities is a relatively new and still progressing approach to exploring cultures, histories, and other humanised fields with the help of digital devices. It mainly deals with “complex problems” through an accurate data model, which can be both quantitative and qualitative. To be specific, the line graph illustrates that the rise of google books slightly inspires the increase of digital use for humanities in the 1800s and a roar in the 1900s, reaching its peak in 2000. However, what the graph shows is not completely true since nowadays digital devices neither overweight nor replace humanities, from which we learn that accurate data may also tell a lie. The article “The Digital Humanities Moment” written by MATTHEW K. GOLD (2012) delineates how digital humanities initiates to become a field and the article in 2016 confirms that digital humanities have reached its goal to be a field. In 2019’s article, digital humanities tend to be more mature and comprehensive to “model our research” in academia.

Women Writers Project (WWP) is a project at Northeastern University based on long-term research which involves early women’s writings in English (1526-1850). It mainly collects electronic raw materials and less-known works, coping with complex issues in a corpus-based digital form. This digital project bridges academic research and teaching, theories and archive, and modes of digital representations. It also offers free and available published materials and resources for teaching to the public. More importantly, instead of subjectively interpreting literary works, the project provides digital research tools to objectively conduct close text analysis, which not only raises new research methods but also provides an “unparalleled view of women’s literate culture in the early modern period”. I find this project quite

comprehensive as it involves both literary texts and abundant essays, sample syllabi, suggested assignments and experimental tools, confirming its relationship between academic research and teaching.