Ray Siemens(@RayS6): Understanding and Responding to (Inter)Disciplinary Change

"Do you mind if I'm informal ?" ...Bearded guy from Canada ;)

1. Humanities 2.0

has some resonance in Nothern america, cf papier by Davidson : promise, perils, predictions of humanities 2.0, PMLA, vol. 23/3: http://fredgibbs.net/courses/digital-history/readings/Davidson-Humanities2.pdf

Series of article of the New York Times under the label "Humanities 2.0" : http://topics.nytimes.com/top/features/books/series/humanities_20/index.html

Big tent version of DH...

2. Envisioning the Digital humanities

R. Siemens presents a general overview of DH fields of application (humanities disciplines, various digital techniques, etc.) and international organisations (ADHO, NEDIMAH, ALLC, etc)

Difficulty to draft an all-encompassing definition

https://twitter.com/GrandjeanMartin/status/349865640171020290

Ref: S. Schreibman, R. Siemens, j. Unsworth, A companion to Digital Humanities, Blackwell, 2004. Online: http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/

Ref: S. Schreibman, R. Siemens, A companion to Digital Literary Studies, Blackwell, 2007. Online: http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companionDLS/

3. Defining & determining actionable model

Manifesto style thinking is difficult to implement... But is there a need for a specific disciplinarity?

https://twitter.com/tla/status/349865219222290432

https://twitter.com/pauldoshea/status/349867141501157376

https://twitter.com/frederickaplan/status/349866970662973440

Steps that could be taken :

Mapping the methods : Mapping the methodological commons onto extent structures around us => to bridge what's important (https://twitter.com/xaentenza/status/349868167453085700)

4. Engaging key trends

Future is hard to predicts, but we can look at the directings it seems to be going

- Content modeling of data (representation)

- Process modeling with tools (analysis)

- Communication / dissemination

- Access to large data - in usable formats

- Crowdsourcing -> [comment]: Crowdsourcing is a largely myth. Successfull crowdsourcing projects like Wikipedia or Transcribe Bentham rely on a very limited number of very productive and dedicated users. Ask a million to

- More softwares, and easier to use

Willard Mc Carty, The "methodological commons":
http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/368/1925/3779/F1.large.jpg

5. Responses ?

Institutionnaly, administrative and community changes as consequences of DH

This could result in some reluctances against DH because it implies all these changes

Example of good practices:

etcl.uvic.ca: http://etcl.uvic.ca/

dhsi.org: http://www.dhsi.org/

The future of the book of the perspective of its past: inke.ca: http://inke.ca/

6. Discussion

Discussion about the wordcloud Prof. Siemens showed in his lecture (wordle done on a MIT conference's abstract book texts, byt the organizers). Function words are gone, are kept only content words.

Top 50 is visualized.

Why are Library, Archive, and Museum absent ? Then the discussion switches to what is the algoritm beyond it ?

Some possible biais :

- you can talk about something without using the word.

- ?

Then what is the usefullness of such wordcould if the algorithm beyond it remains hidden ? Except being good looking. Digital is very big but what does it tell us ? Not much!

Remarque intéressante de Claire Lemercier : "Not as trivial as expected," ne pas se focaliser sur les éléments qui apparaissent évidemment au premier plan, mais s'intéresser aux marges.

Really interesting discussion, "very productive & engaging", "can only happen with digital humanists", says Prof Siemens \o/

https://twitter.com/squintar/status/349874587045072897

Outil alternatif conseillé sur Twitter : http://www.iramuteq.org/

Question from E: Pierrazzo: Is "Big Tent DH" a good or bad thing ? Are we dilluting our specificities ?

Siemens: Did DH stops where humanities stops ? or is the "big tent" bigger ?

Is the Merging of Social Sciences and the Humantities inevitable in the digital age (beyond the age of the book) ?