

Uncovering the socio-cultural contexts of the emergence of Digital Humanities and their enduring significance

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<http://archelogos.hypotheses.org/>

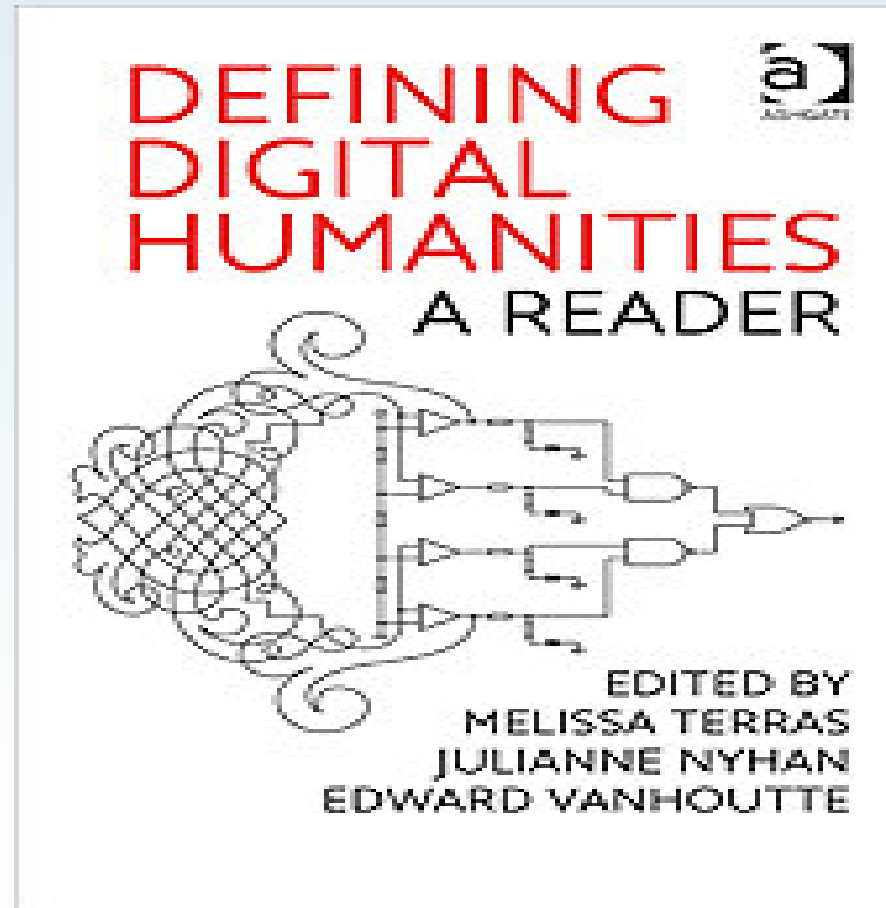
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dis/people/juliannenyhan>

Overview

- An overview of the Hidden Histories project
- Busa's punch card operatives
- Narrative of collaboration
- On the history of DH



Terras, Nyhan and Vanhoutte, 2014.
Defining Digital Humanities: A Reader.
Ashgate



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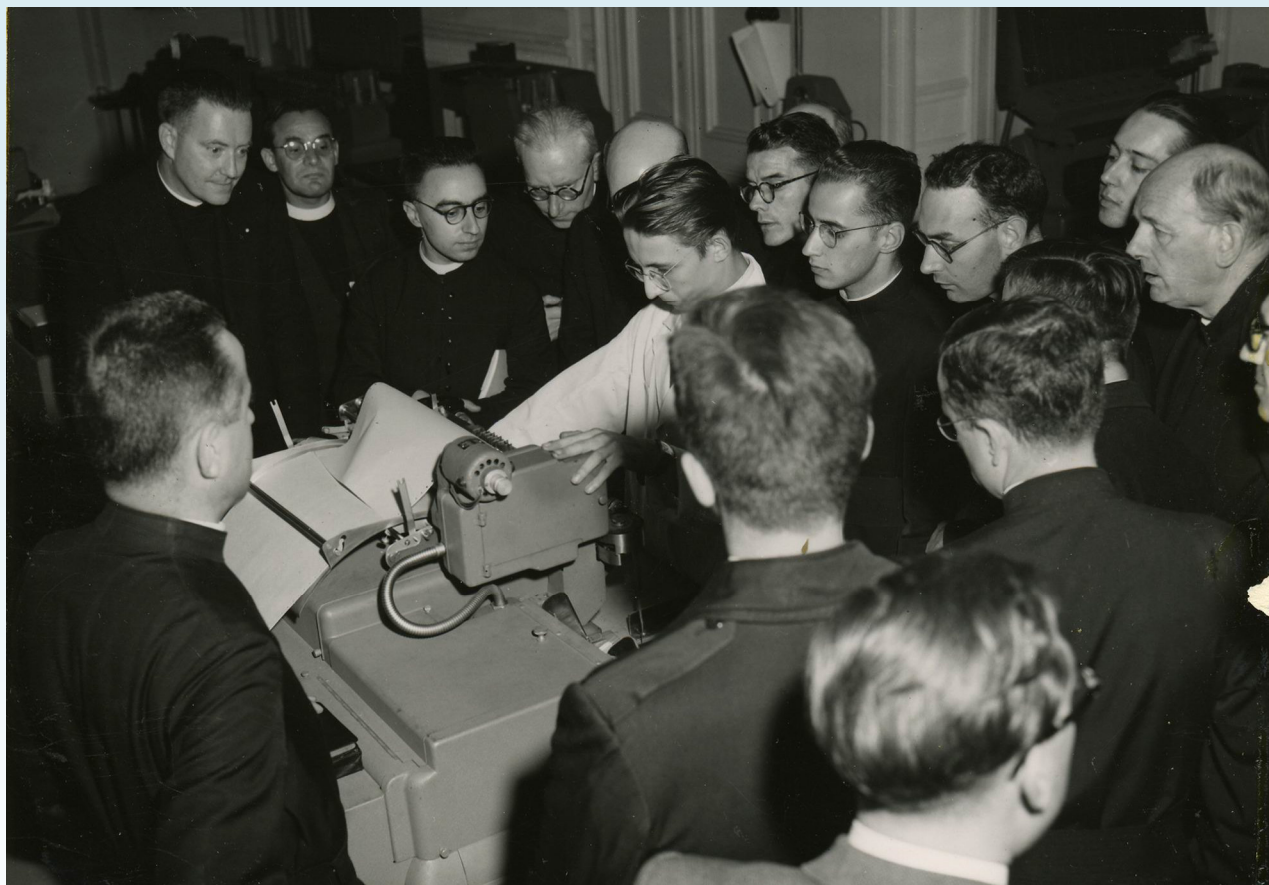
No. 0041



p. busa fotografato dai giornalisti americani alla partenza da ny il 5 ottobre 1956

05/10/56, NEW YORK.
Busa padre Rev. parte da
 N.Y. su "Independence"

Included with permission
 of the Università cattolica
 Library Archives, Milan



24/05/56 "Busa padre fr. S.J. (Italy) gives a demonstration of the mechanographic method which has been applied for the creation of the detailed word index of certain works of St. Thomas d'Aquin"

Questions and sources?

- Discovery?
- Symbolism & instruments?
- Transfer of knowledge (formal and informal)?
- Spaces of computing e.g. centres?
- Access to and allocation of resources?
- Reception, judgement, evaluation, identity?
- Parallels and divergences in ways of working and exchange and in the expression of creativity and novelty can be identified?
- And how have all these helped to shape the field of digital humanities (and computing in the Humanities) as it currently stands?

State of the art

←
Hockey
→

History of Humanities Computing

1.

The History of Humanities Computing

Susan Hockey

Introduction

Tracing the history of any interdisciplinary academic area of activity raises a number of basic questions. What should be the scope of the area? Is there overlap with related areas, which has impacted on the development of the activity? What has been the impact on other, perhaps more traditional, disciplines? Does a straightforward chronological account do justice to the development of the activity? Might there be digressions from this, which could lead us into hitherto unexplored avenues? Each of these questions could form the basis of an essay in itself but within the space and context available here, the approach taken is to present a chronological account which traces the development of humanities computing. Within this, the emphasis is on highlighting landmarks where significant intellectual progress has been made or where work done within humanities computing has been adopted, developed or drawn on substantially within other disciplines.

It is not the place of this essay to define what is meant by humanities computing. The range of topics within this

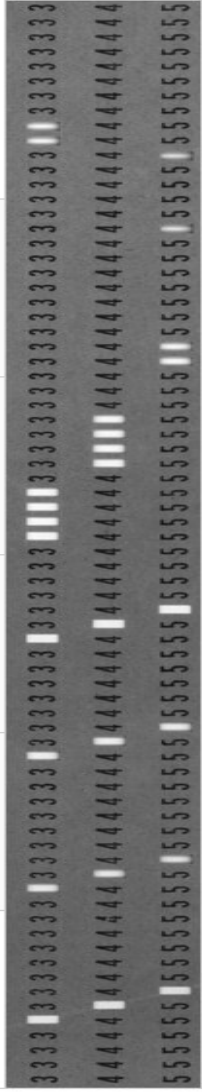
Hockey, Susan (2004). "The History of Humanities Computing". In Schreibman, S. et al. (eds.), *A Companion to Digital Humanities*. Oxford: Blackwell.

<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/>

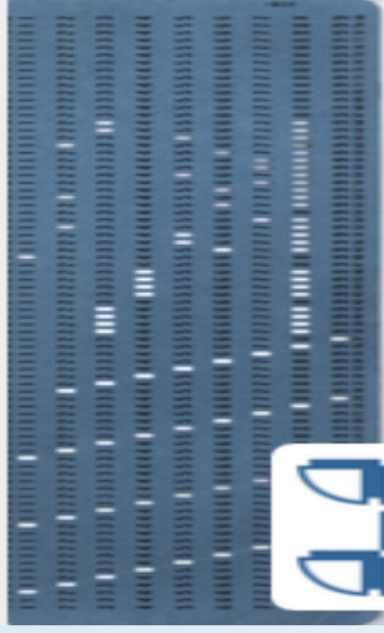
Hidden Histories pilot: aims

- Identify cohort of scholars working in the field between c.1949 and 1989 and unearth ‘hidden history’
- Focus is on individuals not projects or disciplines
- ‘Failed projects’ and brief appearances as important as shining successes
- Social and cultural conditions that shaped the early uptake and application of computing to the Humanities
 - Why did scholars want to use computers?
 - How did they train in the area?
 - With whom did they collaborate?
 - How did traditional scholars respond to their research?
 - How did DH scholars respond to their work?





Hidden Histories is a research project into the application of computational methods to the humanities during the period from 1949 to the present. The project conducts, collects and disseminates interviews with scholars and practitioners who were active during this period. Combining the interviews with archival data now



Hidden Histories

@dhhist

TWEETS 74
FOLLOWING 209
FOLLOWERS 103

Compose new Tweet...

Themes that emerged from the interviews ...







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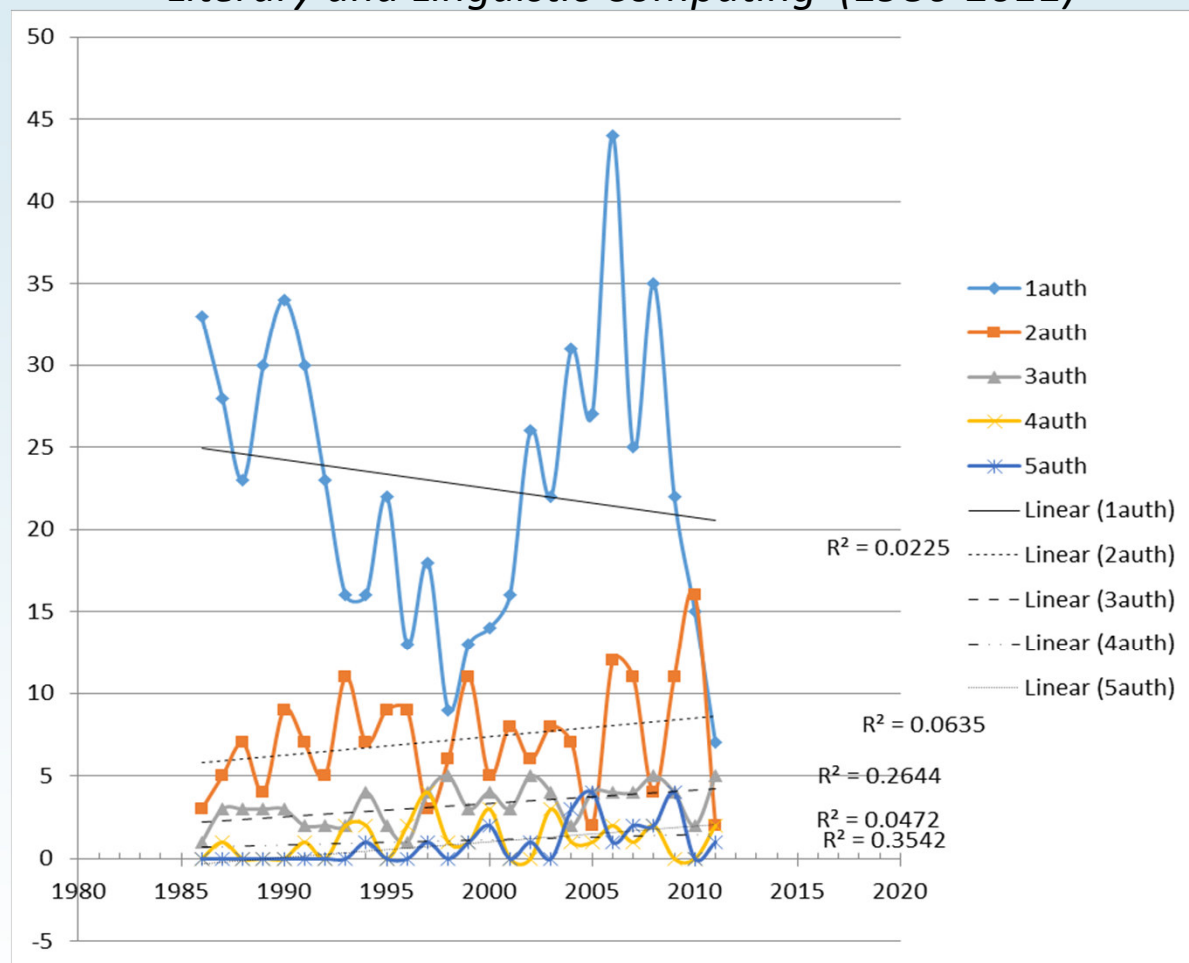


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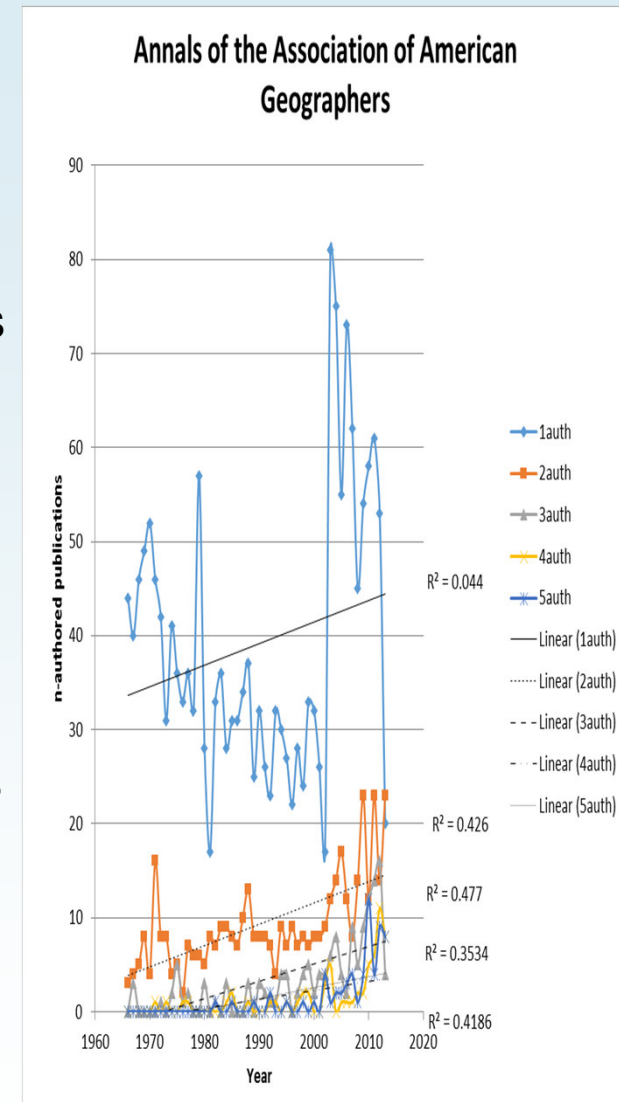
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Literary and Linguistic Computing (1986-2011)



See: *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 29:3 (open access article).

We proceeded by extracting and analysing the bibliographical metadata of Computers and the Humanities (CHum) (1966 – 2004); and LLC (1986-2011). Our control was the Annals of the Association of American Geographers (1966-2013), we chose this journal because it is a respected Geography journal that attracts a range of research, including research with technical applications or methodologies, for example GIS. Our findings were that two of the core journals we looked, **CHum and LLC, published predominately single-authored papers** during the indicated time-frames. In CHum we found a significant increase in dual and triple authored papers but not in four and five authored papers. In LLC we found a significant increase in triple authored papers but not in joint-authored, or four or five-authored papers.



Why do we need histories of DH?



- Auguste Toulmouche, Vanity 1890
<http://www.wikipaintinas.org/en/auguste-toulmouche/var>

Next steps

- Hopefully a book on the project to be published early next year
- Numerous interviews completed; many scheduled and more to schedule
- Publications in preparation
- Expansion into archival work (Busa archive)
Further analysis of interviews – focus on capture of “primary sources” for now