The Humanities and Open Scholarship in the Digital Era

Chad Gaffield, Ph.D. FRSC
President
Berlin 9 Open Access Conference
November 2011
Technology-driven age?

Rather, deep conceptual changes are being enabled, accelerated and influenced in iterative ways by digital technologies.
Re-imagining Higher Education in the Digital Age

• Education: From teaching content to acquiring content AND competencies = Learning (developing talent)
• Research: From increasing specialization to specialization AND contextualization = the Research T
• Innovation: From Technology Transfer to People-Centered Innovation = Engaged Scholarship
How the digital triangle is framing the 21st century

Digital Literacies

Digital Technologies

Digital Content
The Emergence of Digital SSH Scholarship in Canada

Examples:

• **1978:** Canadian Committee on History and Computing

• **1986:** COCH/COSH (Consortium for Computing in the Humanities) which became SDH/SEMI (Society for Digital Humanities/Société pour l'étude des médias interactifs).
First steps at SSHRC (beginning early 1990s): Research Data Policy

“All research data collected with the use of SSHRC funds must be preserved and made available for use by others within a reasonable period of time. SSHRC considers ‘a reasonable period’ to be within two years of the completion of the research project for which the data was collected.

The purpose of this policy is:

• To facilitate the advancement of knowledge in the social sciences and humanities by encouraging researchers to share research data

• Greater availability of research data will contribute to improved training for graduate and undergraduate students”
Public Funding = Public Good = Public Access
The Changing World of Scholarly Communication: Challenges and Choices for Canada

(November 1996)

A stark picture of the rising costs of academic journals
Digital ≠ Analog
“New information technologies represent one of the major impacts on humanities teaching and research. They also present an exciting opportunity for scholars, teachers and students to become informed partners and innovators.”

Working Group on the Future of the Humanities, SSHRC, September 2000
“...results of research produced by authors without expectation of payment...”

(2001)
The overall objectives of the Image, Text, Sound and Technology program are to:

- reflect on, interpret, and analyze new digital media, multimedia, and text-based computing technologies, and integrate these into humanities and social sciences research;

- bring together theorists, experimentalists, and technologists from different disciplines to share and nurture ideas and methods that challenge research to advance through the use of audio-visual and text-based technologies; and

- facilitate the creation of national and international networks of, and partnerships among, researchers, industries, governments, and individuals that will promote and sustain social sciences and humanities research and resources worldwide.”
Berlin Declaration 2003

To promote the internet as a medium for disseminating global knowledge

To accelerate the pace of scholarship and research
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SSHRC’S OPEN ACCESS POLICY

In October 2004 SSHRC adopted, in principle, a policy of open access that would guide the development of its research support programs.

Following consultations with the research community, SSHRC adopted in 2006 a three-part strategy:

1) awareness raising;

2) education;

3) promotional approach to Open Access.
Re-thinking the work of publishing:

Not printed journals, books, etc.

Rather, doing work as

1) Filter

2) Curator
New Approach to Funding Scholarly Journals (2006-2007)

“The value of the basic grant will be calculated on the basis of $850 for each approved, peer-reviewed scholarly article to be published during each year of the grant period.”
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“As part of the total grant value, up to $5,000 per annum may be requested for….transition costs, or those costs directly related to the transition to an electronic medium (the purchase of new computers, including software, costs related to the launch of a website, and staff training).”
SSHRC Journals Competition 2011: Business Models of Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Percentage of Applicants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Access</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Wall</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Access or Moving Wall</td>
<td>51.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subscription-Based</td>
<td>37.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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“Philosopher’s Imprint is an open-access philosophy journal from the University of Michigan. Its motto is, ‘Edited by philosophers, published by librarians.’”  

-Peter Suber, *Promoting Open Access in the Humanities.*

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1 Emphasis added. Can be accessed online at: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/writing/apa.htm
What-Who is the Filter?
Crowdsourcing the Icelandic constitution!

“In creating the new document, the council has been posting draft clauses on its website every week since the project launched in April. The public can comment underneath or join a discussion on the council's Facebook page.”

New Forms of Scholarly Engagement -
To enhance learning, research, and help make a better world
1. The public is interested in our topics! Therefore, the public has expectations about being able to read intelligently about what is written.

2. Our journals have higher rejection rates (70-90%) than science, technology and medical journals (20-40%)

3. Shelf life...

Special Features of the Social Sciences and Humanities
“...the following syllogism: (1) Scholars in the humanities sometimes use technical language. (2) I don’t understand it. (3) Therefore, they are ripping off both their students and the taxpayers...

Would she commit herself to the same claim about, say, kinesiologists, and their technical knowledge? Mathematicians?

– Stephen Siemon, Edmonton, Letter to the Editor, Globe and Mail, October 24th 2011
As part of our *Knowledge Mobilization Strategy*, SSHRC has made open access a priority.

SSHRC will:

• Facilitate and enable the accessibility and impact of research by *increasing and enhancing the flow of research knowledge* among researchers, and between researchers and knowledge users

• Improve research connections by *facilitating reciprocal relationships between researchers and knowledge users* for the (co-)creation and use of research knowledge

• Enhance the quality of knowledge mobilization by *developing networks, tools and best practices*
Welcome to the HCI-Book Strategic Research Cluster

Our work aims to foster the further understanding of the significance of digital and analog books and their role in humanities scholarship. We are very grateful that a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) research cluster award made possible the preliminary work presented on the website.

Research questions

Key questions to be addressed include:

- What do we really know about the ways in which we interact with new texts that replace the print artifact and re-present to us the knowledge and experience of the past, as well as deliver the direct-to-digital record of the present?
- How do we understand the ways in which we interact with these knowledge objects, and the information they contain?
- How do we understand the impact that the confluence of media formats in these digital objects has on our use of them, such that we may best facilitate interaction with the new digital artifact?

HCI-Book members

The HCI-Book group is comprised of researchers and stakeholders at the forefront of computing in the humanities, text analysis, information studies, usability and interface design. The network is led by Canadian scholars, but includes members from the USA and the UK. It is comprised of those who are best-poised to understand the nature of the human record as it intersects with the computer. Our work is divided into four key research groupings: reader studies, information management, interface design and textual studies.

Key research objectives

The working group will begin to identify the central issues relating to the digitization of the human record and to act on that identification, to the end of:

- understanding and describing the basic principles of humanistic interaction with knowledge objects (digital and analog alike)
- articulating core strategies for the design of humanistic knowledge objects, especially electronic books, based on this understanding
- suggesting basic principles necessary for evaluating and implementing current technologies, and exploring future ones.

Further information

For information about the HCI-Book Research Group beyond this website, please contact Dr. Ray Siemens (lastname at uvic dot ca), at the University of Victoria.

The text presented on this website was edited by Vika Zafrin, with Alan Galey.
Implementing New Knowledge Environments

A Project Funded by the SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Program

The INKE group is comprised of researchers and stakeholders at the forefront of computing in the humanities, text analysis, information studies, usability and interface design. The network is led by Canadian scholars, but includes members from the USA and the UK. It is comprised of those who are best-poised to understand the nature of the human record as it intersects with the computer. Our work is divided into four key research groupings: textual studies, user experience, interface design, and information management.

INKE began as HCl-Book: Human-Computer Interface and the Electronic Book, a Strategic Research Cluster supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). We have just received a grant from SSHRC's Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Program.

Our team

*Project leader:* Ray Siemens (U Victoria); *Section leaders:* Richard Cunningham (Acadia U), Teresa Dobson (U British Columbia), Alan Galey (U Toronto), Stan Ruecker (U Alberta), Susan Schreibman (Irish Academy), Claire Warwick (UC London)

*Researchers:* Michael Best (U Victoria), Ann Blandford (UC London), Lynn Copeland (Simon Fraser U), James Cummings (U Oxford), Wendy Duff (U Toronto), Michael Eberle-Sinatra (U Montréal), Janet Fast (U Alberta), Julia Flanders (Brown U), Christopher Fletcher (U Alberta), Dominic Forest (U Montréal), David Gants (U Florida), Bertrand Gervais (U du Québec à Montréal), Matthew Kirschenbaum (U Maryland), Richard Kopak (U British Columbia), Pierre Lévy (U Ottawa), Alan Liu (U California at Santa Barbara), Karon Maclean (U British Columbia), Shawn Martin (U Pennsylvania), David Miall (U Alberta), Brent Nelson (U Saskatchewan), Marc Plamondon (Nipissing U), Milena Radzikowska (Montreal C), Geoffrey Rockwell (U Alberta), Lynne Siemens (U Victoria), Stéfan Sinclair (McMaster U), Christian Vandendorpe (U Ottawa), Joséé Vincent (U de Sherbrooke), Paul Werstine (King's UC, U Western Ontario), John Willinsky (Stanford U and U British Columbia), Matthew Zimmerman (Irish Academy)

Our partners

“TAPoR is a gateway to tools for sophisticated analysis and retrieval, along with representative texts for experimentation.

Features of TAPoR
- Manage electronic texts
- Experiment with online text tools
- Learn about digital textuality”
“Words move differently now, through semi-conductors, across screens, at lightning speed, and in vast quantities.”
What is the CRKN?

The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) is a partnership of Canadian universities, dedicated to expanding digital content for the academic research enterprise in Canada.

Read more...

April Board Meeting Recap

In this issue:

- License renewal update
- License cost-sharing
- Perpetual Access Task Group

Read more...

News

CRKN LIM Wins 2011 CACUL Innovation Achievement Award

CRKN Introduces Craig Olsvik


CRKN Establishes National Agreement with Canadian Science Publishing

Events

- 2011 AGM, Gatineau, Quebec October 4-5
- April 13, 2011 1:00 EDT - CRKN OpenLine on the Canadian Access Federation
- 2010 AGM, Winnipeg, Manitoba September 14-15, 2010 - More ➤
Project Bamboo is building applications and shared infrastructure for humanities research.

Learn more

ABOUT PROJECT BAMBOO

Project Bamboo is now in its first, 18-month phase of technology development. By Spring 2012 we will deliver three things. First, research environments for humanities scholars. Second, behind the scenes infrastructure allowing librarians and technologists to better support humanities scholarship across institutions. And third, a blueprint for the next phase of the Bamboo Technology Project, focusing on the evolution of shared applications for the curation and exploration of widely distributed content collections. Working concurrently with the Technology Project, there is an effort to build a community to ensure that Project Bamboo work is expanded and sustained over time.

- TWITTER

Bamboo will support the opening up of scholarship & scalable reading through digital means by @seth_denbo @fraistat
http://t.co/dJFiLOQb 6 days ago

Read about how Bamboo DIRT is connecting scholars with tools & collections from @quinnanya
Percentage of students identifying Apple or Google in their top 5 preferred places to work

Source: Globecampus.ca
• "We are going through a period of unbelievable growth and will be hiring about 6,000 people this year - and probably 4,000-5,000 from the humanities or liberal arts."

• Marissa Mayer, Vice-President of Consumer Products, Google
If you can’t believe the data, how can you believe the analytics?

CFO, Healthcare
A ‘New Digital Class’ Digs Into Data

December 4, 2009, 2:03 pm

By Jennifer Howard

Fifty-three thousand 18th-century letters. Twenty-three thousand hours of digitized world music. The records of more than 97,000 individual trials held in Britain over 240 years. What can humanities scholars and social scientists do with such large tracts of raw material? This year the Digital Humanities ‘class’ submit proposals for big-scale, computational inquiry.”

On Thursday...

The Humanities with Heavy Iron

Digging into data in new ways

14 June 2010

What do you do with a million books? Or a million newspaper pages? Or a million art images? Scholars now have access to huge repositories of digitised data - far more than they could read in a lifetime. And yet the way researchers access these documents is still based on the relatively linear process of searching for specific data like keywords, names, events, places or dates. Once the user has entered such a search term they are presented with a list of hits to scan and choose from.

While accelerating the speed of research, such searching does not permit the humanities scholars to make use of the large scale of data that is now available.
“Agatha Christie likely suffered from Alzheimer’s”

“Research by U of T professors Ian Lancashire and Graeme Hirst has garnered top spot in the N.Y. Times’ 9th Annual Year in Ideas.”
Building Upon Diverse Ways of Knowing
“A genius for mixing the humanities and sciences.”

-Walter Isaacson, Steve Jobs
“...The intersection of the humanities and science... There’s something magical about that place.”

Steve Jobs
(as quoted in Isaacson, Steve Jobs)
The Research T
Canada’s major public funding agencies make investments in research and research training for the benefit of all Canadians, and the world. New knowledge and insights gained through research provide solutions to many of the issues most important to Canadians:

- To improve the quality of our environment and health;
- Enhance public safety and security;
- Develop sound public policies;
- Understand human experience and the complexity of our relations across cultures, languages, religions and histories;
- Protect endangered species; advance economic prosperity; and so on.

As such, research agencies have a fundamental interest in ensuring that the results of the research they fund are disseminated as widely as possible...

There is a growing number of examples that illustrate how open access to research data and publications have contributed to advances in knowledge. Open access publications are used and cited more widely by other researchers. In relation to the wider community, open access contributes to the ‘informed citizen’ and ‘informed consumer’. In addition, there is a growing body of evidence that open access would result in significant economic benefits at the national level as well...

"Comprehensive Brief on Open Access to Publications and Research Data for the Federal Granting Agencies, June 2011, p. 3"
“On a scale ranging from extremely interdisciplinary to exclusively disciplinary, how would you characterize your research?”

Source: 2008 web survey, SSH faculty, Science-Metrix
WHAT THE INTERNET IS DOING TO OUR BRAINS

THE SHALLOWSS

Nicholas Carr

AUTHOR OF THE BIG SWITCH

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD
Over to you!

Thank You

À vous la parole!

Merci