

Associations, Conferences, Discussion Groups/Blogs, Journals, Software/Tools

Because most of the innovative digital projects in the humanities “speak” for themselves (once you access them online), the following chapter essentially identifies the various types of digital projects under the appropriate category headings (listed in the title of this chapter) and includes a brief description of each project.

Associations

Association for Computers in the Humanities (ACH)

www.ach.org

The international **Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH)** is the major professional organization for people that work in computer-aided research in the humanities, specifically in the analysis and manipulation of text-based materials but also in philosophy, literature and language studies, and history, among others. The group’s Web site provides access to the organization’s events, subcommittee information, and administrative structure as well as to ACH’s conference abstracts, jobs’ page, affiliated organizations, and its publications.

Association for Literacy and Linguistic Computing (ALLC)

www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/allc

The **Association for Literacy and Linguistic Computing (ALLC)** was founded in 1973 to assist the field of computing in the study of literature and language. ALLC’s Web portal provides access to the group’s administrative structure, education and research information, its publications and reports, conference information, and related organizations.

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)

www.aclweb.org

The **Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)** is an international society for those involved in natural language processing and computation. Access to conference information, publications, an e-print archive, and a software registry are some of the services provided through ACL’s Web site.

National Initiative for Networked Cultural Heritage

www.ninch.org

The NINCH Guide to Good Practice in the Digital Representation & Management of Cultural Heritage Materials

www.nyu.edu/its/humanities/ninchguide

NINCH, or the **National Initiative for Networked Cultural Heritage**, is a coalition of arts, humanities, and social science organizations created to provide leadership in the digital environment for the cultural community. The *NINCH Guide to Good Practice in the Digital Representation & Management of Cultural Heritage Materials* is available online, along with information on the group’s active role in sponsoring workshops, town meetings, and other activities in relation to NINCH’s mission statement.

Text Encoding Initiative

www.tei-c.org

Perhaps the defining achievement and, indeed, the driving force behind much of contemporary humanities computing, the **Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)** was one

of the first well-defined metadata standards. Its purpose was/is to facilitate the encoding of literary texts for display and research on the Internet. It has evolved from a group of dedicated individuals to a consortium of individual and organizational members, which oversees the maintenance of the standard.

The Modern Language Association

www.mla.org

The Modern Language Association Language Map

www.mla.org/census_main

The **Modern Language Association (MLA)** is one of the oldest professional organizations in the humanities. MLA's Web site features a very innovative interactive map of the United States, which provides linguistic and cultural composition of the specific US regions. Based on the 2000 census, the Modern Language Association Language Map enables users to zoom in on very specific geographic regions, cities, and places within the United States in order to access, compare, and manipulate data available on language and language groups. The map is also education-based, and it provides resources for both teachers and students to "play" with the information.

Conferences

ACH/ALLC Joint Conference

<http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/achallc2005>

ACH/ALLC: The Joint Conferences

www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/allc/refdocs/conf.htm

ACH Archive of Joint ACH/ALLC Conferences

www.ach.org/ACH_Archive.shtml

The **ACH/ALLC Conference**—a jointly sponsored event by the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) and the Association for Literacy and Linguistic Computing (ALLC)—is held annually. The Web site for the 2005 conference provides access to past conference portals, some of which provide access to abstracts and papers. Access to a clickable map showing the locations of these joint conferences is also available online (ACH/ALLC: The Joint Conferences). ACH also maintains its own site to provide users access to information about the jointly sponsored conference (ACH Archive of Joint ACH/ALLC Conferences).

Digital Resources in the Humanities

www.drh.org.uk

A series of annual conferences held in the United Kingdom, **Digital Resources in the Humanities (DRH)** focuses on bringing together various constituencies and creators of digital resources in the humanities. The DRH Web site provides access to previous conferences (back to

1996), and a listing of various humanities organizations and university research groups (that support the conference) are provided at the bottom of the first Web page on the DRH site.

Museums and the Web

www.archimuse.com/conferences/mw.html

Organized by Archives & Information Informatics, **Museums and the Web** is an international conference specifically geared toward museum professionals. States the conference Web site: "Since the appearance of the first museum Web sites, hundreds of museums have established a presence on the World Wide Web. Museums have much to learn from each other and from developers using the Web for other applications. To facilitate this exchange of information, Archives & Museum Informatics organizes an annual international conference devoted exclusively to Museums and the Web." The Museums and the Web portal includes hyperlinks to its past conferences, back to 1997.

Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI)

www.ecai.org

ECAI Features Projects

<http://ecai.org/projects/projectexamples.asp>

The **Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI)** sponsors twice-yearly conferences around the world for its members. ECAI's focus is on creating digital maps for cultural materials, using place and time as a common element.

ECAI maintains a clearinghouse/interactive world map catalog of projects on historical and archaeological resources. The organization's Web site has a "Featured Products" page, which also links to other projects that links to the *TimeMap*[™] infrastructure/software. Users can find a listing of ECAI projects online, many of which may be considered innovative, but the author wasn't able to evaluate any of these projects in detail.

Discussion Groups and Blogs

This next group of innovative digital projects in the humanities includes online discussion groups (which can include listservs) as well as the well-publicized personal (at least in its infancy) publishing vehicle, the "Web blog" (or, as the medium is called most commonly, the "blog").

Humanist Listserv

www.princeton.edu/~mccarty/humanist

The **Humanist** discussion group/listserv is the best known and most familiar to most humanists engaged in computer-based research and experimentation. Subscription (which is free) information is available at the Humanist Web portal.

Virtual Humanities Lab

www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/vhl

Hosted by Brown University's Italian Studies Department, the blog **Virtual Humanities Lab** provides access to virtual new media, other Web blogs in the humanities, a categories section that links to various important projects and topics in the digital humanities, and is basically a Web portal for new media and digital humanities.

H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online

www.h-net.org

H-Net Discussion Lists

www.h-net.org/lists

H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online is one of the major Web portals for listservs, discussion groups, and information in the humanities on the Internet. There are discussion groups in just about every area of the humanities (i.e., Teaching and Study of African Literature and Cinema, Appalachian History and Studies, Buddhist Scholars Information Network), and more are being formed all the time. The Web site contains instructions for starting a new network, how to subscribe, and what an editor of a discussion group needs to do.

Interdisciplines

www.interdisciplines.org

Interdisciplines is a Web site for interdisciplinary research in the humanities and provides users with a formal and informal venue for discussion on a variety of topics. The site's administrators and/or users usually have a current topic chosen for discussion, and anyone can read through and comment on the discussion at any time. The conversation/content is available in both English and French.

Bouzou: Tracing Humans on the Web

www.bouzou.com

Bouzou provides a very interesting and visual approach for a Web site in the humanities. Since the left-hand column provides access to meta-blog Web sites as well as other interesting humanities blogs, it also functions as a blog portal. Bouzou is a must-see for anyone interested in new media in conjunction with blog technology.

Spaceless: Life Online

www.spaceless.com

Spaceless is a community Web site that offers chat, news, links, directories, games, free email, lifestyle links, search, and more. It serves as a kind of interactive community gathering spot. Unfortunately, routine error messages kept popping up when I was clicking on hyperlinks, but otherwise Spaceless offers a unique approach to community on the Web. The humanities hub

under "Directories" provides users access to various Web resources in the humanities.

Journals

All journals listed are available online, unless otherwise noted.

Computers and the Humanities Online Journal

<http://kapis.www.wkap.nl/kapis/CGI-BIN/WORLD/journalhome.htm?0010-4817>

Access to the official journal of the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH), **Computers and the Humanities**, was not possible when the author tried to access the journal, however, many humanities Web portals have hyperlinks to the ACH online publication.

Literary and Linguistic Computing Online Journal

<http://llc.oupjournals.org>

Access to **Literary and Linguistic Computing**, the official journal of the Association for Literacy and Linguistic Computing (ALLC), may require a subscription, since it is available through Oxford Journals Online.

Artdaily: The First Art Newspaper on the Net

www.artdaily.com

The fantastic Web site, **www.artdaily.com**, dubbed the first "art newspaper on the Web," was established in 1996. A graphics-heavy site, it provides full-color images and breaking news stories on events in the art world.

One section to check out is the "Digital Art" page, where passing the cursor over the individual Web page images on the page brings up the individual sites' URLs in your browser's bottom tool bar (when viewed in Internet Explorer and Firefox). Another part of this project to take a look at is the "3D Images" page, which provides access to 3D visualizations (360-degree views of images) of works of art, sculpture, and architecture, including the Lincoln Memorial (Washington, D.C.), the Coliseum (Rome), and Big Ben (London).

History Compass Online Journal

www.history-compass.com

A new electronic history journal published by Blackwell, **History Compass**, provides an innovative, interactive, and fun to navigate historical information. The first page of the online journal's portal states, "[*History Compass*] is designed to help all academics and advanced students involved in the teaching and research of history to do the following: teach in a new or unfamiliar area; keep up with developments in your own field and areas related to it; and ensure that students are exposed only to quality-controlled online content (as opposed to unvalidated content from search engines)."

History Compass comprises of peer-reviewed survey articles commissioned by editors; a reference collection with full-text PDF printable files and other materials; and a current awareness section with various journals' tables of content (abstracts provided), book reviews, and information about recent history books.

In terms of navigation, the Web site content is divided into nine geographical sections: Africa, Asia, Australasia, Britain/Ireland, Caribbean and Latin America, Europe, Near and Middle East, North America, and World. In addition, there's an interactive timeline the user can also click on to navigate the journal's content on the Web.

Overall, this project is an interesting and, indeed, a unique way to present and provide access to content. Although the site indicates a subscription is required to access content (based on FTE), I was able to access quite a bit of content for free. Truly a Web humanities explorer's dream!

Echo: A Music-Centered Journal

www.humnet.ucla.edu/echo/splashflash.html

Echo comprises a twenty-first century approach for a humanities journal to provide content and interactive materials, yet it still provides the basic structure and "feel" of an online journal. *Echo* uses and provides access to: sound clips, film clips, and images, on which its various articles provide comment. The portal features both a splash page and a main page.

The article in v. 3, issue 1: "We Thank the Technology Goddess: Gamelan, Techno-Primitivism, and the San Francisco Rave Scene," via streaming video, takes the reader/viewer into the San Francisco rave scene even before beginning the article.

Using new tools and technology, *Echo* is an innovative and new approach for presenting music scholarship and is truly fun to explore.

Arts & Letters Daily Online Newspaper

www.aldaily.com

A service to the *Chronicles of Higher Education*, **Arts & Letters Daily** is a portal for current news stories in the arts and humanities. It provides access to news items and information in the areas of aesthetics, philosophy, language, literature, ideas, criticism, culture, history, music, art, trends, breakthroughs, disputes, and gossip.

On its home page, *Arts & Letters Daily* presents short news lines, or story introductions, that link to the full text of news stories published by various online publishers and media entities, such as the United Kingdom-based the *Guardian Unlimited*, the online "global" magazine *openDemocracy*, and the *Washington Post*. The site's left-hand navigation bar also provides direct access to the home (or main) pages of major newspapers and news agencies around the world.

Chorus: Exploring New Media in the Arts and Humanities

www-writing.berkeley.edu/chorus/index_archived

Sponsored by the College Writing Programs at the University of California, **Chorus** features books reviews, bibliographies, annotated links to new media resources, original research, and content with Shockwave software demonstrations.

This online journal provides an innovative and interesting approach to presenting humanities content that involves student and teacher interaction and research.

(Re)Soundings: A Peer-Reviewed Hypermedia Periodical

<http://marauder.millersville.edu/~resound>

(Re)Soundings is a peer-reviewed interactive, hypermedia periodical in the humanities. It includes audio, video, and image files along with scholarly articles.

Software/Tools

Text Analysis Info—Information Retrieval Software

www.textanalysis.info/inforet

Text Analysis Info is a major portal for freely available software utilized for text analysis. Featured software includes: AnyText; Ask Sam 5.1; ATA—Ashton Text Analyzer (WinATA Mark 2); Concordance 3.0; DBT 3.1—Data Base Testuale; Eric Johnson's programs; KURA 1.0; LEXA 7.0—Corpus Processing Software; Microconcord; MicroOCP—Oxford Concordance Package; MonoConc Pro 2.0; Phrase Context 1.02; Sonar 6.0 (Windows)/12 (MacOS) Text Retrieval/Document Management Systems; TACT 2.1.5—Text Analysis Computing Tools; Textalyzer, Textstat 2.1; and WordSmith 4.0.

The home page provides important information about other resources available through this site.

TextArc

www.textarc.org

TextArc is software that provides a visual representation of a text (twice) on a single Web page. The site indicates it is a combination of a concordance, summary, and index all in one, and it provides access to the "interactive" texts of *Hamlet* and *Alice in Wonderland*. In addition, the entire collection of Project Gutenberg has been linked up to the software, so the user can represent "visually" anything contained in that project with the software.

By a streaking colored line moving throughout the "arc" of the text, the software follows the plot line of the story, providing the user with a fascinating new way to "see" relationships, characters, drama, etc., as the story

progresses. In addition, there are some static screen images, and there's also access to other content related to the software—all of it freely available to anyone with a computer and Internet connection. This is definitely a digital project in the humanities to explore!

Digital Access to Books of the Renaissance

www.comp.lancs.ac.uk/computing/research/cseg/projects/debora/set.html

The paper, “**Digital Access to Books of the Renaissance**” (DEBORA), describes a unique piece of client software, which was developed to assist working scholars with digitized Renaissance books and manuscripts. This European Union Telematics for Libraries project paper also provides links to other articles and papers on similar topics.

Assistant for Philological Exploration

<http://philo.de/apel>

Assistant for Philological Exploration (APE) is a freely available computer program designed to assist in the interpretation and exploration of larger text *corpora*. The Web site provides a description of the software, access to various downloads, and mailing lists for APE users and developers.

Timeline Creator

<http://timeline.cer.jhu.edu>

Timeline Creator, software available through Johns Hopkins University, helps individuals with minimal multimedia experience create individual interactive timelines for teaching or presentation purposes. The interactive timelines can be published on the World Wide Web or displayed directly from a computer.

The tool's home page says the interface can display up to six simultaneous timelines to compare and contrast various “events” with descriptive text and digital images.

Virtual Lightbox

www.mith2.umd.edu/products/lightbox

Virtual Lightbox is a tool that assists humanities scholars in comparing images online. Software developed by the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), Virtual Lightbox is available as both an application version and an applet version.

Touch and Turn

www.touchandturn.com

Touch and Turn software, freely available for download for use on one computer, allows the user to access interactive digitized books and manuscripts from a virtual library. One must register to access and download

the digitized objects for viewing. Once registered, though, the user is able to view, even “turn the pages” of these digitized objects.

The download does not appear to allow the user to access all of the features of the software (e.g., I could not get the “magnify” function to work), and I could not find information on the company's Web site regarding purchasing a fully enabled software version. The digitized manuscripts can be purchased as CD-ROMs. Overall, Touch and Turn is a fun, interactive software product to explore.

Echo: Exploring & Collecting History Online—Science, Technology & Industry

<http://echo.gmu.edu>; http://echo.gmu.edu/toolcenter-wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page; <http://chnm.gmu.edu/tools>

Exploring & Collecting History Online (Echo), produced by the Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, provides access to a number of tools to assist those that are trying to build online history projects.

Scholar's Box

<http://interactiveu.berkeley.edu:8000/IU/SB>

Scholar's Box, available through the University of California, Berkeley's Interactive University Project, attempts to translate commonplace teacher practices into the digital environment. Scholar's Box is available as either Web-based or desktop-based software, but it does not appear to be available for download from the Web site.

MediaMatrix

<http://matrix.msu.edu/digital.php>

MediaMatrix, software developed at Michigan State University's Center for Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online, is currently in a beta version that does not appear to be available for download. It supposedly allows the user to manipulate streaming media content on the Internet for personal and teaching purposes.

Greenstone Digital Library Software

www.greenstone.org

Greenstone Digital Library Software is an open source, multilingual software product that has become one of the success stories of freely available software. It assists users in building and distributing digital library collections. Many companies, libraries, and individuals have used Greenstone to build and display digital libraries on the Internet. The Web site provides examples, documents, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and support information.