History of the Digital Humanities

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As far as I’m concerned, computers have as much to do with literature as space travel, perhaps much less.

Harold Bloom (Sterling Professor of Humanities at Yale University), *The Paris Review* (1991)
SAY “DIGITAL HUMANITIES”

ONE MORE GODDAMN TIME.
Overview: Rise of Digital Humanities

- **1980s**
  - Documents of human culture available only in original media or print reproduction:
    - Books, art, maps, ancient documents, museum artifacts, newspapers

- **2000s**
  - 2002 Google Books begins (20,000,000 books)
  - 2002 ARTstor begins (1.5 million images)
  - Digitization of print and physical objects makes computational analysis of cultural objects possible
Early Humanities Computing

- Textual Sources Dominate
  - Literature, Linguistics, History, Classics
- Areas of emphasis
  - Concordances
  - Author Attribution
  - Critical Editions
Humanities Computing, 1949-1970

- Begins 1949
  - Roberto Busa begins index of words in works of Thomas Aquinas and related authors
    - 11 million words of medieval Latin
    - Lemmatized index
  - Works with IBM
Humanities Computing, 1949-1970

- Punch cards
- Software concordance program
- Semi-automated
- 1st volume: 1974
Humanities Computing, 1949-1970

- Hand input punch cards, paper tape, magnetic tape
- Character-set problems: eclectic solutions for caps, accents
- Citations—need to indicate document structure
  - Line and page numbers
- COCOA concordance program
Humanities Computing, 1949-1970

- Quantitative Approaches to Style
  - Word Frequency and Author Attribution
    - Hand-counted before computing
  - Andrew Morton, 1963, St Paul's epistles
  - Mosteller and Wallace, 1964, Federalist Papers
Humanities Computing, 1949-1970

- Consolidation
- Tape to disk storage
- Relational databases
- 1960: Canada Geographic Information System (CGIS)
  - Mainframe system
Humanities Computing, 1949-1970

- Major professional associations founded
  - Association for Computing in the Humanities,
  - Assoc. for Literary and Linguistics Computing
  - Assoc. of Computers and Literature

- Arrival of packaged software solutions

- First courses on humanities computing
  - Simpler SNOBAL, rather than Fortran
Humanities Computing, 1970-1985

- New emphasis on archiving and maintaining electronic texts
  - Oxford Text Archive, 1976

- Advent of classics research archives
  - *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, UC Irvine
    - 70 million words
    - All classical Greek authors
  - Classical Latin, Packard Humanities Institute

- Unrivaled in other disciplines
Humanities Computing, 1985-1993

- Advent of PC
- New DOS-based text analysis programs
  - Search function replaces concordance
- 1986, Mapping Display and Analysis System (MIDAS)
- Mac advantage
  - Graphical interface displayed non-standard characters
  - HyperCard program
    - Add linguistic and textual annotations to text
Humanities Computing, 1985-1993

- **Text Encoding Initiative**
  - 1986: SGML
    - Different types of texts, data and metadata, document structure
  - 1987: Vassar College meeting
    - Individuals from ACH (founded 1978)
    - Establish standard encoding scheme of electronic texts
  - Steering committee from ACH, ALLC, ACL
  - TEI Guidelines, May 1994
Humanities Computing, 1985-1993

- **TEI**
  - Categorize and define all features of texts relevant to scholars
  - 400 specified tags
  - Extensible

- Adopted by the first full-text digital libraries

- The original JPEG group was organized in 1986
  - First JPEG standard 1992
Humanities Computing, 1993-2005

- WWW and Mosaic 1993
- Decentralized Production and Publication
- Digital imaging
  - Art History
- Multimedia
  - Musicology, Film Studies
- Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS, 1999)
Humanities Computing, 1993-2005

- New major digital text and image archives
  - Women Writers Project (Indiana U)
  - Rossetti Archive (U Virginia)
  - William Blake Archive (UNC Chapel Hill)

The William Blake Archive

- **Works in the Archive**
  
  Works by Blake: Illuminated books, drawings, paintings, engravings, and more.

- **What's New in the Archive**
  
  The latest news of work completed, work in progress, recent presentations, etc.

- **Search**
  
  Search for text (work titles, keywords, etc.) and images.

- **About Blake**
  
  Biography by Denise Valose with the Archive editors, Glossary by Alexander S. Gourlay, Chronology, and Illuminated Painting by Joseph Viscardi.

- **Resources for Further Research**
  

- **About the Archive**
  
  Archive at a Glance, Editorial Principles, About the Editors, Standard References and Abbreviations, Plan of the Archive, Frequently Asked Questions, Technical Summary, Articles about the Archive, Contributing Collections, and more.

- **Tour of the Archive**
  
  A walk through of instructions, tools, and other features of the Archive.

- **Copyright and Permissions Information**
  
  Information about reproducing images and texts from the Archive.

- **Contact the Archive**
  
  Send your comments to the editors.

- **Related Sites**
  
  A list of other internet sites of interest to users of the Blake Archive.
Humanities Computing, 1995-2005

- DH degree programs
  - UVA, UCLA, U Chicago, more
- DH Centers
- NEH Office of Digital Humanities
  - First grants 2007
“Digital Humanities” 2001

- Marketing decision to shift emphasis
  - Humanities COMPUTING
  - Digital HUMANITIES
Structure

- Three aspects of DH
  - Applications
    - Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University
  - Pedagogy
    - Early Novels Database, U Pennsylvania
  - Analysis
    - Speaking Code, MIT Press
    - Algorithmic Culture, Ted Striphas, Indiana University
"AN INFERNAL CULTURE MACHINE"

INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF ALGORITHMIC CULTURE

TED STRIPHAS
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 4-5:30 PM
CHAT LOUNGE, 10TH FLOOR
GLADFELTER HALL
college, n.

View as: Outline | full entry

Pronunciation: /ˈkɒldʒ/  

Forms: ME col(l)egie, (pl. -ies, -ijas); ME college, collegiate, ME–15 colage, ME–15 collage, 15–17 college, 16 colleges, ME–college. (<show less>)  

Etymology: < Old French college (= Provençal colage, Spanish colegio, Italian collegio), < Latin collegium colleagueship, partnership, hence a body of colleagues, a fraternity, < collega.  

The early by-form college, -i, appears to have been formed directly from the Latin; compare similar forms of privilege, sacriilege.  

1. An organized society of persons performing certain common functions and possessing special rights and privileges; a body of colleagues, a guild, fellowship, association:

   a. Religious.  

   Apostolic college, college of the Apostles: the body of Christ's Apostles (or their historic descendants); Sacred college, college of cardinals: the 70 cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church, who constitute the Pope's council, and elect to the papacy from their own number.

   c1380 Wyclif Wks. (1880) 366 Criste and his colage [i.e. the Apostles].  
   c1425 Wyclif Chron. vt. xii. 35 As in til 0s [be Pope had ay Wyth & collage throu be Towne To gang in til processyowne.  
   1464 J. Capgrave. Abbreuiation of Cron. (Cambr G. IV. 12) (1483) 233 Per were be cardinals of both collegis, both of Gregori and Benedict.  
   1497 J. Alcock. Mons Perfectionis (de Wordre) A iij a, Crist Jhesu called his apostilles unto hym and made them his bresheern of his College.  
   1597 R. Hoocke. Of Lawes Eccl. Politie v. book. 250 All such cities had their ecclesiasticall Colleges consisting of Deacons and of Presbyters.  
   1616 Shakespeare. Henry VI. Pt. 2 (1623) i. iii. 64, I would the Collidge of the Cardinallls Would chuse him Pope, and carrie him to Rome.  
   1641 J. Jackson. True Evangelical Temper iii. 186 Christ did it, in the Mission first of his Twelve, and after of his Seventy, both of which sacred Colledge he sent forth by two, and two.  
   1654 J. Trapp. Comm. Extra viii. 17. Where it may seem that there was a Collidge of Levites, and Iddo was their President.  
   1739 tr. C. Rollin. Anc. Hist. (ed. 2) V. 18 He was adopted into the college of augurs.  
   1741 C. Muddleton. Hist. Life Cixto (1742) II. vt. 12 The affair was to be determined by the college of Priestes.  
   1845 J. Lediard. Hist. & Antiq. Anglo-Saxon Church (ed. 3) I. iii. 114 The prince of the apostolic college.  

(<hide quotations>)
Ngram Viewer

Graph these case-sensitive comma-separated phrases: college_NOUN
between 1500 and 2000 from the corpus English with smoothing of 3.

Run your own experiment! Raw data is available for download here.