

Interactive Digital Tools for Teaching and Learning in the Humanities

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Hands-on Activities

What kinds of course goals can digital tools support in the classroom?

Goal	Activity Style
1. Increase student engagement in class	In-class participation activities
2. Develop disciplinary skills	Close reading/interpreting (looking closely at sources), distant reading/analysis (looking at larger patterns in texts)
3. Learn to work with digital sources and tools, learn research skills	Accessing and using archives, primary sources, databases
4. Reach top levels of Bloom's taxonomy	Applying and synthesizing course learning through creation of DH materials

What functions can learning to use and/or working with digital tools support for individual lessons or units?

Function	
A. Gather feedback/ get responses in real time	
B. Help students see something in a new way	
C. Appeal to diverse learning styles	
D. Help students reflect on their learning	

1. Form pairs or groups of threes where at least one person has used some DH tools in the classroom before (if possible). Take a recent topic from your teaching or research.
2. Copy an excerpt from a primary document from your teaching/ research and paste it into one of the tools on these two sites:

- Voyant Tools: <https://voyant-tools.org>
- Databasic: <https://databasic.io/en/>

3. Play around and see what you can learn about your excerpt with these tools:

- Identify which goals and functions this digital tool could serve
- Discuss how you might implement this into a lesson or unit in your class

4. Choose one of the following kinds of DH tools and go through the steps 2-3. Report back to the larger group about your findings/ experiences.

a. Annotating texts

-Copy an excerpt into an Annotation program from

- <http://hyperstudio.mit.edu/projects/annotation-studio/>, nowcomment.com
- https://www2.fgw.vu.nl/werkbanken/dighum/source_data/annotation/annotation_free.php

b. Working with an online archive, database, or primary source resource

EEBO, ECCO, NCCO, British History Online, (choose one for your field or see the library listing: <https://library.mcmaster.ca/databases?>

[field=subjects&tid=1805&field=database_type&tid=1771&field=user_type&tid=All](https://library.mcmaster.ca/databases?field=subjects&tid=1805&field=database_type&tid=1771&field=user_type&tid=All)

Or search for an individual library and its sources, e.g., McMaster Digital Archive: <https://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A6>

c. Analyzing larger amounts of data

Analyzing social media: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2019/06/18/using-twitter-as-a-data-source-an-overview-of-social-media-research-tools-2019/>

Netlytic: <https://netlytic.org>

Palladio: <http://hdlab.stanford.edu/palladio/>

D. Creating a digital artifact/text

Storytelling DH tools from Storyline: <https://knightlab.northwestern.edu/projects/>, e.g.

- Mapping: StoryMap JS: <https://storymap.knightlab.com>
- Interactive Timelines: <http://timeline.knightlab.com>

Thinglink, interactive multimedia creations: <https://www.thinglink.com>

Ed, minimalist online editions: <http://elotroalex.github.io/ed/about/>

Manifold, open source publishing: <https://manifoldapp.org>

Wordpress and DH press plugin, Blogs, Wikis, Presentations, etc.

TikiToki timeline maker: <https://www.tiki-toki.com>

Neatline, maps and timelines: <https://neatline.org>

e. Using/Studying DH Visualizations and other Examples

Interactive Slave Trade Mapping and Database: <https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/database#timelapse>

Viking Voyages via Thinglink (free teacher plan): <https://www.thinglink.com/scene/672411731087065088>

Historypin: <https://www.historypin.org/en/collections>

Some Resources

Pedagogy Toolkit: <http://pedagogy-toolkit.org/tools/> - includes several useful and not too complex tools

Duke University's LibGuide to Analysis Methods and Tools: <https://guides.library.duke.edu/c.php?g=289707&p=1930856>

University of Washington's LibGuide: <https://guides.lib.uw.edu/c.php?g=341991&p=2300129>

UCLA Centre for Digital Humanities: Introduction to Digital Humanities: <http://dh101.humanities.ucla.edu/>

Digital Pedagogy in the Humanities (MLA Commons): Humanities <https://digitalpedagogy.mla.hcommons.org/description/> - larger collection based on themes