

DIGITAL HUMANITIES (MINOR)

Departmental Guidelines

The Digital Humanities Program seeks to bridge the human and the digital to provide students new, exciting pathways through their Denison career and beyond. The minor serves to empower students to develop technological capabilities and humanistic problem-solving skills by creating Digital Humanities projects. The emphasis is on the making, doing, and presenting of Digital Humanities knowledge.

The Digital Humanities minor applies digital tools and methodologies to humanistic problem solving and research design, and it uses digital tools to curate and exhibit humanities research in ways that allow different forms of accessibility, structure, navigability, and engagement. In doing so, it explores the history, forms of representation, networks of information, ethics, and structures of power in our increasingly digital culture, and it explores how new technologies are shaping the human condition in ways so ubiquitous that they have become invisible. In short, DH applies humanistic methodologies to analyze and critique the practical and theoretical challenges of a digitized world.

DH students can use digital tools to create new objects of study for the humanities. For example, social networking algorithms can help humanists understand the complex relationships between historical actors and/or events; or characters within a book/movie. See, for examples, these visualizations of the intellectual network of Sir Francis Bacon [Six Degrees of Francis Bacon (<http://www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com/>)] or characters from the Star Wars Universe [Star Wars Social Networks (<http://evelinag.com/blog/2015/12-15-star-wars-social-network/>)].

DH students use digital tools to analyze humanistic data in different ways. For example, textual analysis algorithms allow humanists to “read” large bodies of texts and synthesize the information in those texts differently to make compelling arguments. See, for example, this discussion of a study on Gender Bias in Economics (<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2017-08-23/economics-has-a-sexism-problem/>) (by an undergraduate) or gender bias in the Harry Potter novels (<https://medium.com/agatha-codes/a-bossy-sort-of-voice-3c3a18de3093/>).

DH students can use digital tools to create new narratives out of data. For example, mapping technology enables humanists to locate spatial relationships in an effort to understand social, political, cultural, and historical relationships in different ways. The maps created by mapping technologies are new narratives, new texts, new objects of study, and they offer non-linear methods of analysis to emerge. See this Interactive map of eighteenth-century Jamaican Slave Revolts (<http://revolt.axismaps.com/map/>).