http://www.flickr.com/photos/samuel-huron/4625447671/

Why and How: Exploring the Significance of Digital Humanities for Philosophy

Lisa Spiro

American Philosophical Assn. (Central Division)

February 23, 2013

NITLE

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Peter Bradley:

"Where are the philosophers?"

THE CHRONICLE

of Higher Education

Monday, February 18, 2013

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Where Are the Philosophers? Thoughts from THATCamp Pedagogy

November 21, 2011, 3:00 pm

By Prof. Hacker

[This is a guest post by Peter Bradley, associate professor of philosophy at McDaniel College. He works primarily in philosophy of mind and cognitive science, but most recently has been developing digital tools to support critical thinking instruction across the curriculum. You can find him online at his website and on Twitter at @pbradl42.--@jbj]

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KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

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ProfHacker Editors

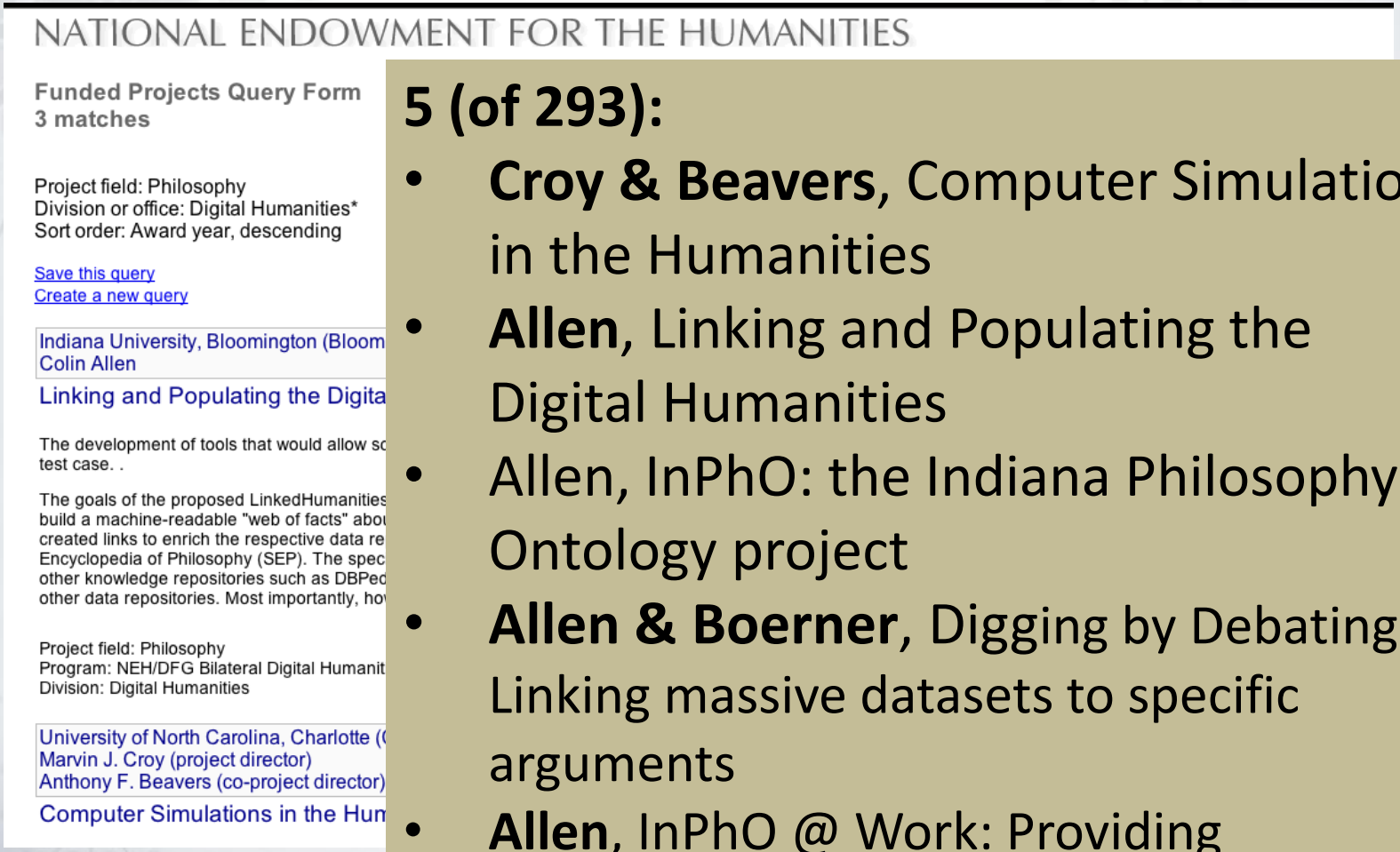
Jason B. Jones

NITLE

How many sessions on digital humanities are featured at academic conferences?

- 2013 MLA: 66 (8% of total sessions)
- 2013 AHA: 43
- 2013 APA Central: 2 (?)

How Many NEH-Funded DH Projects Are There in Philosophy?



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Funded Projects Query Form
3 matches

Project field: Philosophy
Division or office: Digital Humanities*
Sort order: Award year, descending

Save this query
Create a new query

Indiana University, Bloomington (Bloom
Colin Allen

Linking and Populating the Digita

The development of tools that would allow sc
test case. .

The goals of the proposed LinkedHumanities
build a machine-readable "web of facts" abou
created links to enrich the respective data re
Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP). The spec
other knowledge repositories such as DBPed
other data repositories. Most importantly, ho

Project field: Philosophy
Program: NEH/DFG Bilateral Digital Humanit
Division: Digital Humanities

University of North Carolina, Charlotte (
Marvin J. Croy (project director)
Anthony F. Beavers (co-project director)

Computer Simulations in the Hum

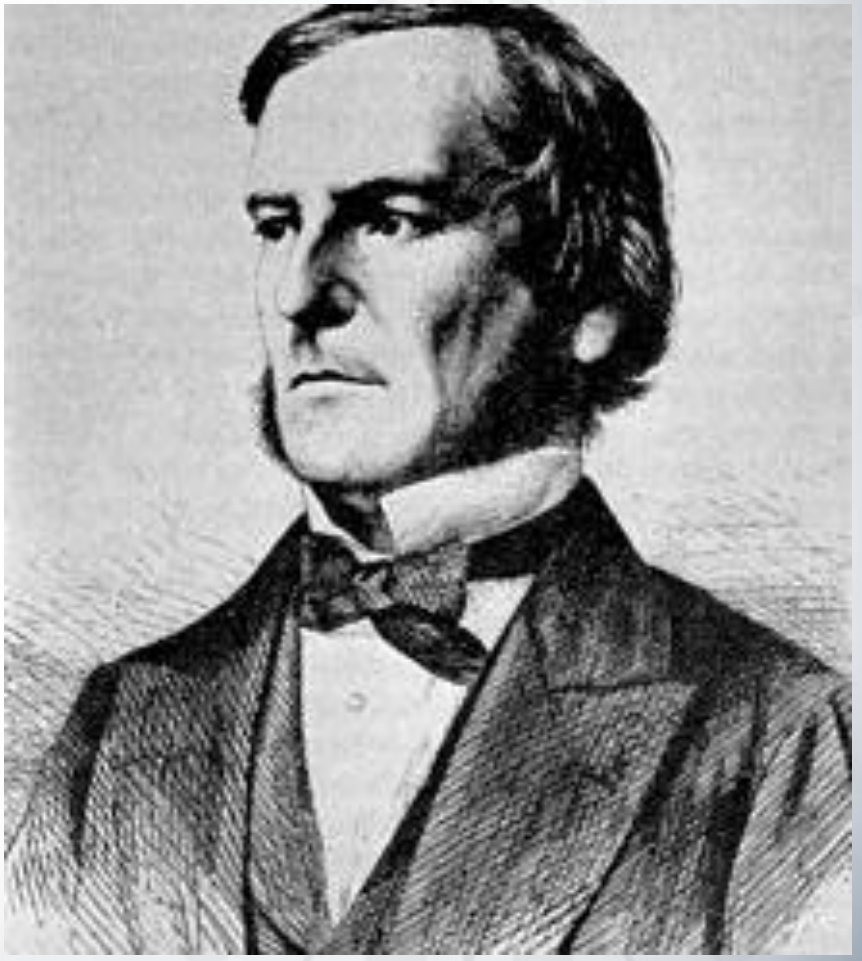
5 (of 293):

- **Croy & Beavers**, Computer Simulations in the Humanities
- **Allen**, Linking and Populating the Digital Humanities
- Allen, InPhO: the Indiana Philosophy Ontology project
- **Allen & Boerner**, Digging by Debating, Linking massive datasets to specific arguments
- **Allen**, InPhO @ Work: Providing Integrated Access to Philosophy

NITLE

Origins of DH in Philosophy?

Fr. Roberto Busa



George Boole

What Does “Digital Humanities” Mean?

“Digital humanities is a **diverse** and still **emerging field** that encompasses the practice of humanities research in and through **information technology**, and the **exploration of how the humanities may evolve** through their engagement with technology, media, and computational methods.”

(Digital Humanities Quarterly)

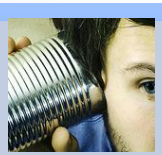
NITLE

Why Digital Humanities?

Provides wide **access** to cultural information

Enables us to **analyze** information: manage, mash up, mine, map, model

Enhances **teaching and learning**



Transforms **scholarly communication**

Makes a **public impact**

NITLE

http://www.flickr.com/photos/quinnanya/3605597056/

PROVIDING WIDE ACCESS TO CULTURAL INFORMATION

NITLE

Scholars on the Impact of Electronic Resources on Humanities Research

- Makes research faster & more convenient:
- Provides access to more resources, including unique archival materials
- Promotes interdisciplinary research
- Facilitates online community and discussion
- Democratizes knowledge
- Increases pressure to produce & possibility of missing something
- Concerns about equity and sustainability of access

Spiro & Segal, **Scholars' Usage of Digital Archives in American Literature**

NITLE

Digital Humanities Helps Make Cultural Information Available

- Devised new editorial methods
- Involves knowledge representation
- Developed standards (e.g. TEI)
- Created authoritative digital collections
- Experimenting with innovative methods of providing access
  - Participatory projects to transcribe texts
  - Interfaces for search and exploration

NITLE

Impact of Whitman Archive

- Whitman scholars call it "indispensable"
- Greater attention to manuscript & textual study (editions other than 1855 & deathbed)
- Attention to contexts
- Broadens access
- Significant web hits: 30,000+ visits, 143 countries (Sept 2011)

http://www.whitmanarchive.org/

Spiro & Segal, **Scholars' Usage of Digital Archives in American Literature**

Core Philosophical Resource: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

STANFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY

Search the SEP

- Advanced Search
- Tools • RSS Feed
- Random Entry

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What's New

Updates for the Last Three Months Listed in Reverse Chronological Order

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Users with RSS-enabled browsers can click here.]

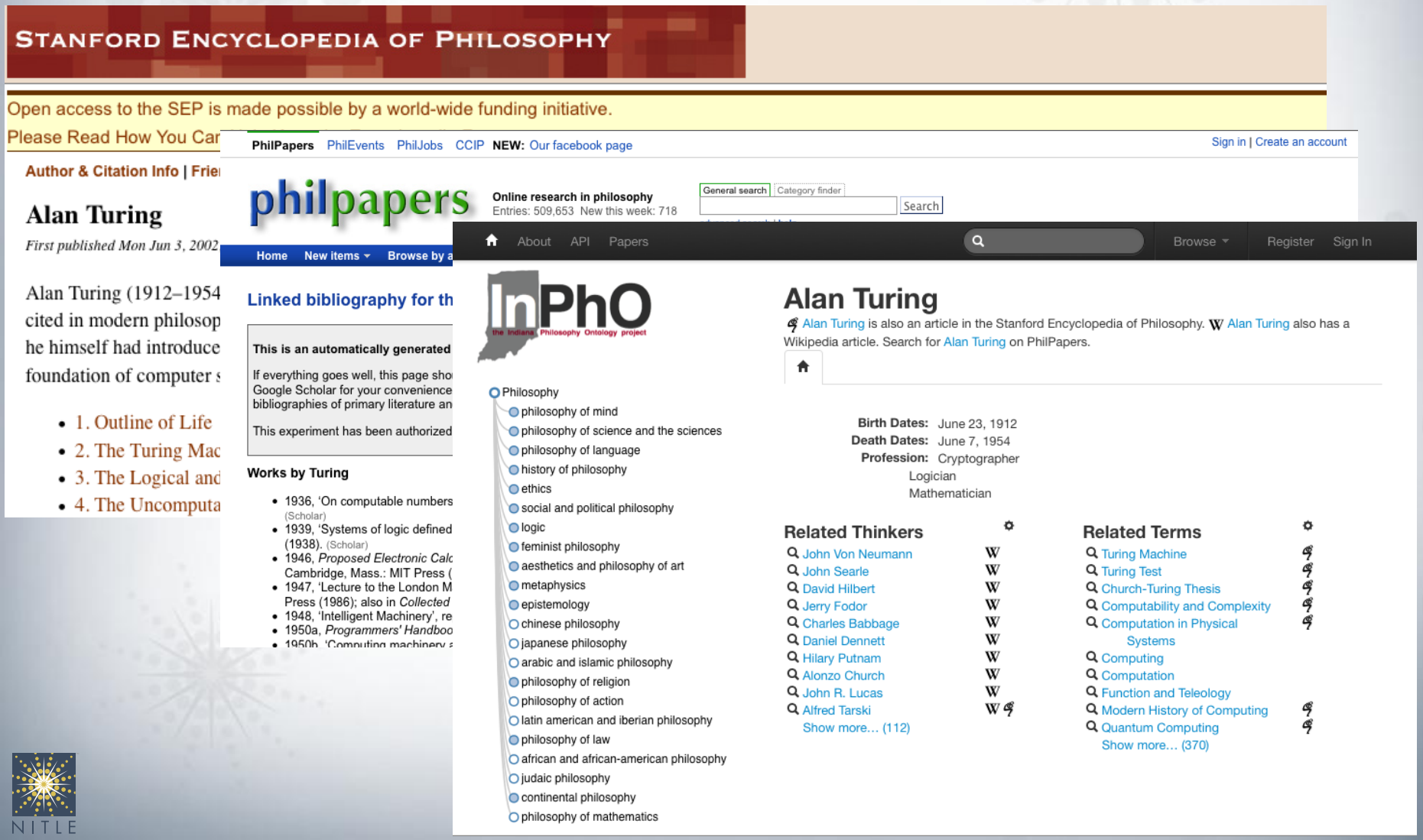
[Note: All dates are given in UTC]

- **Adam Smith's Moral and Political Philosophy** (Samuel Fleischacker) [NEW: *February 15, 2013*]
- **Feminist Social Epistemology** (Heidi Grasswick) [REVISED: *February 15, 2013*]
  Changes to: Main text, Bibliography, Internet resources, notes.html
- **Kant's Account of Reason** (Garrath Williams) [REVISED: *February 14, 2013*]
  Changes to: Main text, Bibliography, Internet resources, notes.html
- **Empathy** (Karsten Stueber) [REVISED: *February 14, 2013*]
  Changes to: Main text, Bibliography
- **Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz** (Brandon C. Look) [REVISED: *February 14, 2013*]
  Changes to: Main text, Bibliography, Internet resources
- **Kant's Aesthetics and Teleology** (Hannah Ginsborg) [REVISED: *February 13, 2013*]
  Changes to: Main text, Bibliography
- **Instrumental Rationality** (Niko Kolodny and John Brunero) [NEW: *February 13, 2013*]

http://plato.stanford.edu/

NITLE

“Linking & Populating the Digital Humanities”: SEP, PhilPapers, InPho



NITLE

http://www.flickr.com/photos/bw/2516698553/

ENABLING US TO ANALYZE INFORMATION & ASK NEW RESEARCH QUESTIONS

NITLE

DIGGING INTO DATA CHALLENGE

http://www.diggingintodata.org/

- Asks “Now that we have massive databases of materials used by scholars in the humanities and social sciences… what new, computationally-based research methods might we apply?”
- 1st round sponsored by NEH, NSF, JISC (UK), SSHRC (Canada)
- Collaborative, international teams from 2 or more countries
- 8 out of about 90 won grants: railroads, speech, images, dynamic editions, trial transcripts

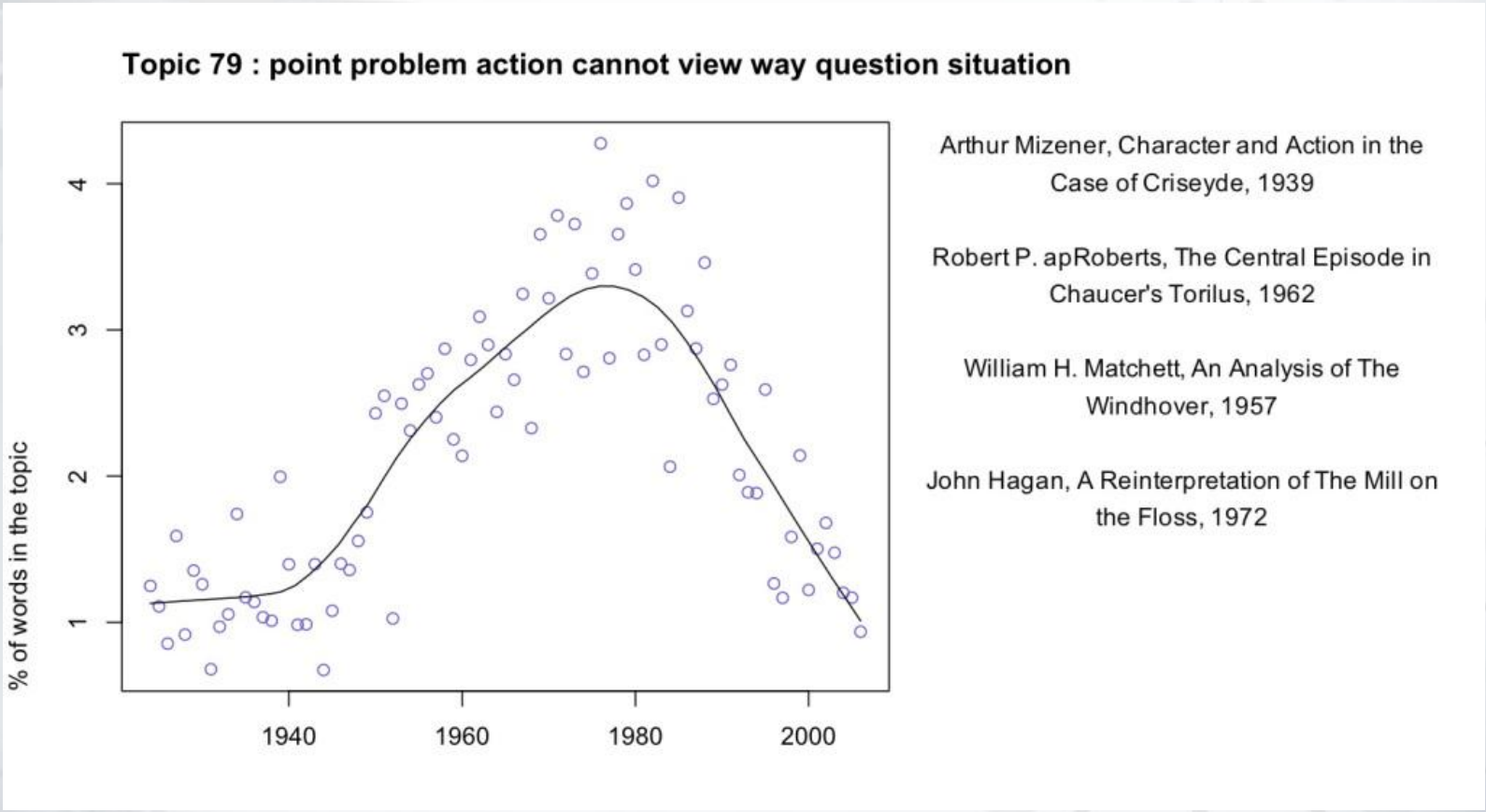
NITLE

Mapping the Republic of Letters

Voltaire's correspondence, 1755-1776.
Only letters for which complete location information is available are shown.
Data courtesy the Electronic Enlightenment Project, University of Oxford.

http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/case-study/voltaire-and-the-enlightenment/

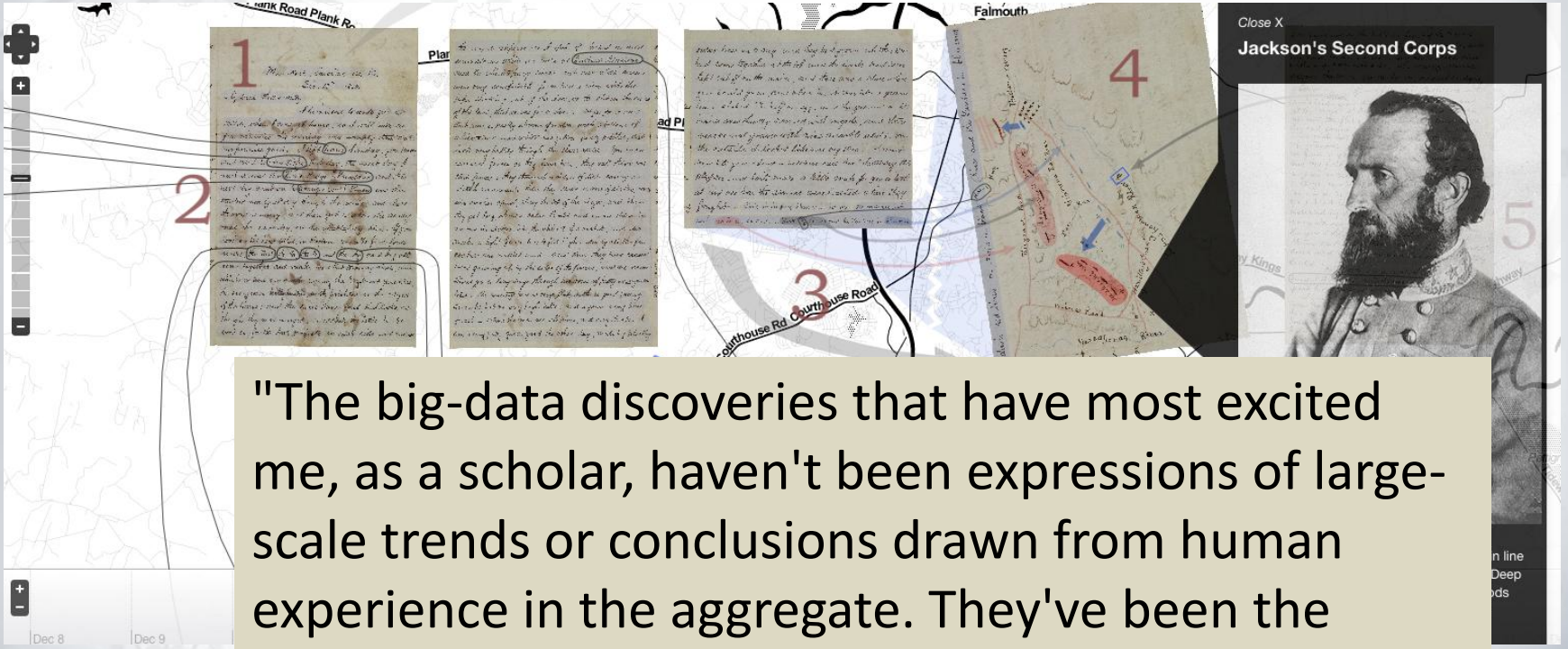
Using Topic Models to Understand the History of Criticism



Goldstone & Underwood,
"What can topic models of PMLA teach us about the history of literary scholarship?"

NITLE

Visualizing “Small Data” with Neatline



"The big-data discoveries that have most excited me, as a scholar, haven't been expressions of large-scale trends or conclusions drawn from human experience in the aggregate. They've been the chances we've had to drill down, through large collections, to individual objects and stories.”

--Bethany Nowviskie

NITLE

Some Other Approaches to DH Research

- Spatial humanities/ mapping
- Scholarly editing
- Text analysis
- Text mining
- Digital curation
- (3D) modeling
- Software/platform studies
- Cultural analytics
- Network analysis
- Database documentaries
- Data visualization
- Virtual & augmented reality
- Participatory platforms
- Humanities gaming
- Etc.

NITLE

http://services.pepperdine.edu/techlearn/tools/ipadresearch.htm

ENHANCING TEACHING & LEARNING

NITLE

Syllabus Study: Common Features of DH Classes

- Blogs & other social engagement
- Collaboration
- Student projects
- Bringing together theory and practice

See "Undergrad DH Projects" for a growing list of examples

http://digitalscholarship.wordpress.com/2011/06/21/update-on-dh-education-presentation/

NITLE

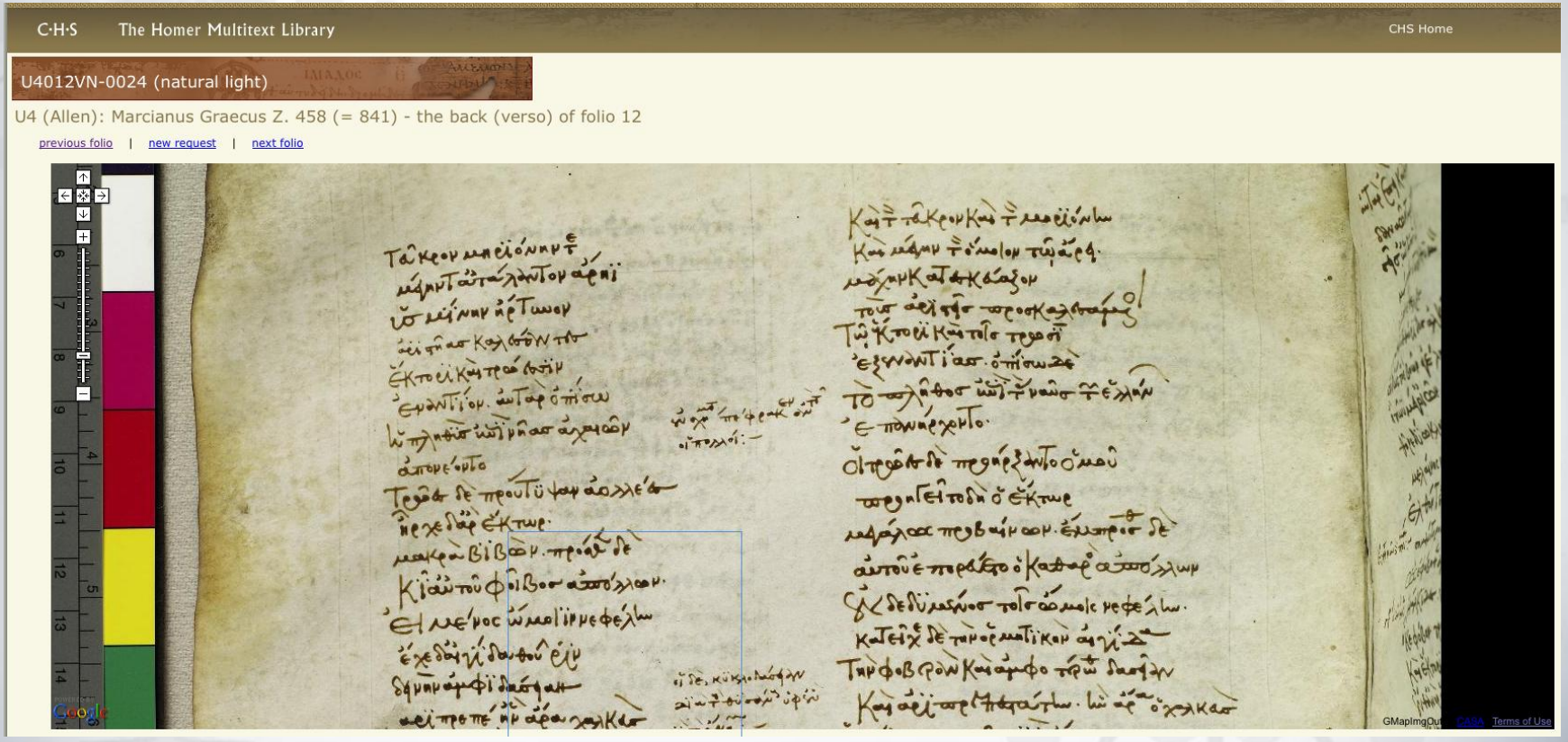
“Student-Writers” to “Student-Authors”

“It is our experience that **the closer we can bring our students to the real sources of knowledge** — the ancient texts, the archaeological remains, the papyri and parchment — and the real reward of scholarship — the joy of producing a piece of work that one knows will be discovered and read with interest and pleasure by people we may never meet — **the closer we can bring students to the experience of being true scholars**, working beside other scholars, the more enthusiasm we find.”

Blackwell, Christopher, and Thomas R. Martin. “Technology, Collaboration, and Undergraduate Research.” *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 3, no. 1 (Winter 2009). http://digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/003/1/000024/000024.html.

NITLE

Undergraduate Research and the Homer Multi-Text



http://www.homermultitext.org/

NITLE

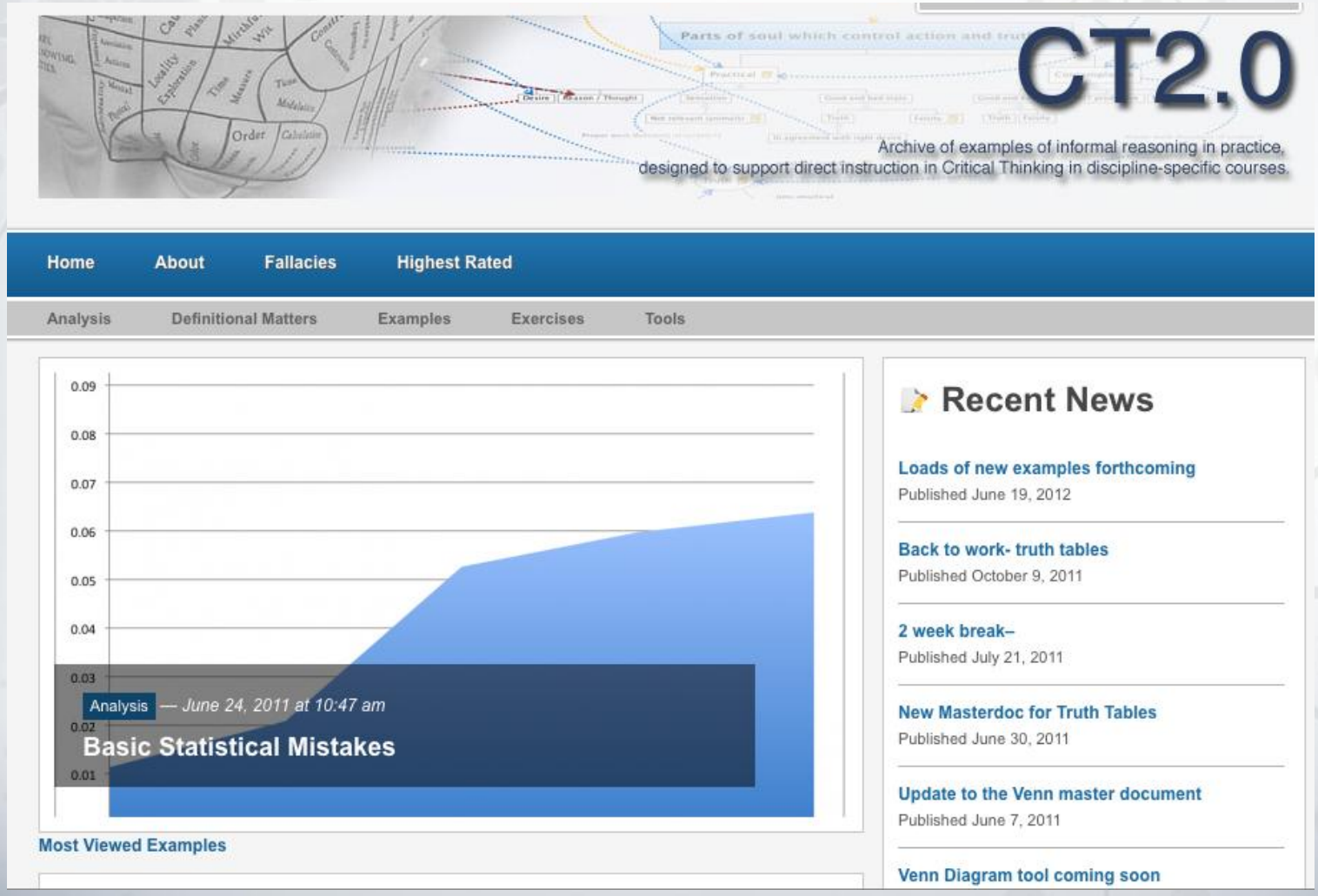
Networked Classes: Looking for Whitman

"experiment in multi-campus digital pedagogy" (Jim Groom)

http://lookingforwhitman.org/

NITLE

Critical Thinking 2.0 (Peter Bradley)



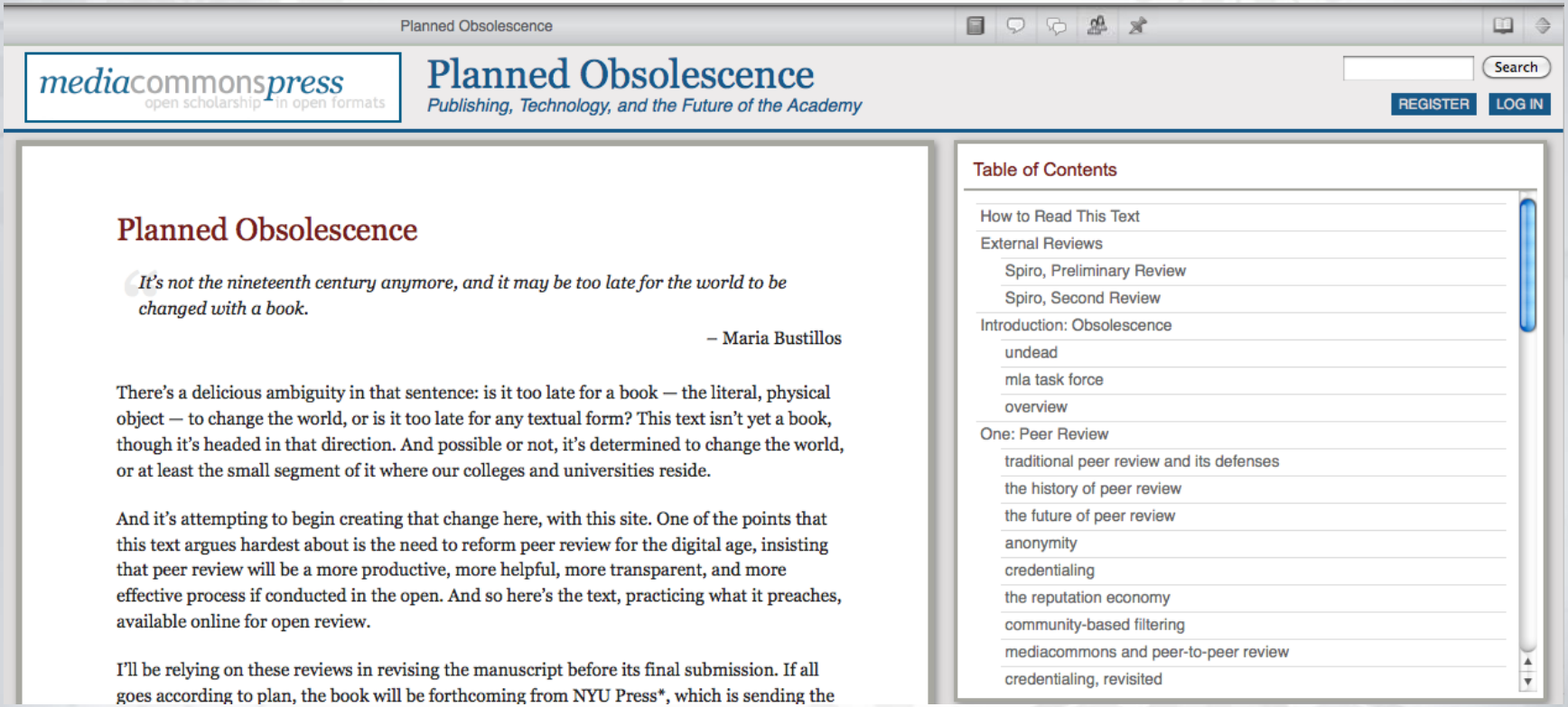
NITLE

http://www.flickr.com/photos/nichollsphotos/2906834393/

TRANSFORM SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

NITLE

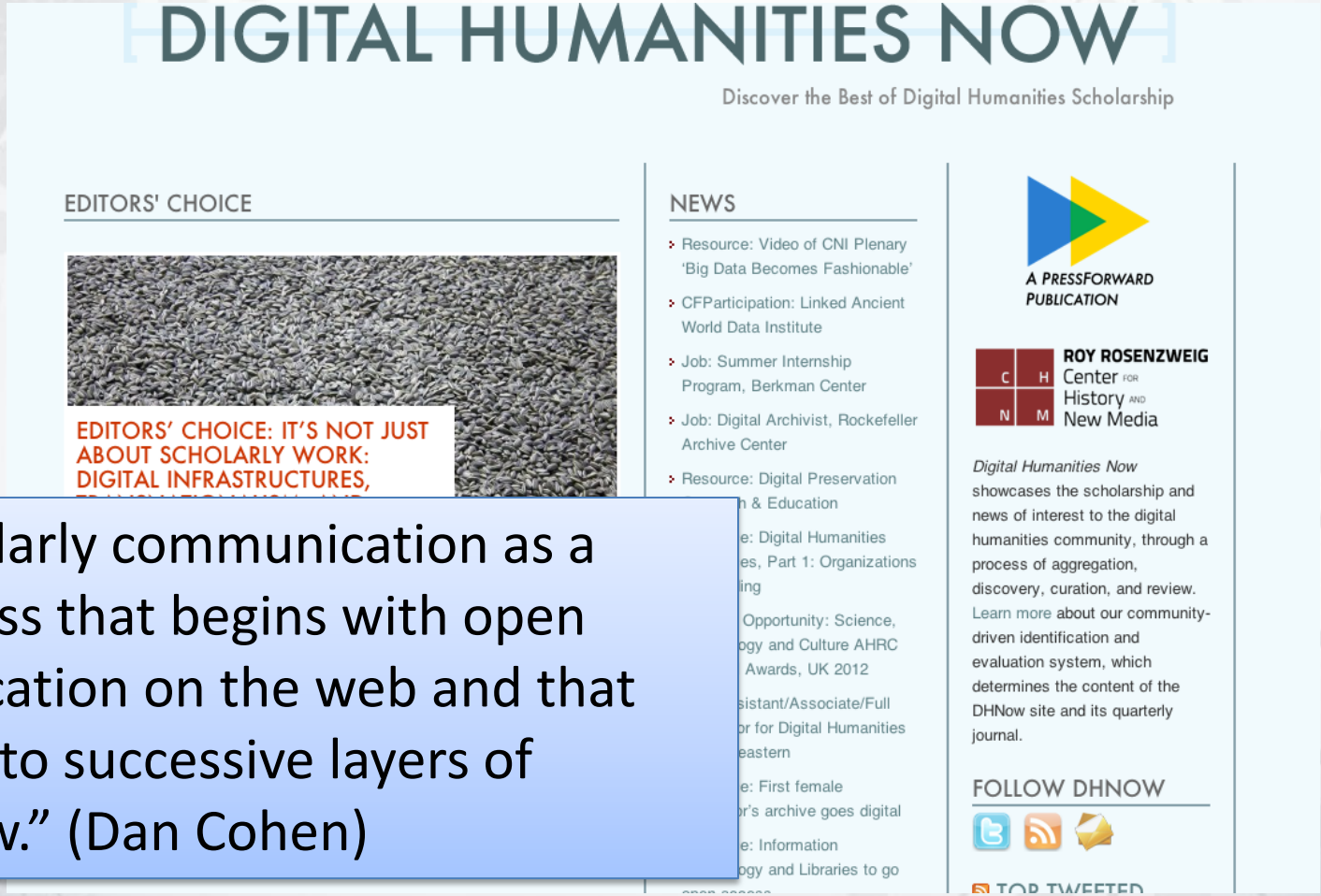
Peer-to-Peer Review: *Planned Obsolescence*



http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/mcpress/plannedobsolescence/

NITLE

Curating Community Conversations: Digital Humanities Now



"scholarly communication as a process that begins with open publication on the web and that leads to successive layers of review." (Dan Cohen)

http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/

NITLE

Open, Collaborative, Public: *Public Philosophy Journal*

http://www.flickr.com/photos/quinnanya/4026547481/

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

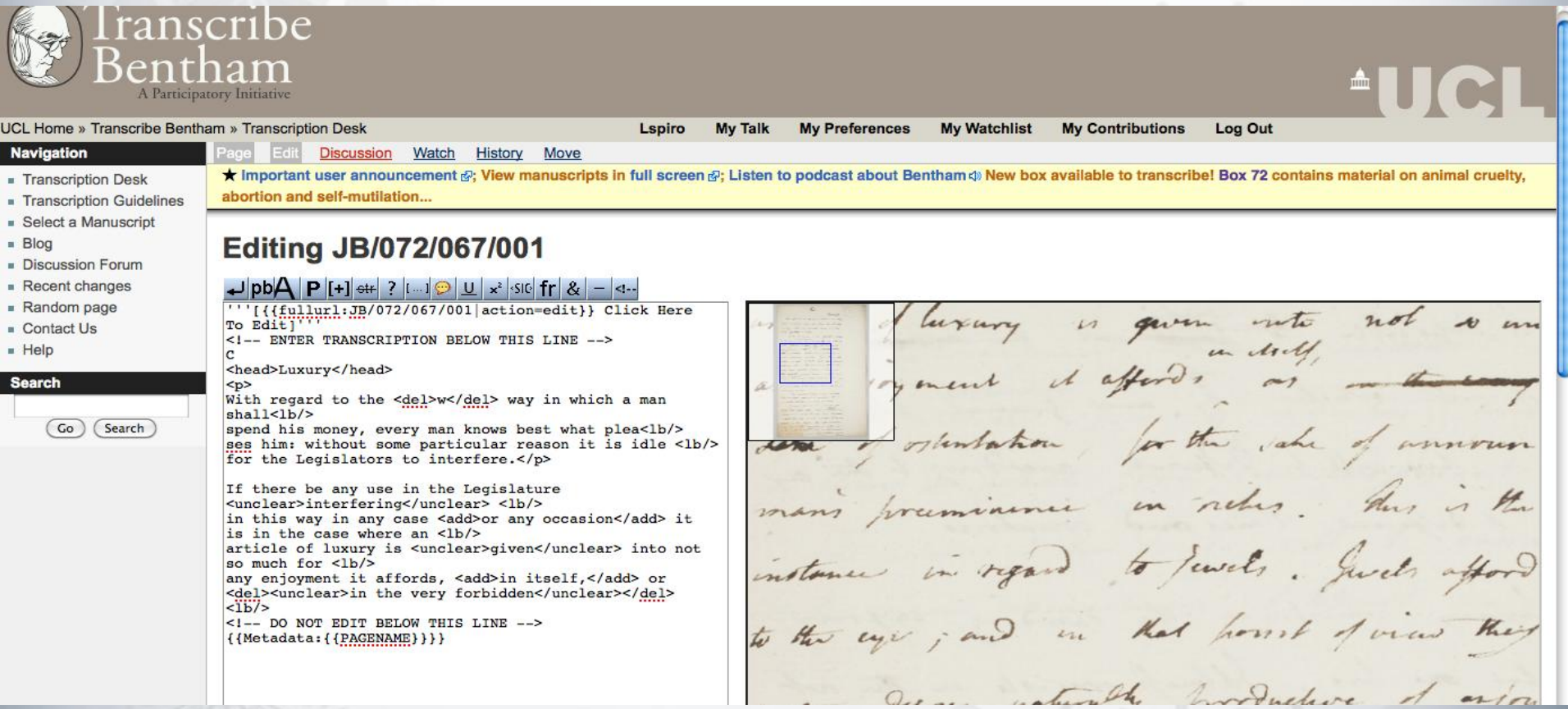
NITLE

Why the Humanities Need to Engage the Digital Age

"we need to acknowledge how much the massive computational abilities that have transformed the sciences have also changed our field in ways large and small and hold possibilities for far greater **transformation** in the three areas—research, writing, and teaching—that matter most. We are not exempt from the technological changes of our era, and we need to **take greater responsibility** for them." --Cathy Davidson, "Humanities 2.0: Promise, Perils, Predictions"

NITLE

Engaging the Public in Scholarship: Transcribe Bentham



NITLE

Making a Public Impact: Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History

Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project

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Civil Rights Groups
Seattle's Ethnic Press
Research Reports
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By date and subject
African American issues
Asian American issues

/repository/main.php

Special Section

Segregated Seattle

[Slide Show] [Racial Restrictive Covenants] [Segregation Maps] [Innis Arden Covenant]

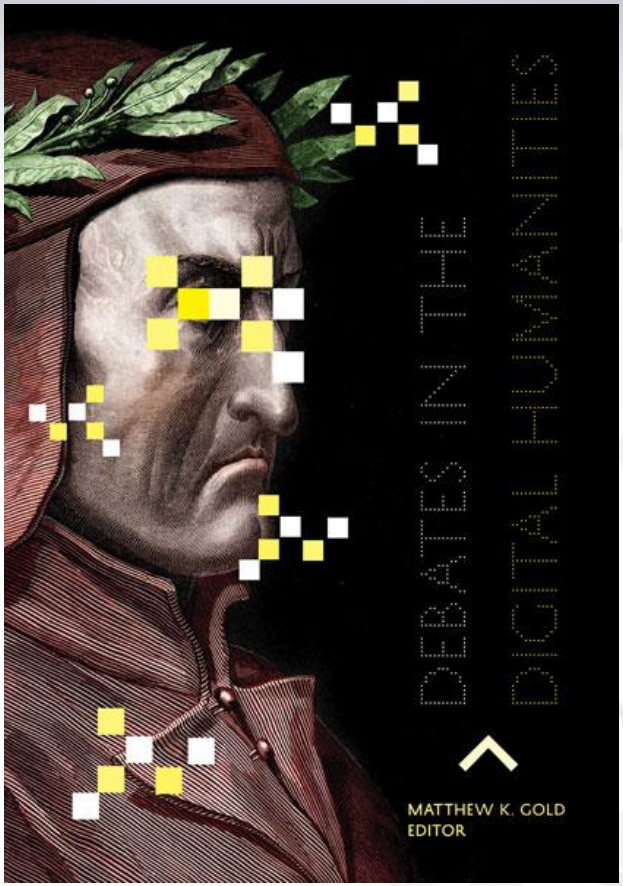
For most of its history Seattle was a segregated city, as committed to white supremacy as any location in America. People of color were excluded from most jobs, most neighborhoods and schools, and many stores, restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments, even hospitals. As in other western states, the system of severe racial discrimination in Seattle targeted not just African Americans but also Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, people of Mexican ancestry, and also, at times, Jews.

This special section presents research that will surprise many Pacific Northwesterners. Included are maps, photos, documents, and newspaper articles that follow the history of segregation in Seattle up through the 1960s. We also have the most extensive database of racially restrictive neighborhood covenants and deed clauses available for any city in the country.

- **Seattle's Segregation Story** Start with this

Beacon of Bigotry

Until the 1950, Coon Chicken Inn stood as a landmark of segregation on Lake City Way at 20th Ave NE. Patrons entered the restaurant through the mouth. Here are photos



CRITIQUES (AND DEFENSES) OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

NITLE

“Literature Is Not Data” (Stephen Marche)

LA RB

LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS

REVIEWS | ESSAYS | INTERVIEWS

CONTRIBUTORS
AUTHORS
GENRES
EVENTS
ABOUT LARB

Literature is not Data: Against Digital Humanities by Stephen Marche

October 28th, 2012

AA

Data banks are the Encyclopedia of tomorrow. They transcend the capacity of each of their users. They are "nature" for postmodern man.

– Jean-François Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*

BIG DATA IS COMING for your books. It's already come for everything else. All human endeavor has by now generated its own monadic mass of data, and through these vast accumulations of ciphers the robots now endlessly scour for significance much the way cockroaches scour for nutrition in the enormous bat dung piles hiding in Bornean caves. The recent *Automate This*, a smart book with a stupid title, offers a fascinatingly general look at the new algorithmic culture: 60 percent of trades on the stock market today take place with virtually no human oversight. Artificial intelligence has already changed health care and pop music, baseball, electoral politics, and several aspects of the law. And now, as an afterthought to an afterthought, the algorithms have arrived at literature, like an army which, having conquered Italy, turns its attention to San Marino.

NITLE

The “Dark Side” of DH (MLA 2013)

- Susceptible to techno-euphoria/ technocracy (Chun)
- Neoliberal instrumentalism: favors making things over critique (Grusin)
- Needs to engage cultural critique/ be transformed (Cecire)
- Distant reading → Distance education? (Raley)

http://storify.com/robincamille/mla13-s307-the-dark-side-of-digital-humanities

NITLE

Who is being excluded? Digital Humanities as "the New Elite"?

"Whose Revolution? Towards a More Equitable Digital Humanities"

The digital humanities – be it a field, a set of methodologies, a movement, a community, a singular or plural descriptor, a state of mind, or just a convenient label for a set of digital tools and practices that have helped us shift the way we perform research, teaching, and service – have arrived on the academic scene amidst immense amounts of hype. I'm sure you're sick of hearing that hype, so I won't rehearse it now except to say that the coverage of DH in the popular academic press sometimes seems to imply that the field has both the power and the responsibility to save the academy. Indeed, to many observers, the most notable thing about DH is the hype that has attended its arrival — and I believe that one of my fellow panelists, Jeff Rice, will be proposing a more pointed synonym for "hype" during his presentation.

NITLE

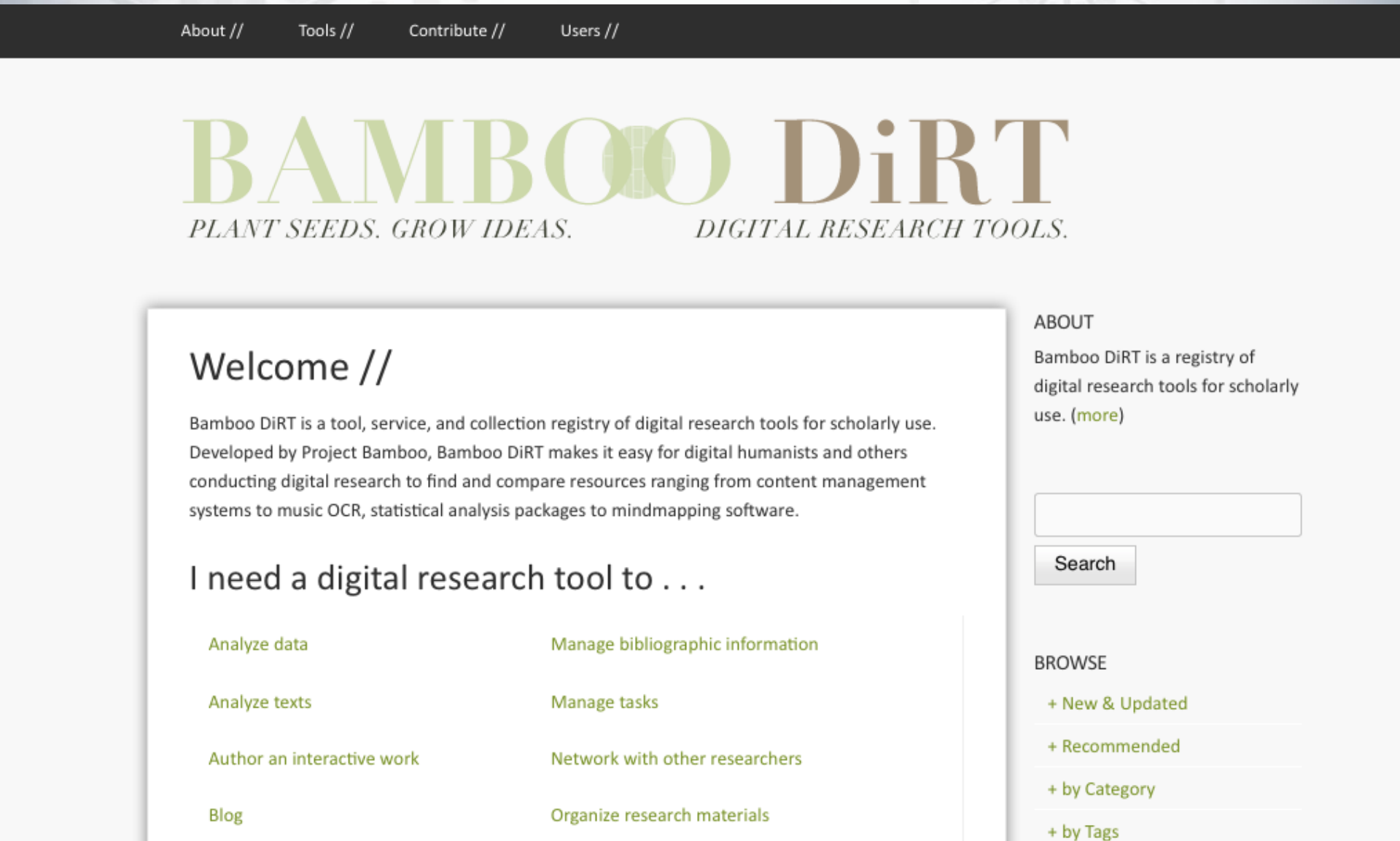
Challenges to Doing Digital Humanities Work

- Getting or creating data
- Data's incompleteness, variability
- Copyright
- Funding
- Academic culture
- Tenure & promotion policies
- Gaining the skills
- Finding collaborators
- Finding or developing tools
- Preservation & sustainability

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jonlucas/2042 13403/

NITLE

Find tools with Bamboo DiRT



Discover projects & collaborators via DH Commons

dh Commons

an initiative of centerNet

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Welcome

DHCommons is a hub for people and organizations to find projects to work with, and for projects to find collaborators. Log in or sign up to get started.

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MLA 2013

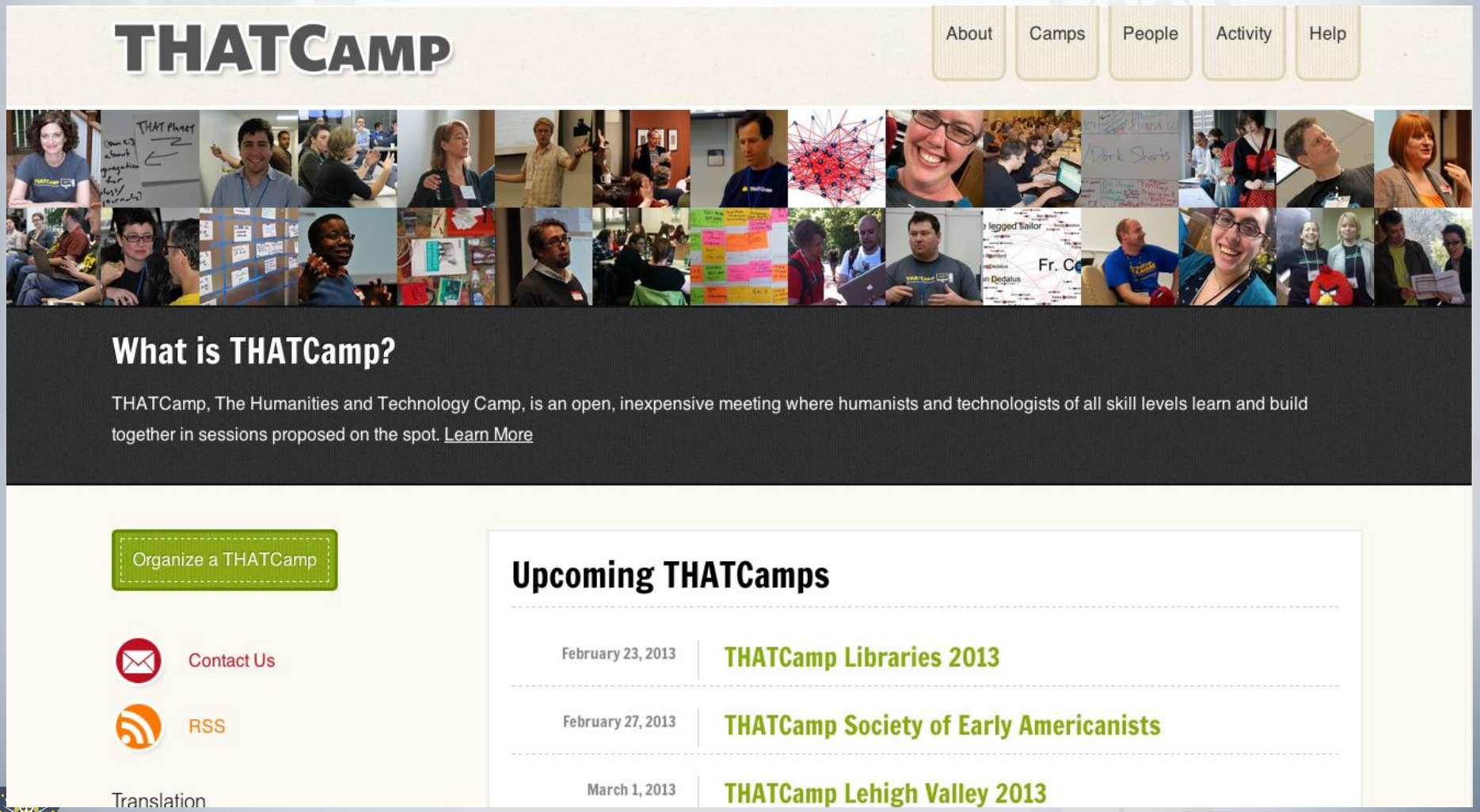
Registration is now open for the DHCommons workshop at MLA 2013!

NITLE

Just Ask: Digital Humanities Questions & Answers

NITLE

“Learn and Build Together”: THATCamp



NITLE

Why Do Digital Humanities?

- Explore knowledge representation in the digital age
- Provide access to tools and materials for scholarly research
- Enable new kinds of analysis, new scholarly questions
- Foster engaged, “authentic” teaching and learning
- Promote more dynamic scholarly communities
- Engage with the public
- Participate in multidisciplinary conversations

NITLE