Kazuko Hioki

University of Kentucky

Council on East Asian Libraries 2016 Annual Meeting

March 31, 2016

*Report on NCC’s  “Advancing Digital Scholarship in Japanese Studies Workshop” November 6-7, 2015*

**Introduction**

Last fall, I attended a two-day workshop on digital humanities aimed at librarians and researchers in the Japanese studies community.

I will give a short report on this event, and hope this presentation will initiate conversations about your ideas for a forthcoming workshop at the 2017 CEAL meeting on digital humanities, which NCC started planning.

Slide 2

On November 6-7, 2015, I attended the workshop at Harvard University entitled, Advancing Digital Scholarship in Japanese Studies: Innovations and Challenges. It was organized by NCC with the assistance of the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University.

The goals of this workshop were to present innovative uses of digital scholarship in Japanese studies, to share successful digital projects with participants, and to develop suggestions of online resources for creating new digital projects.

NCC has the website with the links to the workshop’s program and PowerPoint presentations. I encourage you to check them out.

How many of you are involved in any type of digital humanities project?

Before I attended this workshop, I had very limited experience with digital humanities.

Afterward, I understood digital humanities better, became more interested, and started a project at the University of KY.

I went to the workshop with several questions about DH. I will mention them later.

I will highlight a few presentations which helped me answer my questions about DH.

**First question:**

Slide 3

What are the real digital humanities? At the workshop, I learned that even experts could not provide a simple definition.

So, all else fails, I do what any librarians does. I went to Wikipedia.

**Digital humanities** is an area of research and teaching at the intersection of computing and the disciplines of the [humanities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanities).

Digital humanities combines the methodologies from traditional humanities disciplines (such as [history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History), [linguistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics), [literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature), [art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art),) and social sciences, with tools provided by [computing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computing) (such as [data visualization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_visualisation), [statistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statistics), [text mining](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_mining)), and [digital publishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_publication).

The definition of "digital humanities" is something that is being continually formulated by scholars and practitioners

reation of custom site-specific or dataset-specific platforms

**Second question:**

**Is DH too technical to engage?**

During the workshop, **Slide 4**

computer technology experts such as, **Merrick Lex Berman** at Harvard’s Center for Geographical Analysis, repeatedly stated that in order to acquire relevant technical knowledge for DH, humanities scholars and librarians don’t have to be rocket scientists.

Really?

**Slide 5. A &S 500**

Encouraged by their words, upon returning the U of Kentucky, I took a one-week, introductory course on computer mapping for linguistic data analysis.

**Slide 6** I learned GIS and R applications to display data in maps.

These programs were not extremely difficult, but require more time and effort to master. And I intend to use them when I find suitable projects for their application.

**Third question:**

**Why should we librarians learn more about DH?**

**Slide 7 DRT** As Berman showed in his slide here, DRT (Digital Research Tool) lists numerous varieties of digital tools for application to humanities research.

I was also inspired by diverse types of DH projects presented, like professor Cheryl Crowley’s “Using Digital Technologies to Re-imagine Haiku Poetry”

And < **Slide 8 Sturgen>**  Dr. Donald Sturgeon’s Pre-Modern Chinese text project to create a digital library with computer tools using automation and cloud-source text editing.

The other reason why we should start DH is that people involved in DH projects seem to have great fun! For instance, **Slide 9**. Horiguchi Yusuke

**Professor Yusuke Horiguchi at Dartmouth College, showed his research and teaching in the social sciences by using new digital technologies, such as text analysis, web scraping, and face recognition.**

**Like this one, he used Omron coorporation’s okao vision, which was an automated face recognition technology to categorize human’s smile – 100% smile, 30% smile, applied it to political campaign posters, and analyzed their smiles by comparing gender, time, and countries. Slide 10**

Or **Slide11 &12**. Underwater museum

Kurt Knoerl and Michelle Damian introduced the online **Museum of Underwater Archeology.**

**The final question is.**

**Can U of K libraries develop an Asian studies DH project?**

Yes, they can!

Returning from the workshop, I started a research project with a UK’s computer science professor. We are analyzing a typeface used in a rare 17th century Japanese book, which is one of the recent UK Libraries acquisitions. I hope this small project will grow to a bigger collaboration and to build a bridge between libraries and other university departments.

U of Kentucky Libraries don’t have a large unique Japanese collections. If I can do it, you can do it, too.

The NCC’s digital scholarship workshop at next years’ CEAL meeting will help you jump into digital projects.

Stay tune from NCC.