

Archives to Networks and Back Again

the *other* parts of DH

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Outline

1. Focus, time, and trouble in DH projects
2. Some small, finite number of morals for the *other* parts of digital humanities projects
 - 2.1 Framing your research question
 - 2.2 Processing your results
 - 2.3 Generating future work

The take-home: Don't let yourself become too tool-centric!
You can get *lots more* out of your digital projects.

DH Project Structure

1. Generating a research question
2. Obtaining your data
3. Curating/annotating your data
4. Tool availability
5. Tool usage
6. Processing your results
7. Generating further work

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2. Obtaining your data



3. Cleaning your data



4. Text processing

5. Tool use



6. Processing your results

7. Generating further work





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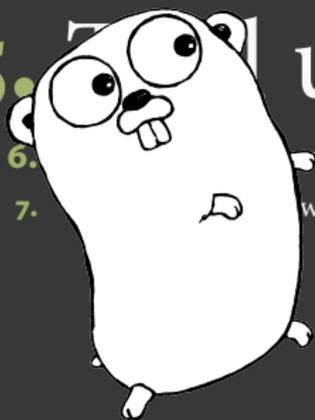
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Some Morals

Generating Research Questions

How do I know I have a project that's
suitable for digital analysis?

Think counterfactually,
work backwards, and dream big.

- Thinking counterfactually and working backwards
 - What questions do I wish I could ask?
 - What kind of data would I need to ask them?

- **Thinking counterfactually** and **working backwards**
 - What questions do I wish I could ask?
 - What kind of data would I need to ask them?
- **Dreaming big**
 - Don't worry that you don't have the data, or don't know how to get the data.
 - *Especially* don't worry that you don't have the tools, or don't know how to use the tools!

Processing Results

Strike a balance between
hypothesis-driven work and letting
yourself be surprised.

- Hypothesis-driven research
 - Vital: Every dataset has random patterns, and you can't let yourself be led astray.
- The role of surprise
 - But! That doesn't mean that you can't find interesting things by accident.
 - Think about ways that you can *validate* the patterns that you stumble upon.

Generating Further Work

Think in advance about how your work could **open up new research questions.**

- Ask yourself, early on, what new avenues could be opened up if you're successful.
 - Could you apply the same analysis to different data?
 - If you got more data, could you broaden the conclusion?
 - What about applications to other areas? Is there a general trend here? (Is there... *gasp*... an integrated-HPS conclusion in philosophy of science?)

Questions?

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