Digital Humanities Working Group (DHWG) Workshop
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Instructor: Dr. Joe Aufmuth, Geo-Spatial Librarian

DHWG Conveners
Laurie Taylor, Digital Humanities Librarian, UF Libraries, laurien@ufl.edu
Sophia K. Acord, Associate Director, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, skacord@ufl.edu

Have you ever used or browsed web sites that map historical events or topics, such as the spread of yellow fever or the printing press? Or, have you ever wanted to animate and compare an historic or archival map with contemporary or other geographies? If you are interested in getting your research or teaching “on the map”, join us for this introductory workshop to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the humanities. Part spreadsheet, part map, GIS refers to a useful suite of software programs that afford new opportunities for humanities scholars to visualize and map historic, archival, and cultural data.

This introductory hands-on workshop to GIS is taught by Dr. Joe Aufmuth, the UF Smathers Library GIS Librarian. The workshop will explore basic concepts of GIS software, highlight its basic functions, and illustrate the potential of data-driven mapping in the digital humanities for use in research and teaching. In so doing, this workshop will explore the ‘spatial turn’ in the humanities, and the growing awareness of space and place for studying cultural phenomena.

For information about using GIS in the humanities, see the following readings and projects:

- “Spatial Humanities” – an NEH-funded project at the University of Virginia Scholars’ Lab
- “Historical Maps in GIS” – a chapter by David Rumsey and Meredith Williams
- “Mapping the Republic of Letters” – a project at Stanford University

Digital Humanities Working Group

The UF Digital Humanities Working Group (DHWG) is a group of academic and library faculty, staff, and graduate students who meet monthly to discuss current projects and topics at the intersection of digital technologies and core research needs and questions in the humanities disciplines. The Spring 2013 working groups will include workshops in the use and application of several different software programs for creating and using virtual archives. We will discuss curation as a scholarly activity, and how scholars can collaborate with librarians and archivists to think critically and productively about making archival materials digitally usable by scholarly communities and wider publics.

For more information on the Digital Humanities at UF, see our Digital Humanities grants and resources page.

For more information, contact humanities-center@ufl.edu.
UF Resources/Websites for the Digital Humanities

Humanities Center: http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/digitalhum.html
Lib Guide: http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/digitalhumanities

Ongoing DHWG Projects

The DHWG is sharing related teaching resources and syllabi: http://ufdc.ufl.edu/digitalhumanities. To include your syllabus, email Laurie Taylor.

The DHWG is creating a document entitled “Supporting Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age: Needs and Recommendations from the DHWG”. Email skacord@ufl.edu for access to the Google document.


Upcoming Events in the Digital Humanities

March 8-10, 2013
Georgia Tech (Atlanta, GA)
THATcamp – Southeast (The Humanities And Technology camp): http://southeast2013.thatcamp.org/

March 13, Wednesday, 10am-12pm
Library West 211
“The EVIA Digital Archive”
DHWG Hands-On Workshop, Register - http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/Registration/

March 27, Wednesday, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Pugh Hall 210
“Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age – Discussion and Recommendations from the DHWG”
DHWG Discussion – No need to register

April 25, Thursday, all day
Smathers Library 1A
Interface + Digital Humanities Day!
Please email Laurie/Sophia if you’d like to discuss a project or topic, or present a poster. More details on the event TBD.

May 8, Wednesday, 11:30am-12pm (lunch) and 12-4pm (workshop)
Pugh Hall 120
“Stylish Academic Writing: Faculty & Graduate Workshop” with Helen Sword
To reserve a seat, please contact humanities-center@ufl.edu