**23 October 2013, 12-1:30pm**

**Pugh Hall 210**

**Digital Humanities Working Group (DHWG)**

**Discussion:** **Thinking Visually: Seeing Information and Ideologies**

**DHWG Conveners**

Dhanashree Thorat, English, dthorat@ufl.edu

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**Discussion: Thinking Visually: Seeing Information and Ideologies**

In many disciplines, the main interest in visualization is practical: how can I enhance my current practice and better communicate it to others by visualizing my data? At this level, the contribution of artists is typically presentational, and consists in sharing strategies or methods to show information clearly. But, visualization is seldom, if ever, a neutral tool for sharing information. Rather, visualizations transmit their own ideological assumptions encoded in them and in the digital devices that we use to disseminate them, often below the awareness of those who create or use them. In addition to visualization's 'practical' uses, we can also think about information visualization as a narrative strategy, for example, to stimulate creative or discovery, to engage in community-building via crowd-sourcing input, or to otherwise to construct our experiences with and knowledge of information in particular ways.  This DHWG discussion will be led by Profs. Jack Stenner (Art + Art History) and Terry Harpold (English) to discuss the  tremendous opportunities raised by information visualization, as well as the important critical and reflexive processes that researchers and communicators must engage in to truly understand the impact of visualization technologies.

Project Examples

* Prof. Jack Stenner's Delicious list of visualization links: <http://delicious.com/jstenner/tag_bundle/visualization>, including <http://demonocracy.info/infographics/usa/us_debt/us_debt.html>
* A map of Twitter users in the Gainesville area: <http://www.mapbox.com/labs/twitter-gnip/locals/#8/29.729/-83.477>, and a reflexive discussion of Twitter visualizations:  <http://www.visualizing.org/stories/visualizing-twitter>

Reading

1. Edward R. Tufte (2001)["Aesthetics and Technique in Data Graphical Design"](http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/pdf/tufte-aesthetics_and_technique.pdf) *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information (2nd ed.)*Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press: 177-190.
2. Mitchell Whitelaw (2008) "Art Against Information: Case Studies in Data Practice" *The Fibreculture Journal*(11).  <[http://eleven.fibreculturejournal.org/fcj-067-art-against-information-case-studies-in-data-practice](http://eleven.fibreculturejournal.org/fcj-067-art-against-information-case-studies-in-data-practice/)>
3. *Optional Reading:*James Elkins (1997) [“What Are We Seeing, Exactly?”](http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/pdf/elkins_what-are-we-seeing.pdf) *The Art Bulletin*79.2: 191–98.
4. *Optional Reading:*Bruno Latour & Adam Lowe. 2011. “[The Migration of the Aura, or How to Explore the Original through Its Facsimiles](http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/pdf/latour_migration-of-aura.pdf)”. In T. Bartscherer and R. Coover (eds.), Switching Codes: Thinking Through Digital Technology in the Humanities and the Arts. Chicago, London: The University of Chicago Press.

Discussion Questions

1. Choose a particular visualization to discuss. What information does this visualization convey, and what elements of knowledge or information -- for example, on the textual level -- do we overlook when we map or visualize data?
2. How can visualization tools act as narrative strategies, by revealing other, less explicit, processes of democratization or exclusivity in how they are presented to their users?

**UF Resources/Websites for the Digital Humanities**

## Digital Humanities Working GroupThe 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 Fall 2013 working groups will focus on Looking at the Humanities; Information and Visualization. We will discuss the various ways in which forms of data and research in the humanities are visualized, the theories behind visualization, and tools for expanding our own visualization practices.

For more information on the Digital Humanities at UF, see [www.uflib.ufl.edu/digitalhumanities](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/digitalhumanities)

For more information, contact humanities-center@ufl.edu.

**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**

**20 November 2013, 12-1:30pm**

**Pugh Hall 210**

**Digital Humanities Working Group (DHWG)**

**Diving Into Visualization: Tools for Research and Teaching**

<http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/calendar/20131120-DHWG.html>

**Digital Humanities Day, UF’s 2nd Annual with THATCamp-UF and Interface 2014**

**April 24 & 25, Thursday and Friday (reading days)**

**8:15am to 4:30pm**

**Smathers Library East (1A) and online**

\*breakfast, lunch, and coffee/snacks to be provided

**Other Upcoming Events**

Please see the Calendar from the Center for the Humanities & the Public Sphere for other upcoming events: <http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/calendar.html>

Also, please note that pre-planning will soon start for THATCamp-UF for Spring 2014.