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# What is a Digital Project?

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# Session Objectives

- Introduce you to some values of project-based digital humanities scholarship
- Increase your interest in digital scholarship appropriate for the AMICAL style institution
- Draw your attention to some of the platforms and tools people use  
Provide some glimpses into projects that can work, and have worked, in AMICAL consortium institutions
- Open dialogue within AMICAL about such scholarly endeavors

# Who are we?



David Joseph Wisley



Rayane Fayed

# What does the term Digital Humanities refer to?

Intellectual work and scholarly endeavors at the intersection of digital technology and humanities disciplines

# What is a Digital Project?

- Simply put, a digital project is an emergent way of doing scholarship in digital environments
- It brings together focused research questions; digital assets/content; a digital structure for accessing those assets; creators; users

# Common Elements of Digital Projects

- Often web-based
- Interdisciplinary, team-based, bringing together librarians, faculty, technologists, students, developers, “citizen scholars”
- Public orientation, local quality
- Emphasis on openness, from archives to tools
- Focus on process over product, “chunked” into manageable stages
- Digital environments allow research to be presented in dynamic ways, but also create new challenges (sustainability, project management, labor)

# A rough typology of Digital Projects


- Text-centered project: Text project / Crowd transcription
- Digital Archive / Exhibits: curation of digitized materials
- Visualization/Curation of Humanities Data
  - Networks of people, places and relationships
  - Mapping


# Text-centered projects (1)

CIVIL WAR LETTERS


View Manuscripts

(1 - 5 of 5)



	<b>Title</b> Letter written by Daniel Preston Adams from Baltimore, Maryland, on September 25, 1862, to his sister Esther Adams of North Lincklaen, Chenango County, New York, #cw02100
<b>Sender/Author</b>	Adams, Daniel Preston
<b>Regiment</b>	Regiment unknown
<b>Place Sent</b>	Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland
<b>Date Sent</b>	1862-09-25
<b>Receiver</b>	Adams, Esther
<b>Place</b>	North Lincklaen, Chenango County, New York
<b>Recieved</b>	
<b>Personal Names</b>	Adams, Esther, Adams, Esther, Noah, Stephen, Albert, Tyler, Henry B., Wheeler, H.S., Captain, Adams, Daniel Preston, Adams, Esther

	<b>Title</b> Letter written by Henry Welch, corporal in the 123rd New York Infantry Regiment, Company K, from Sandy Hook, West Virginia, on September 4,
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ISLANDORA FACETS

SENDER/AUTHOR

- Adams, Daniel Preston (1) +-
- Pearl, George W. (1) +-
- Stannard, Dwight W. (1) +-
- Unknown (1) +-
- Welch, Henry (1) +-

PLACE SENT

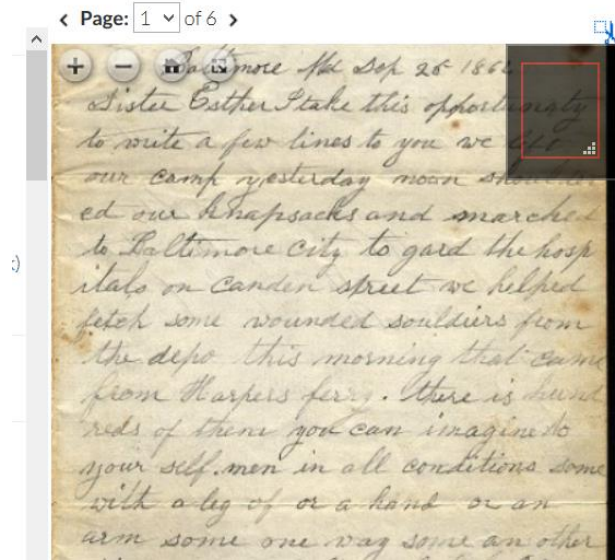
- Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland (1) +-
- Camp Hungry [near Parkton], Baltimore CountyMaryland (1) +-
- Fort Corcoran, Alexandria County, Virginia (1) +-
- Sandy Hook, Washington County, West Virginia> (1) +-

DATE SENT

- 1861-08-30 (1) +-
- 1862-03-09 (1) +-
- 1862-09-04 (1) +-
- 1862-09-25 (1) +-
- 1862-11-13 (1) +-

REGIMENT

- 117th New York Infantry Regiment (1) +-
- 123rd New York Infantry Regiment (1) +-
- 97th New York Infantry Regiment (1) +-





# Text creation (2) crowd transcription

home

Transcribe Translate Discuss

Pioneer Lives

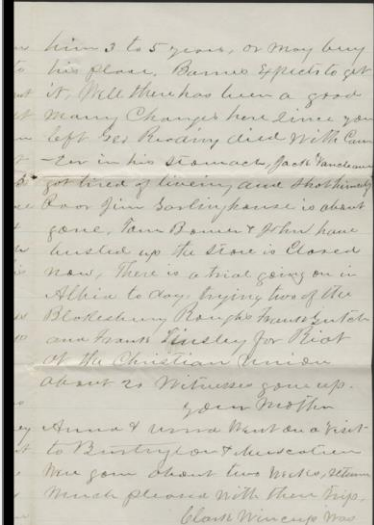
S. G. Finney letters to his son George, 1877-1880

1877-11-04 Page 3

More information -

him 3 to 5 years, or may buy his place. [Barnes?] expects to get it. well there has been a good many changes here since you left. Geo Reading died with [cancer?] in his stomach. Jack Vancleave got tired of living and shot himself. Poor Jim [Gorling?] house is about gone. Tom [Borner?] & John have bust up the store is closed now. There is a trial going on in Albia to day, trying two of the Blakesburg Roughs Frank [Gutch?] and Frank Tinsley for Riot at the Christian Union about 20 witnesses gone up. Your mother Anna & [Uma?] went on a visit to [town?] & [town?] were gone about two weeks, return much pleased with their trip. Clark Wincup was

resize



[diyhistory.lib.uiowa.edu/transcribe/3180/75549](http://diyhistory.lib.uiowa.edu/transcribe/3180/75549)

The French campaign in Egypt, 1798-1801 → محاكمة سليمان الحلبي

Page [iii]

Overview Transcribe Versions

← Page 4 of 56 →

Facsimile Transcription



[[Kleber]] العام [كليبير] بمصر القاهرة  
بمطبعة الجمهور الفرنسي  
في سنة 8 من القامة الجمهور

[fromthepage.com/display/display\\_page?page\\_id=7322](http://fromthepage.com/display/display_page?page_id=7322)

# Digital Archive / Exhibits: Curation of Digitized Materials

## Songs of the Victorians

	A setting from <i>Maud</i> (1855) By Alfred Lord Tennyson	<a href="#">Music Analysis</a>
		<a href="#">Archive</a>
	"Come into the Garden Maud" (1898) By Sir Arthur Somervell	<a href="#">Poem Analysis</a>
	A setting from <i>Maud</i> (1855) By Alfred Lord Tennyson	<a href="#">Music Analysis</a>
		<a href="#">Archive</a>
	"The Lost Chord" (1877) By Sir Arthur Sullivan	<a href="#">Music Analysis</a>

<http://www.songsofthevictorians.com/>

## Digital Scholarship Services



### Lafayette Special Collections

Digital collections that include materials from Skillman Library's Special Collections and College Archives



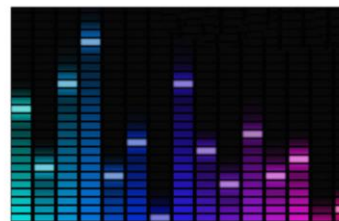
### Digital Scholarship Projects

Faculty driven research projects housed in customized Virtual Research Environments (VREs). These interactive platforms for research are built and maintained by DSS.



### Digital Resources

Access images, slides, and art collections for use in research and in the classroom.



### DH Classroom Projects

Examples of small-scale digital projects designed specifically for use in the classroom in support of the instructor's learning outcomes using easy to use tools.

<http://digital.lafayette.edu/collections>

# Visualization/Curation of Humanities Data

# Networks of People, Places and Relationships

*Kindred Britain* is a network of nearly 30,000 individuals — many of them iconic figures in British culture — connected through family relationships of blood, marriage, or affiliation. It is a vision of the nation's history as a giant family affair.

<http://kindred.stanford.edu/#/path/full/none/none/128692/18284/>

# Map environments -cartographic narrative (1)


← PAUSE II → 2 of 2 Rebels gather at Trinity estate.

**April 7, 1760**

Two Coromantee Negroes, Tacky and Jamaica, on Frontier Estate (belonging to Ballard Beckford, Esq.) having long been concerting a Rebellion with three other Chieftains of their country, who were each of them to have an Estate for his good Services, they fixed on Easter Monday Night for their rising.- Letter from a Gentleman at St. Mary, 14 April 1760

"It is believed that the plan was laid for a general insurrection all over the Island by the Coromantee Negroes who are by much the most numerous & resolute; the time fix'd was the Witsun Hollidays but very fortunately the Negroes in St. Marys particularly those upon the Estate that now belongs to Crookshank Mr Bayly's & Mr Ballard Beckfords under the Command of on Tackey a very resolute Fellow broke out in the Easter Hollidays, before the others were quite ripe."

▶ Map Legend



The map displays the island of St. Vincent with numerous estates and geographical features. Key locations include Beccobell, Allen, Harriffe, Bay, Eichen, The Gab Wood, Albion, Shorelych, Outvorn, Trinity, and Baywood Hall. Rivers such as the Salt, St. George, and St. Vincent are shown. A red callout box over the Trinity estate contains the text "Trinity Click for details".

APR 1760 MAY JUN JUL

# Map environments -participatory (2)

1. Microblogging exercise
2. Individual student project
3. Course-embedded collective Project
4. Ran for two data collection phases (2015-2016)
5. Phase 3: Data cleanup, Transcription and TEI XML Encoding (funded by AMICAL's Small grant for digital projects)



llbeirut.org

# When Do Digital Projects Succeed?

- Collective interest in a topic
- Starting small
- Willingness to learn platforms, tools, basics of data curation (DIY spirit)
- Committing to openness
- Commitment to standards, anchoring your work in that of others
- Values of DH (<http://www.dmdh.org/values-of-dh/>)

# Final Considerations



# Call for Action

Q&A