

“The Past and Present State of Digital History”
Discussion Group Leader: Dara Folan, NUI Galway.

Overview

This session will aim to offer a broad based theoretical introduction into the sub field of ‘Digital History’ or ‘Historical Computing’ within the overall context of a developing Digital Humanities sphere in academe globally. The opportunities and challenges digital methodologies/tools pose to scholars as well as the reticence of some historians to engage more fully with the field will form a central focus of discussion. The vital issue of digital curation and how future historians will be required to utilize digital methods in order to mine the primary sources of our own age will also be considered.

Readings

(1) Ayers, Edward L. “The Pasts and Futures of Digital History” (University of Virginia, 1999).

Link: <http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/PastsFutures.html>

(2) Thomas II, William G. ‘Computing and the Historical Imagination’, in Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, John Unsworth (eds.), *A Companion to the Digital Humanities* (Oxford, 2004).

Link: <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/view?docId=blackwell/9781405103213/9781405103213.xml&chunk.id=ss1-2-5>

(3) Rosenzweig, Roy. ‘Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past in a Digital Era’, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 108, No.3 (June, 2003), pp.735-62.

Link: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/links/pdf/introduction/0.6b.pdf>