

Digitalizing Historical Collections through Data Bases- Digital Applications towards Promotion of Historical Research

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Abstract: This paper examines the emerging trends of application of digital tools to historical research and focuses on introducing digital training towards making historical research reach youth. Digital history is an approach to examine and representing the past that works with the new communication technologies of the computer internet network and software systems. It is an open arena of scholarly production and communication encompassing the development of new course materials and scholarly data collection efforts. Hence a digital historian encounters research issues relating to collection of historical sources, management of historical sources, exploration of historical sources, manipulation of historical sources and proper collaboration of historical sources. Hence there is a need to adopt a careful and completely informed approach in the use of digital tools for historical research. There is a need for a long term policy framework to develop new initiatives through training to historical scholars. There is a need for developing in house expertise for managing digital historical research. History teachers need awareness in using them appropriately. This needs to be evolved as national policy as higher education sector can play a key role in the evolution of such a policy.

Keywords: Digitalizing historical collections, data bases, digital applications, promotion of historical research

I. Introduction

The advent of digital technologies has been hailed as a transformational moment in academic circles. Digital scholarship has come to challenge the existing theoretical paradigms and research methodology. Digital scholarship has started to enable new modes of scholarly inquiry, scholarly collaboration, scholarly publication, and pedagogy. The traditional methods of historical research is being replaced by digital applications.

Evolution of Digital history - Digital history is a very motivating theme and it is gaining significance as digital tools have become more popular and user friendly following globalization. Thomas, III, William G. (2004). "Computing and the Historical Imagination". In Susan Schreib man; Ray Siemens; John Uns worth A Companion to Digital Humanities. Oxford: Blackwell and Burton, Orville (ed.). Computing in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002 have shown that there is a need for new awareness on digital history for not only historians abut also other disciplines as well .

Concept of digital history- Digital history refers to the use of communication technologies such as the computer the internet software systems to examine and represent the past.

Responsibilities of a digital historian -Digital historians need to

1. Collect Historical Sources
2. Manage Historical Sources
3. Explore Historical Sources
4. Manipulate Historical Sources
5. Collaborate Historical Sources



Digital historians & inter-disciplinary collaboration - Digital historians need inter-disciplinary collaboration because co-operative initiatives help expand the jurisdiction of historical enquiry . Historians will collaborate research with

1.	Computer programmers
2.	Conservators
3.	Designers
4.	Engineers
5.	Information architects
6.	Librarians
7.	Publishers

Digital history in academic & pedagogic circles- the digital history encompasses the development of

1. New Source Materials
2. New Data Bases
3. New Framework
4. Interactive Timelines
5. New Exhibits
6. New Text Analysis
7. Data Visualization
8. New Types Of Data Presentation
9. Mapping

Benefits of digital history-

1. The digital history tools helps them to understand and comprehend and experience historical problems.
2. Digital history is a methodological approach framed by the hyper textual power of these digital technologies to make, define, query and redefine human records of the past.
3. Through the framework of through technology it gives people experience, read, and follow an argument about a major historical issues.
4. This brings them in touch with web media and helps them to develop models of digital history scholarship.
5. It helps them to collaborate with librarians technology professionals historians and political theorists .
6. It connection professionals from various disciplines,

Digitalizing the tools of historical study has become necessary. History is a study of past events as it interconnects society and culture as it happened in the past . Conserving historical records becomes a heavy task because they are written on old technology and becomes difficult to preserve. Using cost effective methods to digitalize historical records and all types of rare collections has become necessary following digital revolution. A researcher in history needs records for furthering research aspects . But historical research is a

multi-disciplinary facet which preserves on making available Digitally versions freely available online is very important. All the historical records which have national significance have to be made digital because conservation of historical documents have become ultra modern.

1. Historical records are being digitalized using OCR technology and several of these are not managed by all researchers .
2. History is a study of past events it interconnects society , culture ,
3. Using cost effective methods to digitalize historical records rare collections made them digitally versions freely available online is very important.
4. All the historical records which have national significance have to be made digital.
5. People who are interested in historical research need to know the collection online. this makes research more easier and supportive to society
6. Digitalizing the past support the documentation of the present more supportive. .

There is a need for combining traditional historical methods and new research methods in order to arrive at new connections. There is a need for using different tools to extract analyze larger amounts of data There is a need to create models and maps of data extracted to create a visualization of the data . This leads to collection of historical knowledge.

Tools of digital history -Digitalization of History supports collaborative nature of most digital history endeavors. Digital historians use web development tools such as

1. ADOBE DIGIT SERVE
2. ADOBE EDITOR
3. ADOBE FLASH
4. STRUCTURED QUERY LANGUAGE SQL
5. STRUCTURED QUERY LANGUAGE SQL
6. WYSIWYG HTML
7. WYSIWYG HTML ADOBE EDITOR
8. XML EXTENSIBLE APPLICATION
9. XHTML LANGUAGE
10. XML DIGIT
11. XHTML MARKUP LANGUAGE

The digital history offers

1. The application of digital history provides researchers with a wide and growing access to historical materials which furthers the knowledge of the historical sites, artifacts , materials and products.
2. The application of digital history gives new ways and tools to manipulate digitalized material and helps to manage digital sources in an appropriate way.
3. The application of digital history transforms scholarly communication and publishing through blogs, twitter , e- journals , -e-books , which helps the researcher to widen the jurisdiction of historical research
4. The application of digital history enhances teaching and learning inside classroom as it enhances the experience of learning history through flipped classrooms, simulations, virtual, reality, experience applications
5. The application of digital history opens avenues for reaching a broader ,public history audience through digitized historical projects and publications.

Challenges

1. A digital Historian needs to know about understanding the technologies involved in digital history is very demanding
2. A digital Historian needs to know how to choose the appropriate digital methodology towards historical research application
3. A digital Historians need to know about research friendly sites which is user friendly and scholarly
4. A digital Historian needs to know digital friendly historical tools making them web-friendly while preserving their antiquity without harming the historical integrity
5. A digital Historian needs to know how to reach and respond to an intended audience effectively.
6. A digital Historian needs to know repercussion of copyright laws of academic sector.
7. A digital Historian needs to know fair use for scholarship in a digital age because heavy input of information leaves the researchers with heavy oscillation towards their usage.

II. Conclusion

Thus the advent of digital technologies has been hailed as a transformational moment in academic circles. Digital scholarship challenges existing theoretical paradigms and enables new modes of scholarly inquiry, collaboration, publication, and pedagogy. Hence there is a need to adopt a careful and completely informed approach in the use of digital tools for historical research. There is a need for a long term policy framework to develop new initiatives through training to historical scholars. There is a need for developing in house expertise for managing digital historical research. History teachers need awareness in using them appropriately.

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