Digitally Speaking

ACH/ALLC in Victoria for 2005

Below: The glow of the Parliament building in the Victoria night.

The largest conference in humanities computing completed its meeting at the University of Victoria on June 18th. It was attended by approximately 200 delegates, mostly from Europe and North America.

Anne Balsamo, Director of the Institute for Multimedia Literacy at USC, delivered the keynote. She is working on a new book called Designing Culture that discusses aspects of the technological imagination at work. Dr. Balsamo is one of the original founders of Onomy Labs (see below).

A special volume of Literary and Linguistic Computing will contain selected proceedings from the conference.

web.uvic.ca/hrd/achallc2005

ONOMY CREATES DIGITAL (AND PHYSICAL) EXPERIENCES OF CULTURE

Onomy Labs brings together a diverse team, experienced in art, science, design, and engineering, to create novel interactive environments that provide an experience of culture, history, and artifacts using both virtual and physical tools. Though they apply powerful digital techniques and use various mechanical mechanisms and sensors to provide interactivity, their work also invites physical participation... the touching, tweaking, turning, and twisting of objects in their engaging installations.

Their latest installation is at the Papalote Children’s Science Museum in Mexico City. Other projects include Experiments in the Future of Reading sponsored by Xerox PARC.

http://www.onomy.com

HI Discussion Lunches

Noon meetings of the HI Working Group will continue through the summer. The meetings will be in room 308A Glasscock Building. Lunch will be provided by the Glasscock Center.

At our meeting on June 16th, we recognized our need to have representation of the perspective of the library.

Our last June meeting will be on Wednesday the 29th. We will be joined by Candace Benefiel and possibly Brian Surratt, both from TAMU Libraries. They will help us develop a vision of the future library.

Join us to share your ideas and help develop an HI program at Texas A&M. For dates and details contact Dr. Tim Manning. tmanning@tamu.edu

"...human beings... must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it."

-Charlotte Bronte from Jane Eyre
ENHANCING CRITICAL THINKING: DIGITIZING THE HUMANITIES

Humanities faculty at Johns Hopkins University are working with their Center for Educational Resources to develop digital tools to help their students to analyze more effectively, write more clearly, and learn how to exploit the potential of a modern research library to serve as the laboratory environment of the humanist.

The faculty consider critical thinking, the ability to analyze, evaluate, and conceptualize information, as essential, yet often underdeveloped skills in students which they intend to improve using their new digital tools.

THE BREAKTHROUGH WORK OF THE “NEW“ HUMANITIES

The benefits of digital technologies, speeding the creation of scholarly works, making the work easier to perform, and broadening its audience, may in themselves justify the effort to incorporate them. One can now imagine a super library... or network of libraries, an almost infinite archive of digitized source materials and, perhaps more importantly, powerful tools used for manipulating that information in the authoring of new works.

But, there is little doubt that work of the “new” humanities blurs the boundaries between art, science, and engineering, challenging us to recall the fundamental motivation of the humanities: to express an understanding of human experience in terms that remain human. Beyond greater breadth and efficiency, we can hope that our new technologies provide also the means to assert with greater depth and creativity that which furthers that original purpose.

MELLON FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has established a Research in Information Technology program to support the development of new ways that information technology can benefit scholarly activities. Interest areas include digital libraries, advanced search protocols, improved electronic storage, and innovations in user-interface technologies. For more information go to... http://juicy.mellon.org/RIT