

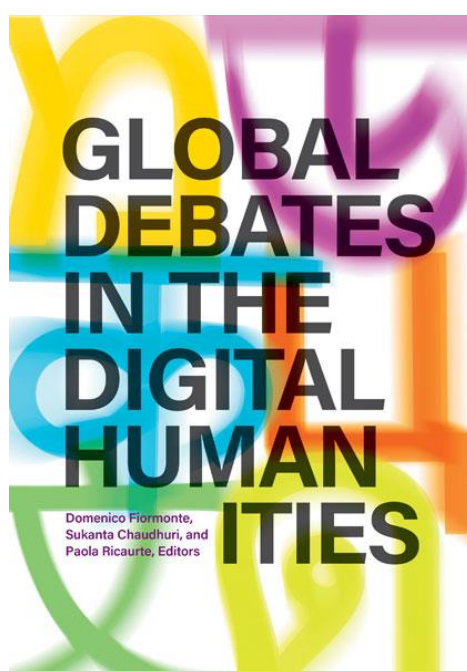
**Domenico Fiormonte, Sukanta Chaudhuri
and Paola Ricaurte (eds). *Global Debates in
the Digital Humanities*. University of
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Shanmugapriya T

University of Toronto Scarborough

shanmu.shanmugapriya@utoronto.ca

ORCID: 0000-0002-1524-429X



The field of Digital Humanities (DH) has experienced significant growth over the past two decades, encompassing knowledge production, dissemination, pedagogy, methods, tools, and technologies. The historicity of DH has been defined based on its development across different periods. For example, the first wave of DH is primarily associated with digitization, quantitative methods, and the development of technological infrastructure. The field's designation was also under experimentation during this period. The second wave is characterized by the alliance between digital-born materials, experiential approaches, and the development and utilization of digital toolkits and humanities methodologies. The third wave is connected to reborn-digital materials (Schnapp and Presner 2009; Berry 2011; Brügger 2016 Para: 42-44). As DH continues to evolve, the recent advancements in Artificial Intelligence have the potential to influence the fourth wave, impacting DH pedagogy and tools. However, it is crucial to critically analyze the changes and biases that may impact the field. On one hand, these waves have been shaped by extensive conferences, projects, scholarly conversations, and productions that debated and discussed the histories and critical issues of globalized DH, predominately focusing on the West or Global North. However, the localized global DH histories and critical issues stemming from the Global South largely remain unaddressed. *Global Debates in the Digital Humanities* edited by Domenico Fiormonte, Sukanta Chaudhuri, and Paola Ricaurte, draws attention to such localized alternative histories, epistemological issues, and uneven digital and technological infrastructure primarily originating from the Global South. The series delves into topics that present a distinctive perspective on localized gaps, activities, innovations and practices within DH and beyond.

This collection is divided into three parts based on themes. The first part, titled "Global Histories of Digital Humanities," comprises eight essays (Chapter 1-8). Bhattacharyya and Priego, in the first and third chapters respectively, shed light on the overlooked epistemological invisibilization of the Global South through text-analysis tools and the neglect of knowledge produced in unconventional digital spaces like blogging and open access platforms. Gairola (Chapter 4) addresses the crucial issue of queer DH by questioning the widely used metaphor of the "Big tent" and exploring postcolonial and queer theories in connection to DH. Chapters 2, 5, 6, and 7 present alternative local histories of DH in India, Russia, China, and Poland. Sneha (Chapter 2) examines the politics and role of digital archives in DH, highlighting the transformation from state institutions to private institutions and individuals, along with the barriers of technology, access, and language associated with digital archives. Kizhner et al. (Chapter 5) focus on the history of DH in Russia, emphasizing its roots in mathematics and social sciences with a focus on quantitative studies. Chen and Tsui (Chapter 6) delve into the extensive digitization projects and scholarly discussions in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and beyond, addressing the challenges of implementing DH methods and tools in research and pedagogy. Maryl (Chapter 7) discusses the history of DH in Poland, its contributions to European DH, and the significance of the "local" in terms of language, culture, and technology. Finally, Rodríguez-Ortega concludes this section with a theoretical essay on the issues and concerns surrounding DH in the Global South and emphasizes the need to address imbalances in the access, production, distribution, and validation of knowledge.

The second part, "Exploring and Practicing Global Digital Humanities", consists of ten essays (Chapter 9-18) that showcase challenges and constraints in technology, administration, collaboration, and more, in the Global South. The topics

covered in this section are diverse, including OCR development for non-Latin scripts, text mining, digitization, collaboration, and digital literary skills. Auddy (Chapter 9) discusses structural and formatting issues in applying OCR to read old Bengali fonts and multicolumn layouts in old newspapers. Similarly, Horvath (Chapter 10) addresses OCR challenges with premodern Japanese scripts. In contrast, Trigueros (Chapter 13) highlights the difficulties in digitizing two literary modes—codices and orality—from Mexico, while demonstrating innovative digital enhancements in the form of transcriptions, translations, references, and geographic representations. These chapters shed light on the fundamental issues of converting historical, literary, and culturally rich resources into machine-readable materials. Clark, Zhang, and Roth (Chapter 12) investigate the application of text mining and its challenges to digitized Chinese scripts using Google Ngram to trace mass media trends in Chinese corpus. Marienberg-Milikowsky (Chapter 12) showcases the potential of existing open-access text mining tools to study Talmudic literature. Meantime, Roy and Menon (Chapter 14) examine the current state of the DH landscape in India from a decolonial perspective and they highlight ongoing DH projects. Gavrilova (Chapter 15) presents an alternative history of DH through locally developed and culturally rich memory projects. They highlight the characteristic features and limitations of the projects due to dearth of DH resources. Álvarez and Quintanilla (Chapter 16) describe the project that adopts a decolonial approach, specifically studying borderland communities of Mexico-US and creating alternative forms of archival resources and methodologies. Afanador-Llach, Lombana-Bermudez and Ávila (Chapter 17 and 18) narrate their experiences in a resource-limited DH project, which both fosters the development of new digital literary skills and faces challenges due to a lack of knowledge.

The third part, titled “Beyond Digital Humanities,” consists of six chapters (19-24) address issues, plans, and actions related to innovative technological infrastructure, gender and digital technologies, and decolonization imagery in the Global South. The first four chapters, authored by Riande, Steyn and Goodrich, Chiesa and Foletto, Gurumurthy and Bharthur discuss various technological and cultural infrastructures and strategies for developing digital technologies and infrastructure with limited resources. Riande explores the concept of the “right to infrastructure” and highlights the importance of addressing inequalities in access to DH infrastructure for Global South scholars to avoid knowledge monopolies. These scholars emphasize the use of local creativity, features, and available materials to improve conditions. Chiesa and Foletto study the concept and practice of *Gambiarra*s, which focuses on innovative solutions to overcome scarcity, providing two examples that demonstrate how *Gambiarra*s contribute to Southern epistemology and generate knowledge and technological innovations. Gurumurthy and Bharthur view DH as a potential tool for women's empowerment, drawing from their experiences in a year-long digital literacy program with rural adolescent girls in South India. Unwin explores the gendered aspects of technology and how language and social interventions are influenced by such processes. The concluding chapter, by Leterme, addresses ecological concerns and decolonization imagery in the Global South.

Overall, this collection not only provides alternative local histories and makes a remarkable contribution to the global DH discourse, but also voices to previously unheard perspectives and histories from the Global South. While the collection is acknowledged by the editors as not being fully inclusive, the exclusive local histories and conversations truly represent the global DH landscape and foster further dialogue emerging from the South.

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Shanmugapriya T is a Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Scholar at the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies (HCS). Her research and teaching interests include an interdisciplinary focus in the areas of Digital Humanities, digital environmental humanities, and digital literature and games. Shanmu's holds her PhD in Digital Humanities and Indian English Literature at Indian Institute of Technology Indore, India. She was an AHRC Postdoctoral Research Associate at Lancaster University, UK from 2020 to 2021. She has published papers in national and international avenues such as Oxford University Press, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, Routledge and *Electronic Book Review*, etc.

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