

ATS1208

Digital Humanities: Concepts, tools and debates

Week 1: Introduction and Overview



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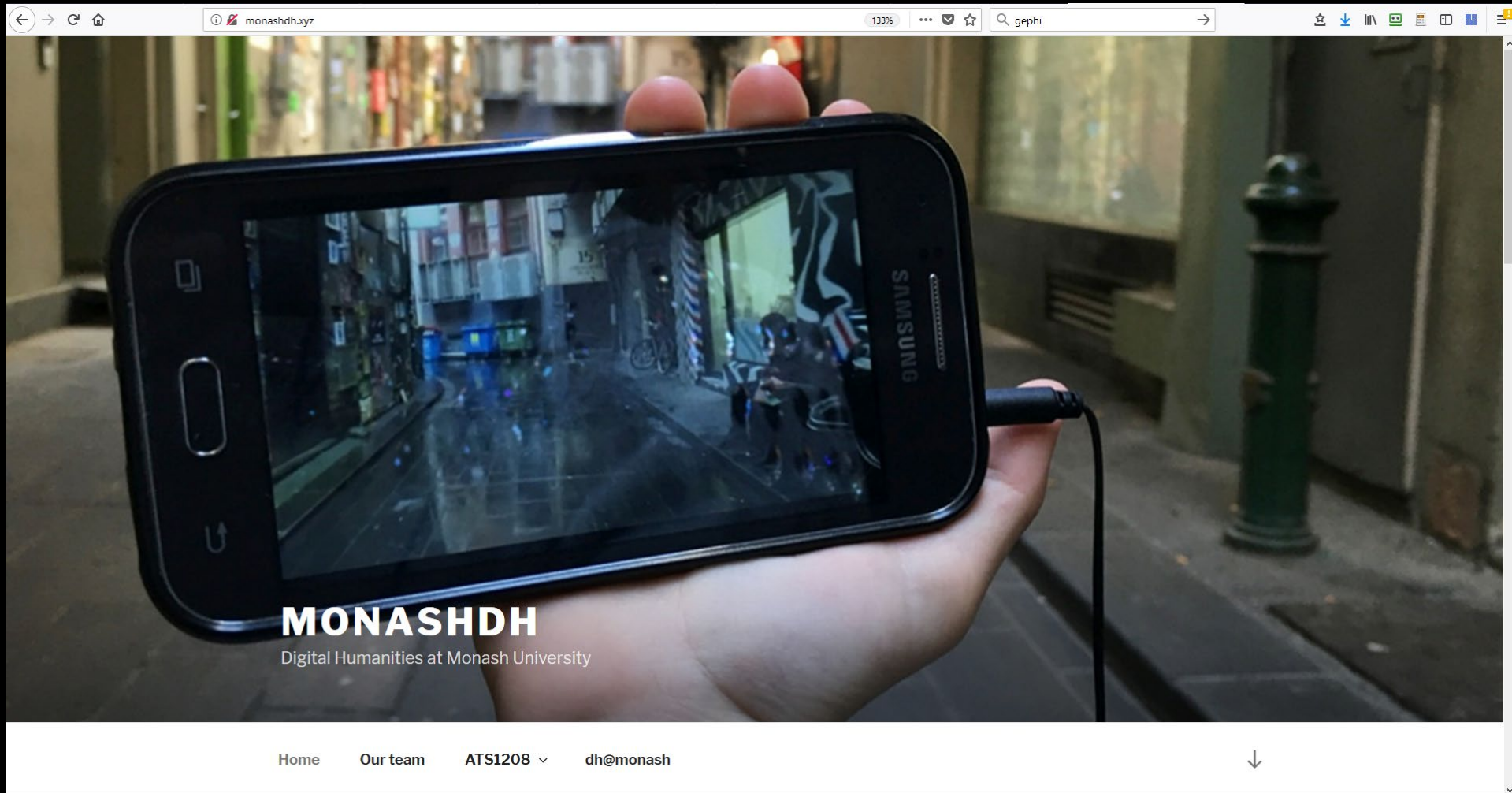
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- Consultation times:
 - Tuesday 2 – 3
 - Thursday 2 – 3

This unit

- Team taught by staff from:
 - Faculty of Arts (LLCL, MFJ)
 - Faculty of IT
 - MADA

Our website




Division of labour

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ATS1208 - Digital Humanities: Concepts, tools and debates - S1 2018


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Welcome Unit Guide Unit Resources Assessment Forum Weeks * Grades

Week 1

ATS1208
Digital Humanities:
Concepts, tools and debates
Week 1: Introduction and Overview




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dh@monash - ATS1208

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Week 1: Introduction to DH



Lecture : This week's lecture will be an introduction to Digital Humanities and an overview of the unit. It will pick up themes from the unit title:

- What concepts are important in understanding Digital Humanities?
- What tools are used in Digital Humanities?
- What are the debates around Digital Humanities?

Division of labour - assessment

- Most assessment is presented via Wordpress
 - More in a moment
- Submit the url of your work via Moodle
- Reading quizzes are Moodle only

Skills

A blurred background image showing a hand holding a pen, writing on a notepad. The notepad has a green and white patterned cover. In the background, there are various papers, including one with a large number '2' and another with a photograph of a person. The overall scene suggests a creative or professional workspace.

Create a site with WordPress.

Choose the software powering 29% of the internet.

[Get Started](#)

Course themes: digital media



- How digital technology and media are assembled, used, and experienced in society
- How to build digital artefacts – e.g. apps, websites, and visualizations

Course themes: digital scholarship



How to apply new modes of analysis and presentation to re-evaluate the nature of evidence and argument in the humanities

Course themes: digital heritage



How to creatively and critically apply digital technologies to activate, engage, and transform cultural material

Afterwards

- Digital Humanities addresses the growing demand for graduates well-versed in a combination of humanistic and digital skills and able to work in a variety of professional environments
- Digital Humanities graduates are prepared for a variety of careers, spanning cultural heritage, libraries and archives, marketing and communications, journalism, entertainment, and technology
- Your technological fluency combined with traditional humanities skills will also give you an edge in more traditional humanities careers such as the media, the public service or education

Concepts - disciplines

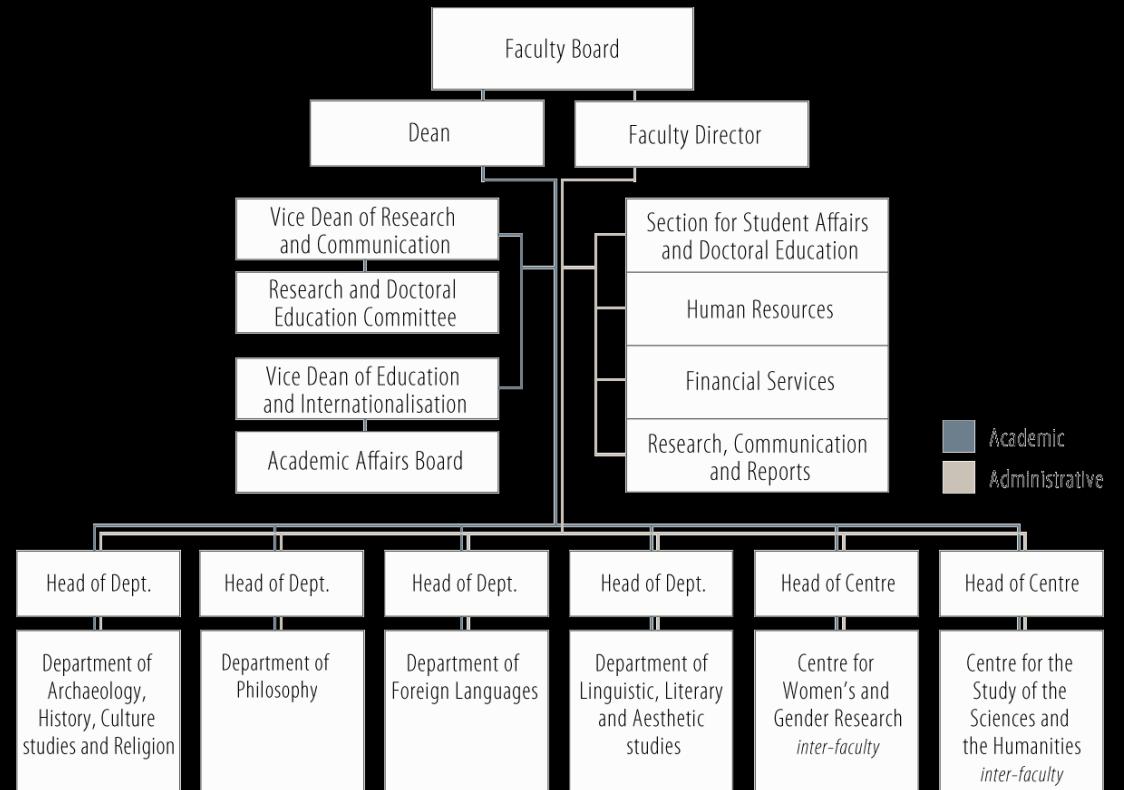
- We can define disciplines by **content** or by **method**, or by some combination
- Content:
 - History (past events)
 - Literary studies (what we accept as literature)
- Method:
 - Creative writing
- Combination:
 - Ethnography/Cultural Anthropology (other societies, participant observation)

Where can we locate DH?

- Content is specific only at level of ‘humanities’
- There is a trap here
 - Some work which takes a humanities look at digital phenomena can be considered DH
 - Ethnography of digital communities
 - Linguistics of computer-mediated communication
- Is DH defined by method then?
- In a moment we’ll think about some of the tools that are used
- But first – administration!

Institutional factors

- Questions about disciplines are (should be?) intellectual questions
- But institutional factors play a part
- We will touch on these aspects several times in the unit

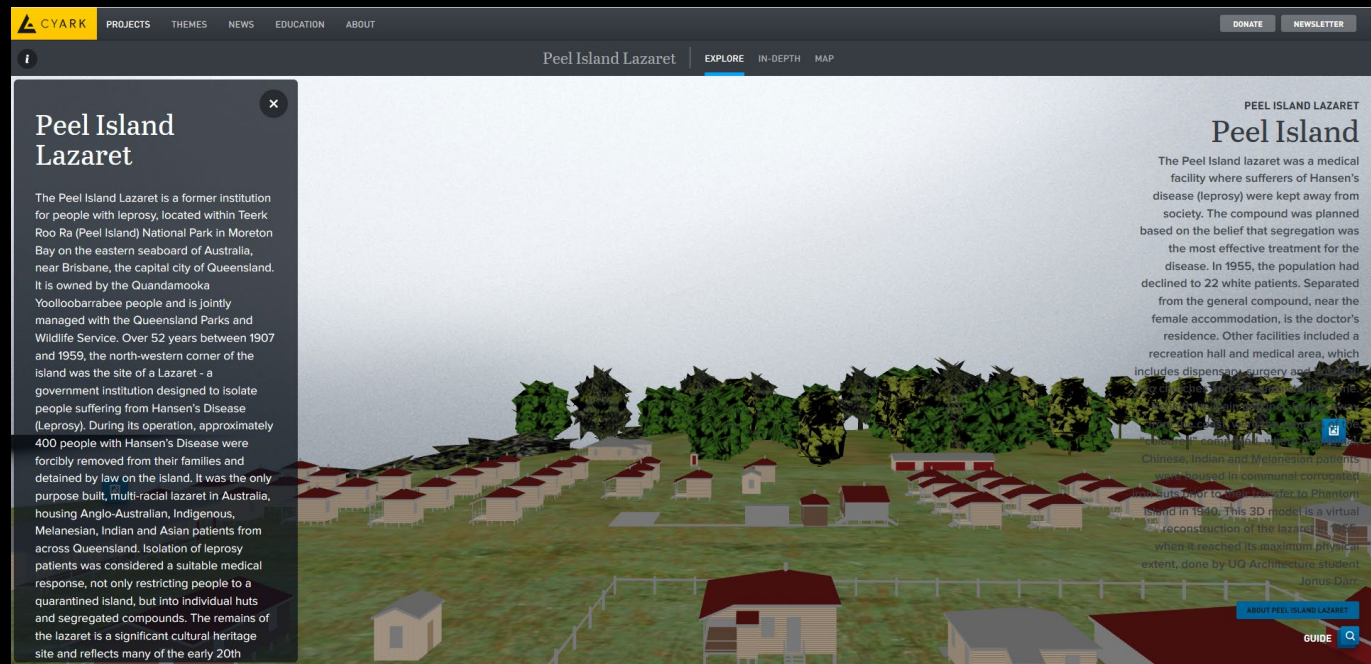


Tools - 1



- DH practitioners use a variety of tools
- Gardiner & Musto mention some:
 - Text editing tools
 - Information storage and retrieval tools
 - Tools for counting
 - Tools for visualisation and presentation

Tools - 2



- You will look at three examples of DH in the lab class this week
 - Orbis
 - Drifter
 - Peel Island Lazaret
- Think about the sort of tools which went into the products you see and interact with
 - What sort of information is stored and how might it be stored?
 - Are numbers part of what you see? What is being counted?
 - What sort of techniques are used to make the presentation effective and informative?

Debates

- We are going to avoid (defer) debate about what is DH
- We will adopt a practice based approach
 - What do people do who call their work 'digital humanities'?
- Two questions we do want you to think about:
 - What is digital in DH?
 - What is humanistic in DH?
- And one more:
 - Is the sum greater than the parts?

Looking ahead – week 2

- What do we mean by digital?
 - As opposed to:
 - Analogue?
 - Print culture? (oral culture?)
 - Other possibilities?

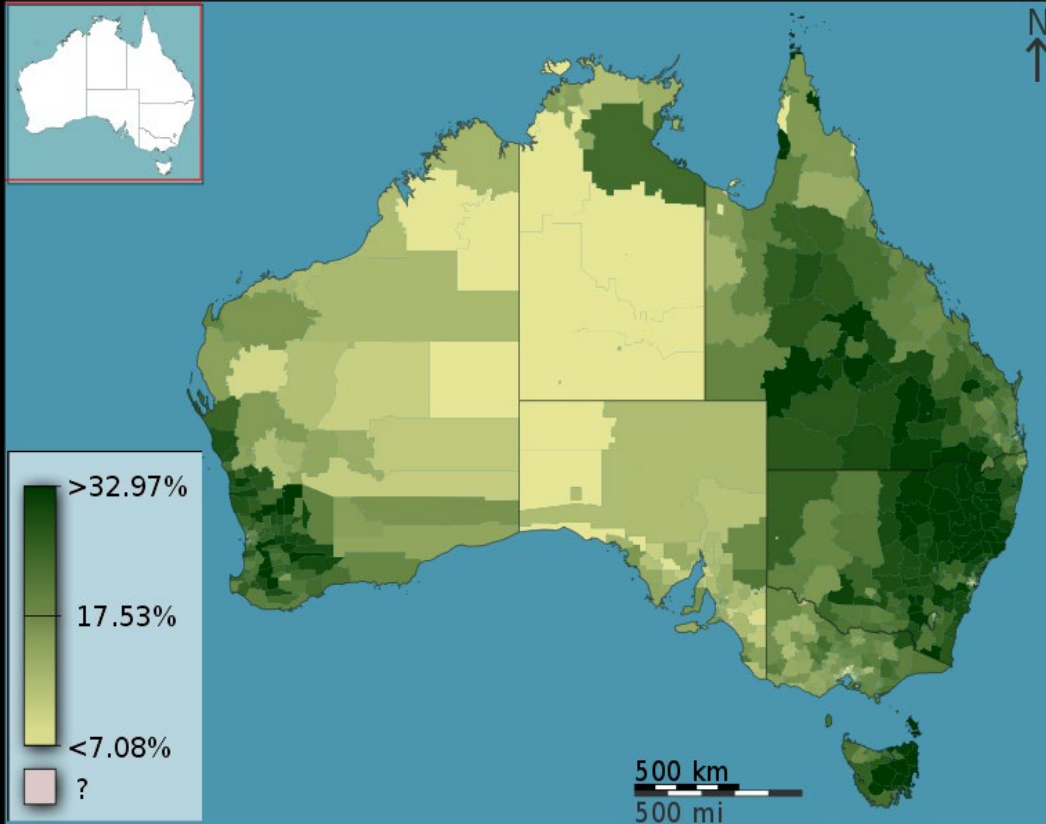


Looking ahead – week 3

- What do we mean by humanities?
 - As opposed to:
 - Sciences?
 - Social sciences?
 - Creative arts?



Space and maps



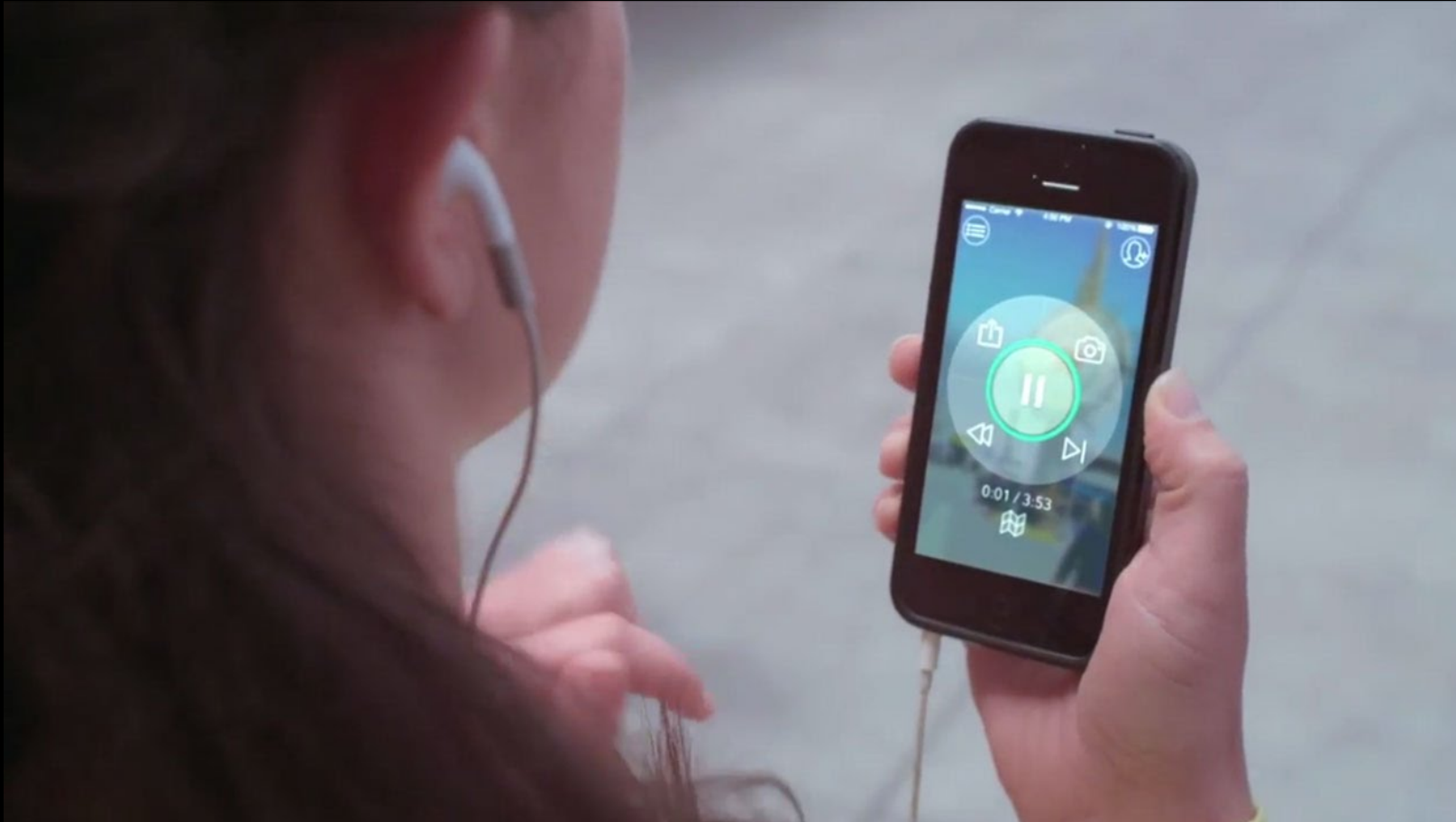
People who identify as Anglican as a fraction of total persons, in Australia, Australia, according to the 2011 census results

- We will spend a lot of time during the semester looking at space
- Humanities research in the last decades has taken a 'spatial turn'
- This has been assisted by technological developments
- How can we bring space and place into our work?

Looking ahead – weeks 4 to 8

- A block of lectures on space:
 - Moving beyond text
 - Imaging
 - 3D imaging
 - Narrativising space

Week 7 – Going to a space

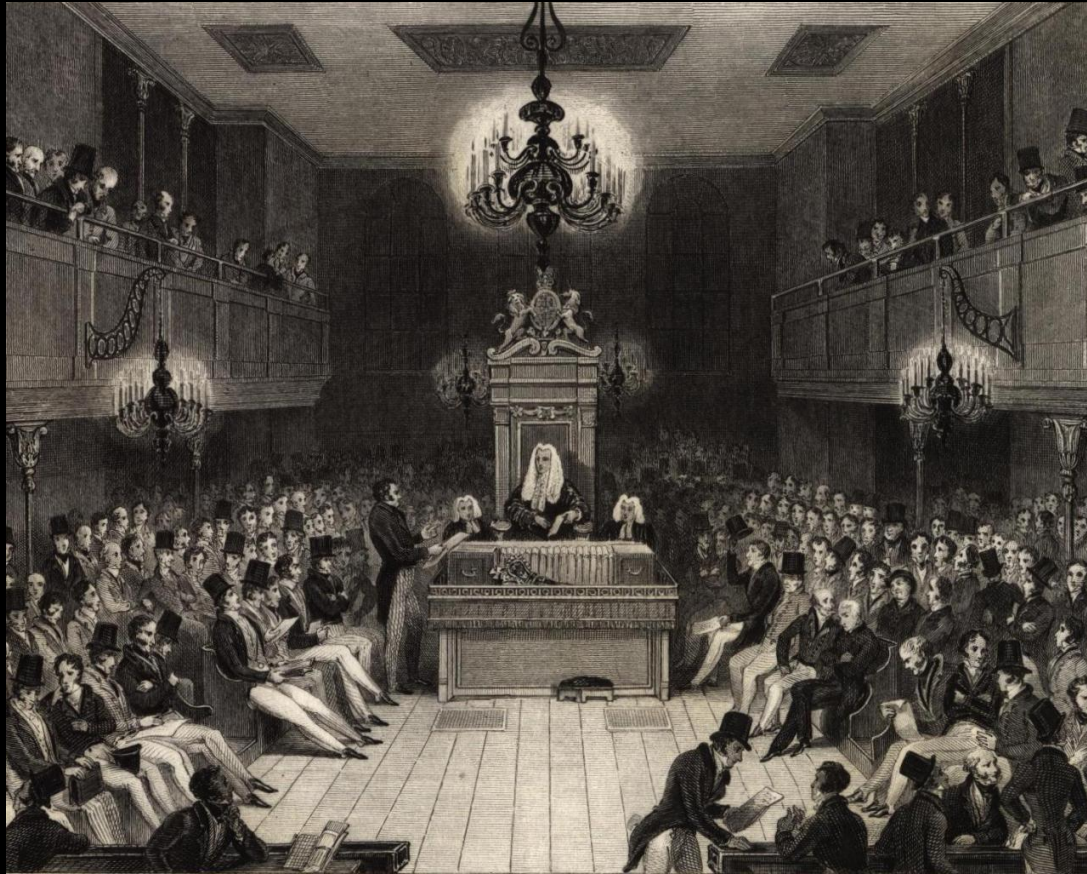




Looking ahead – weeks 9 to 11

- The impact of making space part of the story in:
 - Digital media
 - Digital scholarship
 - Digital heritage

Looking ahead – week 12



- The debate is on
- Coming back to questions:
 - Is DH a field?
 - Can we define it?
- But with more knowledge and experience.....