

History 381/581: Digital History  
Leslie Madsen-Brooks, Fall 2014

### Interview a Digital Humanist

For your first assignment in this course, you need to interview a digital humanist about his or her job and career path, and then report on your findings in a blog post of around 750 words. You can conduct the interview on the phone, via video chat, via e-mail, or in person. Plan to take no more than 30 minutes of the person's time.

You might ask your interview subject about such topics as:

- academic background and preparation
- technological training he needed to do his job
- jobs held on the way to becoming a digital humanist in her current position
- what a typical day looks like
- current or past projects
- recommended digital humanities resources
- advice for someone interested in pursuing a career in the digital humanities
- skills a digital humanist must have

Because I don't want the highest-profile digital humanists to be barraged with interview requests, **you must sign up to interview a specific person**, and no two students may interview the same person. I will invite you to a Google doc where you can "claim" your interview subject.

You may not interview any of the people previously interviewed for this project. You can find previous interviewees at <http://digitally.doinghistory.com/category/digital-humanist-interview/>.

You should summarize and reflect on your interview, not just share a transcript of it.

You can see some samples from a similar assignment, in which students interviewed public historians, at <http://502.doinghistory.com/category/public-history-career-info/>.

**Please note:** You must get permission from your interviewee to post your findings online. If you are interviewing someone who doesn't wish to grant this permission, you can turn in the blog post to me without posting it to the blog.

The post must be on the class blog or in my e-mail inbox before class on **Wednesday, September 24**.

## How/where to find digital humanists

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dancohen/lists/digitalhumanities>

At Digital Humanities Now: <http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/>

From the contributors' list to *Debates in the Digital Humanities*; table of contents available at <http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/debates-in-the-digital-humanities>.

From the contributors list to *Hacking the Academy*:  
<http://www.digitalculture.org/books/hacking-the-academy-new-approaches-to-scholarship-and-teaching-from-digital-humanities/>

In the tables of contents of issues of *Digital Humanities Quarterly*:  
<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/>

By looking at the contributors or staff list for a digital humanities project

By looking at the staff lists of museums or archives that undertake digital initiatives

Via the Alliance of Digital Humanities Initiatives: <http://digitalhumanities.org/>

By using your Google-Fu