# How I learned to stop worrying and love digital scholarship

Stewart Varner
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@stewartvarner



"Danger," by Tom Magliery, Flickr, Creative Commons License



Digitization in Wilson Library

### The Emory Women Writers Resource Project





Sheila T. Cavanagh Professor of English Emory University

A few interrelated trends:

#### A few interrelated trends:

Digital Pedagogy



"Classroom" by James F. Clay, Flickr, Creative Commons License

#### A few interrelated trends:

- Digital Pedagogy
- Online Social Networking







#### A few interrelated trends:

- Digital Pedagogy
- Online Social Networking
- **Digital Scholarly Publishing**





Failing to comply with David's wishes, the lord." He explains his actions to the king:

The Ark, Israel, and Judah are all dwelling in tents. My lord Joab (the generall and the servants of my lord are camping in the field. Should I then go to my home, to eat and drink and to sleep with my wife? By your very life, I cannot do such a thing! -2 Sam 11:11

It is at this point that David reluctantly re-

solves to eliminate the unyielding soldier. "Stay here today, and I will send you back tomorrow." When he returns to the battlefront, it will be to meet his orchestrated demise.

David initially has qualms about such a persoldier spends the night at the entrance of the nicious plan. In the hope that the soldier might palace "along with all the other servants of his in a moment of weakness break down and go visit his wife, he invites him a second time to

his own table, where he attempts to inebriate him with wine. Yet again the irreproachable soldier takes his place among "the servants of his lord," rather than going down to his home.

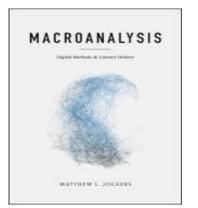
David thus takes the next step. The reader can sense the tragic agony of this

chain of events. (One is reminded of Woody Allen's Crimes and Misdemeanors.) The king sends the soldier back to the front lines with his own death warrant in hand. Fol-

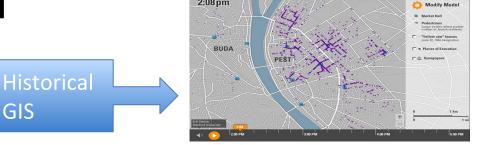
Screen shot from "David, King of Israel, and Caleb in Biblical Memory" by Jacob Wright and published by Cambridge UP

#### A few interrelated trends:

- Digital Pedagogy
- Online Social Networking
- Digital Scholarly Publishing
- Data Visualization/Digital
   Mapping







Mapping Mobility in the Budapest Ghetto

#### A few interrelated trends:

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- Data Visualization/Digital
   Mapping
- Text Mining/Data Analysis



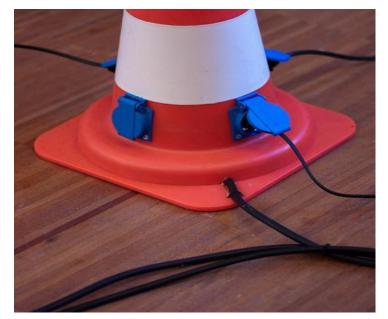
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- Data Visualization/Digital
   Mapping
- Text Mining/Data Analysis
- Digital Libraries and Repositories

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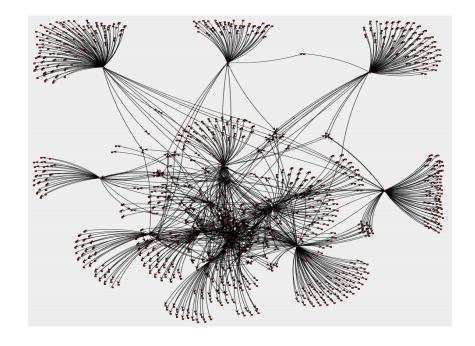


 Technophilic and Multimodal



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- Technophilic and Multimodal
- Trans/Multi/Interdiscip linary



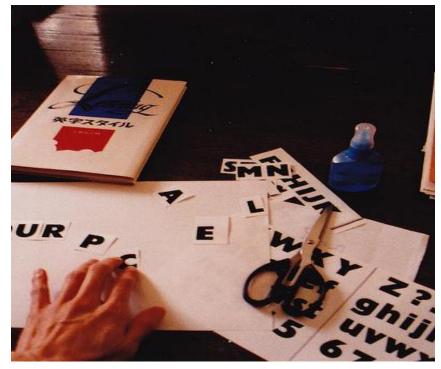
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- Trans/Multi/Interdiscipl inary
- Collaborative



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- Collaborative
- DIY

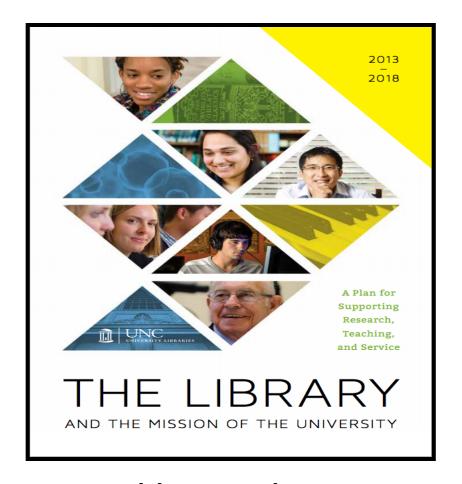


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- Technophilic and Multimodal
- Trans/Multi/Interdiscipl inary
- Collaborative
- DIY
- Experimental



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Pumpkin Patch/ Corn Maze, 2009, by Christine Mahler flickr.com, CC BY 2.0

# RESEARCH

**Physical Spaces:** 

### Physical Spaces:

Davis Library



Grad student Assistant at the Research Hub

### Physical Spaces:

- Davis Library
- Kenan Science Library



"Creative Tools," 2012 by Makerbot Industries Flickr, Creative Commons License

### **Physical Spaces:**

- Davis Library
- Kenan Science Library
- Health Science Library



Mental Space:

### Mental Space:

 Library as a space for production, not just collection.



### Mental Space:

- Library as a space for production, not just collection.
- Library as a social space, not just quiet study.



Photo by Caroline Culler, 2009, Wikimedia

### Mental Space:

- Library as a space for production, not just collection.
- Library as a social space, not just quiet study.
- Library as an experimental space,
   not just a service





Liquid Galaxy in UNC's Resarch Hub October 2014

- 1. Digital Pedagogy
- 2. Online Social Networking
- 3. **Digital Scholarly Publishing**
- 4. Data Visualization/Digital Mapping
- 5. **Text Mining/Data Analysis**
- 6. **Digital Libraries and Repositories**



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Distant Reading *and*Digitized Special Collections





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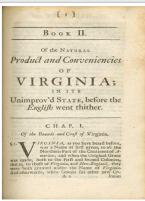




PRIMARY RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE







[Book 2 Title Page Image]

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#### The Digital Surrogate





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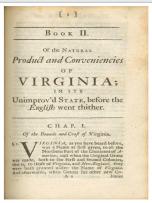
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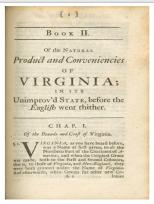
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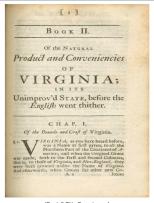
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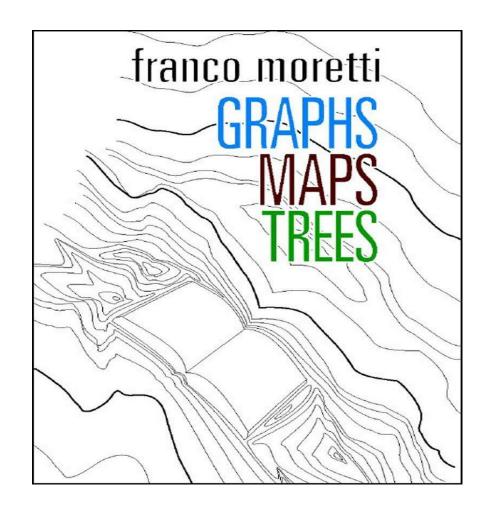
# But a specter was haunting the digital collection ...

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# the specter of distant reading.

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Distant reading: where distance ... is a condition of knowledge: it allows you to focus on units that are much smaller or much larger than the text: devices, themes, tropes—or genres and systems.

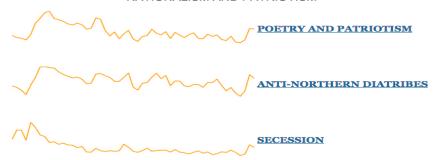
Franco Moretti, "Conjectures on World Literature." *New Left Review*, January – February 2000





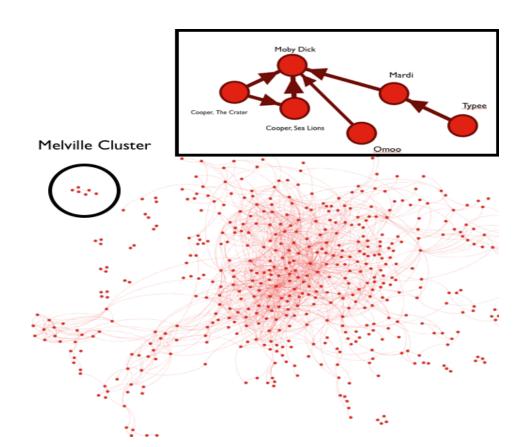
As analyzed in the introduction, juxtaposed with one another these two topics evidence challenges to and the resiliency of the institution of slavery in Richmond during the Civil War. The thousands of <u>fugitive slave ads</u> that appeared in the paper during the war attest to the efforts of enslaved men and women to escape slavery. <u>Hiring and wanted ads</u>, on the other hand, evidence the continued resiliency of the hiring out market in Richmond throughout the entirety of the war.

### NATIONALISM AND PATRIOTISM



### **Mining The Dispatch**

Rob Nelson Center for Digital Scholarship University of Richmond



## Macroanalysis

Matt Jockers Center for Digital Research in the Humanities University of Nebraska



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• Began development in 1996.











- Began development in 1996.
- Is the most popular digital collection at UNC.











- Began development in 1996.
- Is the most popular digital collection at UNC.
- Contains 17 curated collections including a complete collection of North American Slave Narratives.

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### **DocSouth Data**

### What is DocSouth Data?

Doc South Data provides access to some of the Documenting The American South collections in formats that work well with common text mining and data analysis tools.

Documenting the American South is one of the longest running digital publishing initiatives at the University of North Carolina. It was designed to give researchers digital access to some of the library's unique collections in the form of high quality page scans as well as structured, corrected and machine readable text.

Doc South Data is an extension of this original goal and has been designed for researchers who want to use emerging technology to look for patterns across entire texts or compare patterns found in multiple texts. We have made it easy to use tools such as Voyant to conduct simple word counts and frequency visualizations (such as word clouds) or to use other tools to perform more complex processes such as topic modeling, named-entity recognition or sentiment analysis.

### How do I use it?

Use the links below to download .zip files containing the data for each collection. More collections will be added in the future.

North American Slave Narratives

First-Person Narratives of the American South

Once you download and unzip a collection in DocSouth Data, you will have a file containing the following:

- A folder containing each of the texts in the collection as plain text;
- A folder containing each of the texts in the collection marked up in TEI/XML;
- . A Table of Contents (TOC) file which is a .csv file (which can be opened in Excel as a spread sheet)
- . A "Read Me" file that explains the project and the contents of the DocSouthData folder.

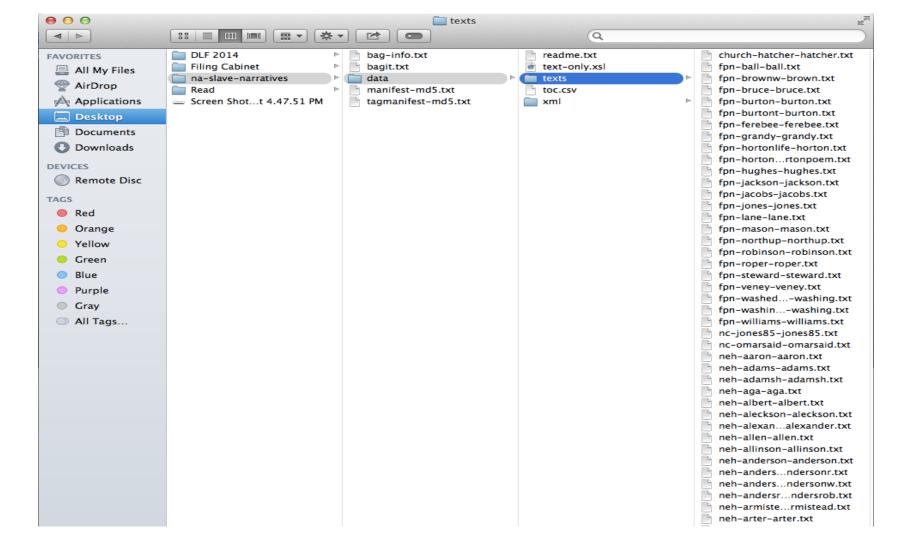
The plain text files can be used in text mining projects such as topic modeling, sentiment analysis and natural language processing.

The TEI/XML files have been included for advanced users who would like to isolate particular parts of text for analysis.

The .csv file acts as a table of contents for the collection and includes Title, Author, Publication Date and webaddresses for both the original Doc South page and a unique url pointing to a web accessible version of the text (this is particularly useful for use with Voyant).

The Read Me file provides documentation about the collection including information about and quirks or idiosyncrasies researchers will need to be aware of when they are working with the data.

Browse all the collections and download DocSouth Data here







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Frederick Douglass stands upon a pedestal; he has reached this lofty height through years of toil and strife, but it has been the strife of moral ideas; strife in the battle for human rights. No bitter memories come from this strife; no feelings of remorse can rise to cast their gloomy shadows over his soul; Douglass has now reached and passed the meridian of life, his co-laborers in the strife have now nearly all passed away. Garrison has gone, Gerritt Smith has gone, Giddings and Sumner have gone, -nearly all the abolitionists are gone to their reward. The culmination of his life work has been reached; the object dear to his heart-the Emancipation of the slaves-had been accomplished, through the blessings of God; he stands facing the goal, already reached by his co-laborers, with a halo of peace about him, and nothing but serenity and gratitude must fill his breast. To those, who in the past-in ante-bellum days-in any degree shared with Douglass his hopes and feelings on the slavery question, this serenity of mind, this gratitude, can be understood and felt. All Americans, no matter what may have been their views on slavery, now that freedom has come and slavery is ended, must have a restful

"lost cause" at Appomatox. We rejoice that Douglass has attained unto this exalted position-this pedestal. It has been honorably reached; it is a just recognition of talent and effort; it is another proof that success attends high and noble aim. With this example, the black boy as well as the white boy can take hope and courage in the race of life. Douglass' life has been a romance-and a fragrance-to the age. There has been just enough mystery about his origin and escape from slavery to throw a charm about them. The odd proceedings in the purchase of his freedom after his escape from slavery; his movements in connection with the John Brown raid at Harper's Ferry and his subsequent flight across the ocean are romantic as anything which took place among the crags and the cliffs, the Roderick Dhus and Douglasses of the Lady of the Lake; while the pure life he has led and his spotless character are sweet by contrast with the lives of mere politicians and time-serving statesmen. It is well to contemplate one like him, who has had "hair-breadth escapes." It is inspiring to know that the day of self-sacrifice and

feeling and be glad that the source of bitterness and trouble is removed. The man who is sorry because of the abolition of slavery, has outlived his day and generation; he should have insisted upon being buried with the

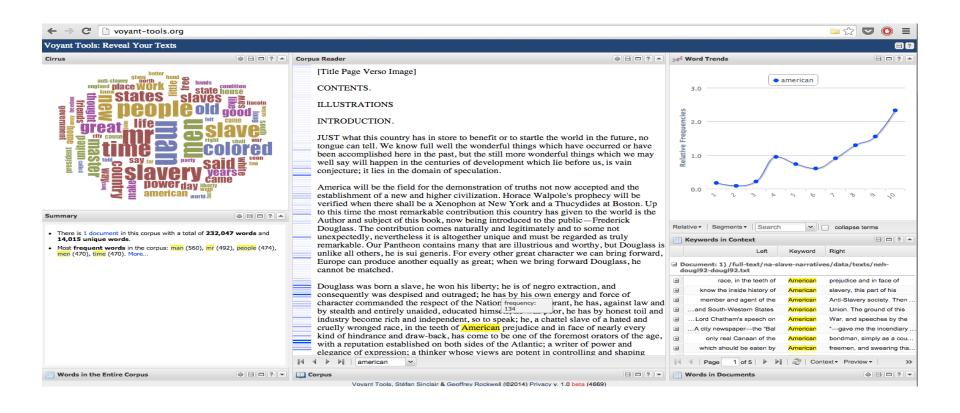
To say that his life has been eventful, is hardly the word. From the time when he first saw the light on the Tuckanoe plantation up to the time he was called to fill a high official position, his life has been crowded with events which in some sense may be called miracles, and now since his autobiography has come to be written, we must understand the hour of retrospect has come-for casting up and balancing accounts as to work done or left

It is more than forty years now that he has been before the world as a writer and speaker-busy, active, wonderful years to him-and we are called upon to pass judgment upon his labors. What can we say? Can he claim the well done good and faithful? The record shows this, and we must state it, generally speaking, his life had been devoted to his race and the cause of his race. The freedom and elevation of his people has been his life work, and it has been done well and faithfully. That is the record, and that is sufficient. No higher eulogium can be pronounced than that Long-fellow says of the Village Blacksmith:-

"Something attempted, something done, Has earned a night's repose."

self-development are not passed.

Douglass found his people enslaved and oppressed. He has given the best years of his life to the improvement of their condition, and, now that he looks back upon his labors, may he not say he has "attempted" and "done" something? and may he not claim the "repose" which ought to come in the evening of a well spent life? (The first twenty-three years of Douglass' life were twenty-three years of slavery, obscurity, and degradation,



The Life & Times of Frederick Douglas, 1892





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