

專題演講二 2nd Keynote Speech

圖書館與數位人文合作之解密：數位人文與集中化問題

The Library's Secret Sharer: Digital Humanities and the Question of Centralization



亞列克斯·吉爾博士 Dr. Alex Gil

亞列克斯·吉爾博士任職於美國哥倫比亞大學圖書館，主要職務是數位化學術研究；透過與教師、學生、以及圖書館專業人員合作，增進人文學研究之運算與網絡技術、教學內涵、以及知識的創造。他是幾項進行中而深受肯定的計畫創始人之一，目前仍為計畫的領導人，包括：哥倫比亞大學 Studio@Butler 的協同計畫主持人，此計畫重點在為圖書館規劃建置具有科技亮點的數位學術與增進教學法之創新空間；他也是「哥倫比亞人文實驗方法小組」(Columbia's Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities) 的共同創始人和主持人，該小組積極推動跨學科領域的研究群組，專注於實驗性之人文學研究。他也是加勒比之數位研究期刊“sx archipelagos”的資深編輯，同時也是共同經營加勒比一系列數位化相關會議的經理人之一；也是“Global Outlook::Digital Humanities” (<http://www.globaloutlookdh.org/>) 的創辦人和前任主席。

亞列克斯·吉爾博士目前參與的數位相關計畫包括“Ed” (為一種僅需要最少修訂的文獻文字檔數位平台)、“wax” (為數位文化文物的微型展覽平台 <https://minicomp.github.io/wax/>)、“In The Same Boats” (內容為以視覺化呈現跨大西洋交會的 20 世紀黑人知識份子；

<https://sameboats.org/>)，以及最近的“nimble tent” (為智慧型數位工具網站 <https://nimbletents.github.io/>)、 “Torn Apart/Separado” (目的在透過數位工具，動員人文學者、圖書館、學生等，以語言支援、數位典藏、技術專業等，關注全球的人權問題)、以及 “Covid Maker Response” (美國哥倫比亞大學因應 COVID-19 的研究，開發供醫護使用的物資；<https://research.columbia.edu/covid/devices/covidmaker>) 等。

Dr. Alex Gil is the Digital Scholarship Librarian at Columbia University Libraries. He collaborates with faculty, students and library professionals leveraging computational and network technologies in humanities research, pedagogy and knowledge production. He is among the founders of several ongoing, warmly received initiatives where he currently plays leadership roles: Co-director of the Studio@Butler at Columbia University, a tech-light library innovation space focused on digital scholarship and pedagogy; co-founder and moderator of Columbia’s Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities, a vibrant trans-disciplinary research cluster focused on experimental humanities; senior editor of *sx archipelagos*, a journal of Caribbean Digital Studies, and co-wrangler of The Caribbean Digital conference series. He is also founder and former chair of Global Outlook::Digital Humanities.

Active digital projects include Ed, a digital platform for minimal editions of literary texts, and wax for minimal exhibits of cultural artifacts; In The Same Boats, a visualization of trans-Atlantic intersections of black intellectuals in the 20th century; and most recently, the nimble tent interventions Torn Apart/Separados and Covid Maker Response.

演講摘要

所謂「數位人文」，可被解釋為利用資訊運算法整理耙梳文化素材、為知識的創造建構新的架構之數位人文科學。此類數位人文科學的各種研究活動，其最高期待與最早的原型，是學者強烈意識到要在各種研究範疇中，耙梳媒介的、社會的、物質的等脈絡。全球各地的現代研究型圖書館，大約可為數位人文研究解決大概一半的脈絡問題，而現在大多數的研究型圖書館，已經開始聘請工作人員和設置研究單位，從事數位人文相關的工作。然而這些數位人文研究活動卻與現代的研究型圖書館之既有業務格格不入，造成不安。其主要原因是，數位人文團隊和相關計畫，相當於是未盡完全的特定圖書館功能、甚至於是整體圖書館功能的翻版，其作業內容包括詮釋資料 (metadata) 建置、數位化作業 (digitization)、協助查詢 (discovery)、資料管理運用 (curation)、自動化處理 (automatization)、資料呈現的規劃 (presentation) 等；這些作業同樣都是數位人文與一般圖書館之業務。

大型圖書館本來就有精確的人力分工，以維運圖書館的整體功能，包括提供使用者得以查詢利用典藏的文化文獻。而圖書館內的數位人文工作小團隊的實務工作者，相當於是小規模地重複了部分圖書館原本的業務，造成人力分配上的模糊地帶。由此引發一個值得思考的問題：我們應該將數位人文的相關業務，建立為一套集中化管理營運的模式，如經營一個現代圖書館一般，使之具有精確的人力分工？還是鼓勵圖書館內多元部門共同參與數位人文相關工作，而不使之成為一個集中化的單位？如此則參與數位人文的個人與相關團隊，其在所屬的圖書館這個大家庭中的關係與定位又是如何？在人力分配上，其又如何精確對應到圖書館既有的分工？

講者亞列克斯·吉爾博士將以自身的經驗，回答上述問題：首先將從技術不對稱的觀點，綜觀世界上一些例子的現況，而這也是其本身親歷世界各地，在有圖書館資源及無圖書館資源之下研究不同的運算實務之體驗。亞列克斯·吉爾博士也將以其在美國哥倫比亞大學圖書館以及「哥倫比亞人文實驗方法小組」(Columbia's Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities) 的研究為例，說明其觀點與立場：當有一定的自由度可以進行實驗，則相較於一個想像中係以預擬的服務類別套裝組合、提供相關工具等之「特定服務提供者」(specialized service provider) 的集中化數位人文單位，毋寧是以非集中化的模式，較可裨益學術研究、以及對原本集中化管理的圖書館較為有利。但亞列克斯·吉爾博士也強力主張，非集中化的模式，必須允許自由與其他機構的其他團隊合作，尤其如果是在缺乏經費的情形下，則此種凝聚智慧的工作團隊的組合，將可發揮強大力量，達到高度效益，對社會整體都是極為有利的。

Abstract

Digital Humanities can be understood to be the productive union of algorithmic approaches to cultural corpora and the architecture of new genres of knowledge production in the humanistic sciences. This set of activities finds its highest and most original forms when it is intensely aware of the mediatic, social and material contexts in which it goes about its business. Modern research libraries around the world provide half of that context, and most of them have already begun the process of hiring staff and institute units to work on digital humanities. And yet, these digital humanities are an uncomfortable travel companion to modern research libraries. The main reason for this disquiet is the fact that digital humanities teams and projects make imperfect copies of specific library functions, and a copy of the library as a whole: metadata, digitization, discovery, curation, automatization, presentation are all part of the domain of digital humanities and of libraries. While large libraries have very

precise divisions of labor to serve the overall function of maintaining and providing access to a collection of cultural artifacts, the small teams of digital humanities practitioners replicate these efforts at a smaller scale, and with a blurring of the divisions of labor. This begs the questions: should we have a centralized digital humanities that works as modern libraries do, with a precise division of labor, or should we encourage a diversity of practices within libraries that can never be centralized? What should be the relationship of these individuals and teams to the centralized home where they live? How can a mirror image of the library count as a division of labor of the library? I will try to answer these questions by first providing an account of the state of the field around the world in the context of asymmetries in access to technology, as I've experienced it during my travels studying different practices of computing within and without libraries. I will then use case studies from our work at Columbia University Libraries and Columbia's Group for Experimental Methods in Humanistic Research, I will defend the position that a de-centralized approach, if allowed relative freedom to experiment, can produce better scholarship, and benefit the centralized library more than a unit imagined as a specialized service provider with a pre-determined portfolio of genres and tools. This de-centralized approach, I will contend, must also be allowed to collaborate with other teams in other institutions freely and in the absence of grants. If this is the case, the enormous talent of this generalist work-force can even become a beneficent and powerful actor in civic society at large.

預錄及簡報檔

Pre-recorded Video:

<https://reurl.cc/3aYEe9>

