

Digital Humanities Faculty Development Seminar Proposal

Digital Humanities: Pedagogy, Platforms, and Praxis

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Facial Recognition Technologies in Digital Humanities

My team was recently awarded a LYRASIS Catalyst Fund grant to research which facial recognition applications work best with archived digital photographs. When photographs are missing identifying metadata, extensive research is often needed to establish the identity of the subjects. Without identifying people in photographs, the resources become less accessible for researchers and historians who might otherwise benefit from locating the image. Using photographs from archived digital collections held by the Digital Collections Center at FIU, facial recognition software is being analyzed in a real-world environment, with the specific challenges that come with digital archive images.

Additionally, I have implemented facial recognition technology when aiding researchers on their own projects, and have found it to be a useful tool when working with digitized photographs. In instances where a researcher has one photograph of a subject and is trying to locate additional images, facial recognition can be a valuable and effective time-saver. In this presentation, I will briefly identify some of the tools and methods researchers can use to apply facial recognition technologies in their own projects.

I would also like to highlight the Civil War Photo Sleuth Project, a digital humanities project that relies upon facial recognition technology and crowdsourcing to rediscover the lost names and stories from American Civil War photographs. The public is encouraged to add photographs from their collections, and researchers may find the comprehensive online archive of Civil War-era portraits to be a valuable resource.