Digital Humanities Workshop:

*Digital approaches, tools and techniques in the humanities*

University of Aberdeen, Sir Duncan Rice Library

15th–16th June 2017

[https://aberdeenregisters.org/digital-humanities-workshop/](https://aberdeenregisters.org/digital-humanities-workshop/)

Funded by the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies

Programme:

Thursday, 15\textsuperscript{th} June 2017 (Craig Suite, Fl. 7, Sir Duncan Rice Library)

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<td>Heather Morgan, Pete Stollery, Ed Welch (University of Aberdeen) and Andrew Sage (Andrew Sage Art &amp; Entertainment): <em>Explore, Discover, Exercise: Mapping the City of Aberdeen</em> (Chaired by Edda Frankot)</td>
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<td>16:30–17:15</td>
<td>Justin Colson (University of Essex): <em>Digital Spatial Humanities: Geographic Information Systems in Context</em></td>
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<td>Workshop dinner @ Poldino’s, 7 Little Belmont Street, AB10 1JG</td>
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Friday, 16\textsuperscript{th} June 2017 (Craig Suite, Fl. 7, Sir Duncan Rice Library)

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<td>Adam Wyner (University of Aberdeen): <em>DH Textual Interrogation Cycle: Source Text, Question, SPARQL Query, and Interpretation</em> (Chaired by William Hepburn)</td>
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<td>Jonathan Hope (University of Strathclyde): <em>Gappy, crappy, gloomy, and nosey: why you should care about large-scale text analysis in literary studies</em> (Chaired by Jackson Armstrong)</td>
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<td>11:45–12:30</td>
<td>Koenraad De Smedt (University of Bergen): <em>Using language research infrastructure in CLARIN</em> (Chaired by Anna Havinga)</td>
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<td>12:30–13:00</td>
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Dr Edda Frankot, Dr Anna D. Havinga, Dr Claire Hawes, Dr William Hepburn

Medieval Aberdeen on the Digital Highway: the transcription of the Aberdeen Council Registers

Abstract:

The medieval Aberdeen Council Registers (1398–1511) form a bilingual corpus, including both Latin and Middle Scots entries. This corpus is of particular interest to historians and legal historians for its unrivalled insights into the life and governance of a medieval Scottish burgh, but also to linguists as an invaluable source for early developments in spelling and grammar of Middle Scots. The ‘Law in the Aberdeen Council Registers, 1398-1511. Concepts, Practices, Geographies’ project at the University of Aberdeen is producing a full, accurate, versatile and digital Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) compliant transcription of this corpus. In this presentation we will discuss what producing such a transcription involves, what additional features and uses a digital transcription can offer over an analogue one, and, finally, what issues and problems a project of this kind can encounter.

Biographies:

Edda Frankot is the Editorial Research Fellow and Project Manager of the ‘Law in the Aberdeen Council Registers’ project (https://aberdeenregisters.org). She has been involved in producing a number of (digital) editions, including the 1641 Depositions, and is the author of ‘Of Laws of Ships and Shipmen’. Medieval Maritime Law and its Practice in Urban Northern Europe. Her research focuses on the urban, legal and maritime history of northern Europe in the later Middle Ages.

Anna D. Havinga is the text enrichment research fellow on the ‘Law in Aberdeen Council Registers’ project at the University of Aberdeen, where she is responsible for the TEI annotations of the transcriptions. As a historical sociolinguist, she is particularly interested in the language choice of scribes in these legal texts and the language shift from Latin to Scots. More general research interests include language variation and change, language contact, and folk linguistics.

Claire Hawes is a research Assistant on the ‘Law in the Aberdeen Council Registers’ project. Her doctoral research looked at the political culture of fifteenth century Scotland, with a focus on political language and the law. She is interested in the relationship of towns to royal authority, and the intersection of debt and morality in the registers.

William Hepburn is a Research Assistant on the ‘Law in the Aberdeen Council Registers’ project. He completed his PhD in History at the University of Glasgow in 2014, which focussed on the household of King James IV of Scotland (1488-1513). He is currently researching literate and documentary culture in late medieval Scottish towns.

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Dr Heather Morgan, Prof. Pete Stollery, Prof. Ed Welch (University of Aberdeen) and Andrew Sage (Andrew Sage Art & Entertainment)

Explore, Discover, Exercise: Mapping the City of Aberdeen

Abstract:
[M]apping is a mobile application concerned with exploring and engaging with the city of Aberdeen through image, sound, movement and new technologies. It aims to promote walking, social interactions, health, wellbeing, and a heightened sense of being in the city. Emerging out of a number of projects sharing an interest in the urban environment, it has been designed by academics at the University of Aberdeen and an app developer in collaboration with a range of community groups from across the city.

Biographies:
[M]apping has been developed by Andrew Sage (Andrew Sage Art & Entertainment) and three academics from the University of Aberdeen – Heather Morgan (Health Research), Pete Stollery (Sonic Art) and Ed Welch (Visual Culture), all of whom have a desire to help people experience places in different ways. [M]apping has been funded by a Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation grant from the University of Aberdeen with support from sound.

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Dr Justin Colson (University of Essex)

*Digital Spatial Humanities: Geographic Information Systems in Context*

**Abstract:**

The ‘spatial turn’ has firmly gripped the humanities over the past decade or so. Like previous ‘turns’, this has entailed scholars looking at their materials and methods in a new light. Most simply, can space and place help to explain social phenomena? History has, in a sense, always been a spatial discipline: beginning with the traditional definition of the nation state as the object of study, and ranging through classics such as Braudel’s *Mediterranean*. Recent years have seen technology transform the accessibility and scope of spatial analysis for historians and other humanists. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and associated technologies (Social Network Analysis, Space Syntax) allow space to be analysed at scales ranging from the global to the dynamics of individual rooms. I will use examples from late medieval and early modern urban history to show how GIS can break down traditional institutional ‘silos’, allow temporal and spatial comparison, and even offer insights into the experience of past landscapes and cityscapes.

**Biography:**

Justin Colson is lecturer in Digital History at the University of Essex. His research focuses upon social, commercial and geographical networks in English cities in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. His publications include papers on the spatial distribution of occupations in late medieval London in *Economic History Review* (2016), and (with Robert Ralley) on networks of medical practitioners attempting to establish a college, in *English Historical Review* (2015). He is currently completing a monograph on the nature of neighbourhood in fifteenth-century London. He specialises in historical Geographical Information Systems and digital prosopography, and is currently reviews editor for the journal *Urban History*.

**Contact:**

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Dr Adam Wyner (University of Aberdeen)

DH Textual Interrogation Cycle:
Source Text, Question, SPARQL Query, and Interpretation

Abstract:
The talk discusses the various phases and issues of what is here referred to as the DH textual interrogation cycle (DH-TIC). Given a machine-readable textual source, humanities scholars want to interrogate the contents of the corpus. However, this is prohibitive working a larger, dispersed corpus and using “traditional” means. Rather automated query languages and search tools, such as SPARQL, are required. However, there are methodological gaps to address between the questions that scholars ask, the “text analytic” expression of the questions as SPARQL queries, and the interpretation of the results. At each step, there may be revisions. The talk discusses the gaps and ways they might be addressed in future work, providing examples.

Biography:
Dr Wyner is a Lecturer in Computing Science at the University of Aberdeen. He has a PhD in Linguistics (Cornell University, 1994) on the formal syntax and semantics of adverbial modification as well as a second PhD in Computer Science (King’s College London, 2008) on the representation and automation of legal concepts for e-contracting. He has worked as a research associate on two EU projects to formalise the law and argumentation to automatically process and to support policymaking. He is currently a co-investigator in a project to make historical legal texts machine readable. His diverse research interests and publications include legal informatics, text analysis, language processing, and argumentation.

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Prof. Jonathan Hope (University of Strathclyde)

Gappy, crappy, gloomy, and nosey: 
why you should care about large-scale text analysis in literary studies

Abstract:
Digital text analysis allows us to read hundreds, thousands, millions of books where before literary scholars confined themselves to tiny samples, justified on the basis of ‘literary quality’. What is the point of reading all of these extra books? How do we do it? Does it mean the end of ‘literature’? I’ll give some examples of recent findings, and make some suggestions about how our object of study is changing along with our methods. I’ll show how noses behave in novels, how ‘the’ is the most important word in Early Modern culture, and why everyone is wrong about Shakespeare’s word coinages.

Biography:
Jonathan Hope is Professor of Literary Linguistics at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. He has published widely on Shakespeare’s language and the history of the English language. His most recent book, Shakespeare and Language: reason, eloquence and artifice in the Renaissance (2010), seeks to reconstruct the linguistic world of Shakespeare’s England and measure its distance from our own. With Michael Witmore (Folger Shakespeare Library), he is part of Visualising English Print, funded by the Mellon Foundation to develop tools and procedures for the linguistic analysis of texts across the period 1450-1800: http://graphics.cs.wisc.edu/WP/vep/.

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Prof. Koenraad De Smedt (University of Bergen)

Using language research infrastructure in CLARIN

Abstract:
The use of digital language resources in humanities research dates back about half a century. The legacy of this early start is a varied landscape of data and tools, but also early signs of ‘erosion’ in this landscape. For almost a decade, CLARIN has coordinated efforts towards making language resources and tools more accessible, persistent and usable for researchers and students. CLARIN is organized as a distributed architecture of centres providing searchable, reasonably standardised data and metadata, and tools and online processing services. It is still up to the researcher to analyse a research problem into a set of questions to the infrastructure (e.g. in terms of corpus search), and to analyze the results, for instance, with statistics, even if services for analysis and visualisation are increasingly becoming available. CLARIN also provides guidelines and solutions for data management, metadata creation and cataloguing, long term preservation, persistent citation, and licensing of data (the latter because most data managed in CLARIN centres are not owned by the centres). The uptake of relevant methods is supported by training and other user involvement activities.

http://clarin.eu

Biography:
Koenraad De Smedt is professor in Computational Linguistics at the University of Bergen (Norway). From 1996 to 2000 he coordinated a large scale Socrates thematic network project on Advanced Computing in the Humanities. From 2001 to 2005 he was coordinator of the Norwegian Documentation Center for Language Technology. From 2002 to 2014 he coordinated three consecutive Marie Curie training projects on language resources and technologies. From 2004 to 2008 he led a project on treebanking. From 2008 he has planned and coordinated research infrastructure work in Norway as part of CLARIN, in which he currently holds the chair of the NCF and is a member of the Board of Directors.

http://www.uib.no/en/persons/desmedt

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