Discursive shifts in two Digital Humanities platforms

Cornelius Puschmann, Humboldt-University of Berlin/HiIG
puschmann@ibi.hu-berlin.de

Marco Toledo Baston, Duke University/HASTAC
marco.toledo@duke.edu

Issues and Questions

• Acceptance of social media in scholarly communication is generally low (Bader, Fritz, & Gloning, 2012, Rowlands et al, 2011)
• Newly emerging disciplinary communities integrate social media more readily than established fields (Ross et al, 2011)
• Scholarly social media platforms provide insights into ongoing discourses in the Digital Humanities (Kirschenbaum, 2010)

Q1: How is scholarly communication in social media locally configured?

Q2: How entrenched are labels related to the Digital Humanities in two different platforms?

Object of study

• HASTAC: US-based social network for humanities scholars/educators, funded by MacArthur Foundation, focus on learning and (new) media
• Hypotheses: based in France, publicly funded by the CNRS, represents a range of fields in the humanities and social sciences

Methods and Data

• Method: Co-word analysis of English-language blog post full texts
• Data: 14,000 blog posts, half from each platform
• We extracted keyword collocations and tracked changes over time in both networks (Figure 1)
• We compared a set of terms in both networks to examine how accepted labels such as ‘digital history’ are (Figures 2 and 3)

Findings

• There is a strong dependency of digital concepts on their non-digital counterparts (‘digital history’ strongly co-occurs with ‘history’)
• Terms prefixed with ‘digital’ are quite popular in HASTAC, much less so in Hypotheses

References


