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Digital Labor and Data Sources

Labor

The highly collaborative nature of digital projects means that authors often employ the talents of a diverse and revolving team throughout the development of their work. Just as authors of books acknowledge the people whose input and assistance facilitated the research and writing process, authors of digital projects must credit those whose time and talents went into the development of their projects. The idea of digital labor in humanities and computational social sciences is a prominent topic of discussion and scholarship, and as Humanist scholars and publishers, we are especially aware of the value of the labor that drives new forms of scholarship.

To advocate for the collaborative spirit of digital work, we require that each project contain a section crediting the people who worked on the project, whether authors, programmers, student assistants, or otherwise. While credits may take unique forms, we ask that you include somewhere in your project a list of each contributor's name and role. Ideally such a list will be clearly accessible and linked from the Home or About page. In addition to building the credit into your project, we ask that you submit a text-file version of this list so we may use it in our metadata for the project's archive.

Data

Projects that use or display data should clearly indicate the source of that data. Any data visualizations should include or link to a citation of the source of data and the visualization method or API that actions the models. Just as you would cite a source of information, you should also cite the tools used to render that information. For example, if your project employs an interactive map, that map includes geodata, like latitude and longitude, from one or more services and sources. Likewise, if specific APIs or tools are embedded in the project to query and deliver data from third-party sources, those interfaces should be identified. As with the contributing parties in the creation of the project, the sources of the information behind the arguments are essential to a digital project's rich ecology, and as authors and publishers of this work, we value all the contributions that drive it.