Digital Tools and Dictionaries

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The past decade has seen a rise in popularity of 'digital humanities', i.e. a field of academic research in which computational tools and methods are applied to subject areas that have not traditionally engaged with them (e.g. history, anthropology, classics). Lexicography and digital humanities are not new bed-fellows. This paper traces the history of lexicography and digital humanities, showing that lexicography was one of the first fields to engage in digital research. Using case studies from the Dictionary Lab at the University of Oxford, I will explore various digital tools and methods such as network analysis, graph theory, text analysis, machine learning, data visualization and design, deep learning, sentiment analysis, topic modelling, and geo-rectification and mapping, and will investigate whether or not they are well-suited to the analysis of dictionaries and language.

Freitag, 06.03.2020 11:45–12:15 VMP5 2101/2105

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