Poster

Modelling between digital and humanities. A project, its research questions and its outcomes

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Rationale

By modelling we intend the creative process by which researchers create and manipulate external representations to make sense of the conceptual objects and phenomena they study. This poster presents the rationale behind as well as the work undertaken by the international collaborative project *Modelling between digital and humanities: thinking in practice*, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (http://modellingdh.eu/).

Work Hypothesis/Research Questions

Our working hypothesis is that in DH research, implicit and explicit models of cultural objects and phenomena are integrated into external metamodels which often embed both natural languages and formal languages. Two modelling contexts are used as case studies to reflect on modelling in practical terms: Textuality and Events. Moreover, the analysis was guided by the following questions: How are theory and practice blended in the modelling efforts?; What shared terminology can help us gaining an integrative and non-reductive understanding of digital modelling?; Can we describe the methods of digital modelling informed by such an integrative and non-reductive approach?

Argument

In our poster we stress the importance of integrating diverse theories around modelling (i.e. **[1], [2], [3], [4], [5]**) with a practical dimension. We make use of DH as an interdisciplinary departure to study modelling as anchored both to computer science and to the humanities (**[6]**, **[7], [8]),** linking scholarly modelling as a formal and informal reasoning strategy across disciplinary boundaries (e.g. from philology to literary theory, from information studies to cultural heritage documentation).

Furthermore, building on the novelty of DH research in making explicit and integrating existing

diverse models of cultural objects and phenomena the poster, providing some examples, presents: a. diverse possibilities for a new interdisciplinary language around modelling; b. modelling in scholarship as a process of signification.

Scope

Our scope is to retrieve 1. the polysemic dimension of the concept of model and modelling, 2. To grasp the dynamics of interaction between model as expression (i.e. shared forms of representations of knowledge) and model as content (i.e. shared data models conceptualising and formalising a domain of knowledge) in specific research contexts. We also advocates for a critical DH research offering the instruments to unpack the rhetoric of digital models including data models, so as to act at the core of a new cultural literacy.

Presenting a poster at AIUCD 2018 would give the authors the opportunity to discuss the activities and outcomes of the project also with the Italian community with the aim to collect interest from conference delegates possibly also in joining an advisory group for further development of some of the project's ideas.

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