# Digital Humanities Data: Collaboration and innovation

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INSPIRING PEOPLE

# Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute (HATII), University of Glasgow

Leading international unit for research on the creation, management and use of information in the digital age

The only institution in the UK that researches and teaches library, museums and archives informatics, in analogue and digital form

Develops innovative research in collaboration with cultural and creative industries, locally, nationally and internationally

Research strategy focuses on three key areas:
- Cultural Heritage Informatics
- Digital Humanities
- Information Management and analysis

Basis for projects in partnerships on research, grants, and publications with HEIs and cultural heritage  organisations internationally.

# Core elements of Digital Humanities

**Digital Content**

• Digital collections, and projects with digital outputs

**Methods**

• 'Scholarly primitives' to gain new knowledge:

Discovering, annotating, comparing, referring,
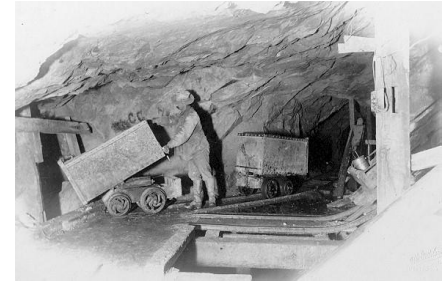
sampling, illustrating, and representing digital content

**Tools**
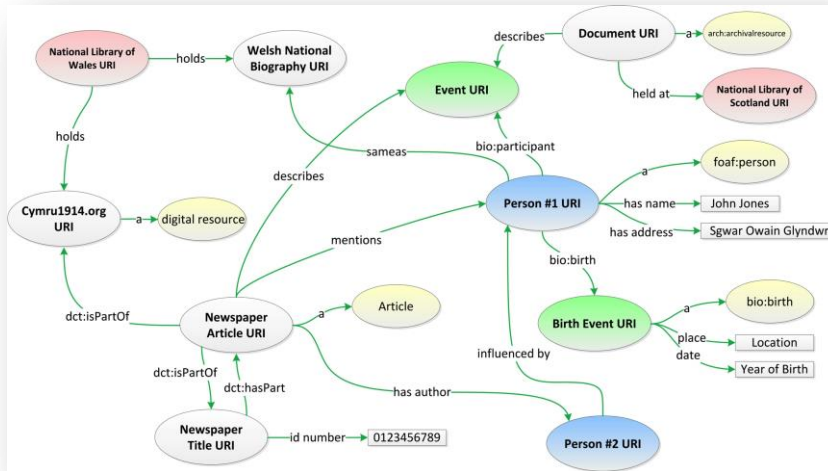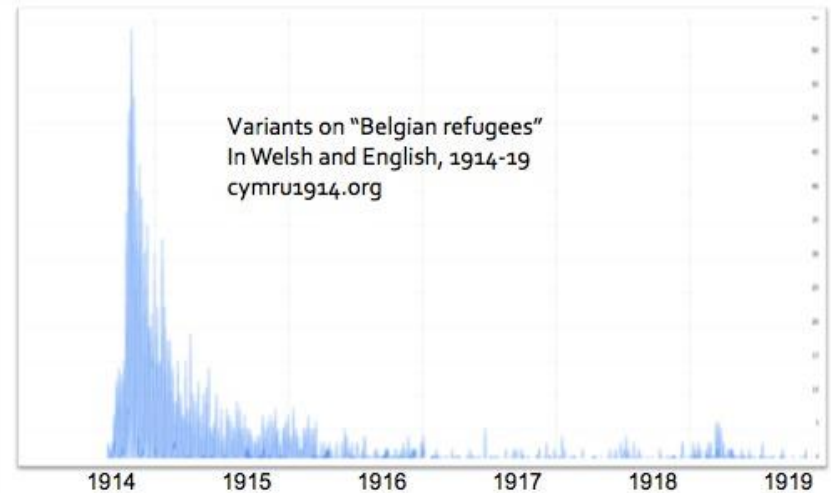
• For processing and analysis

*Outcomes*

• Existing research processes can be conducted better and/or faster

• Researchers can conceptualize completely new research questions

**Collaboration is key: content, tools, methods are multi and interdisciplinary**

# Humanities Data

# Macroscopic analysis

- *Distant reading* methodologies to work with datasets

- *Kyffin Williams Online*

- Lloyd Roderick, Aberystwyth University and National Library of Wales
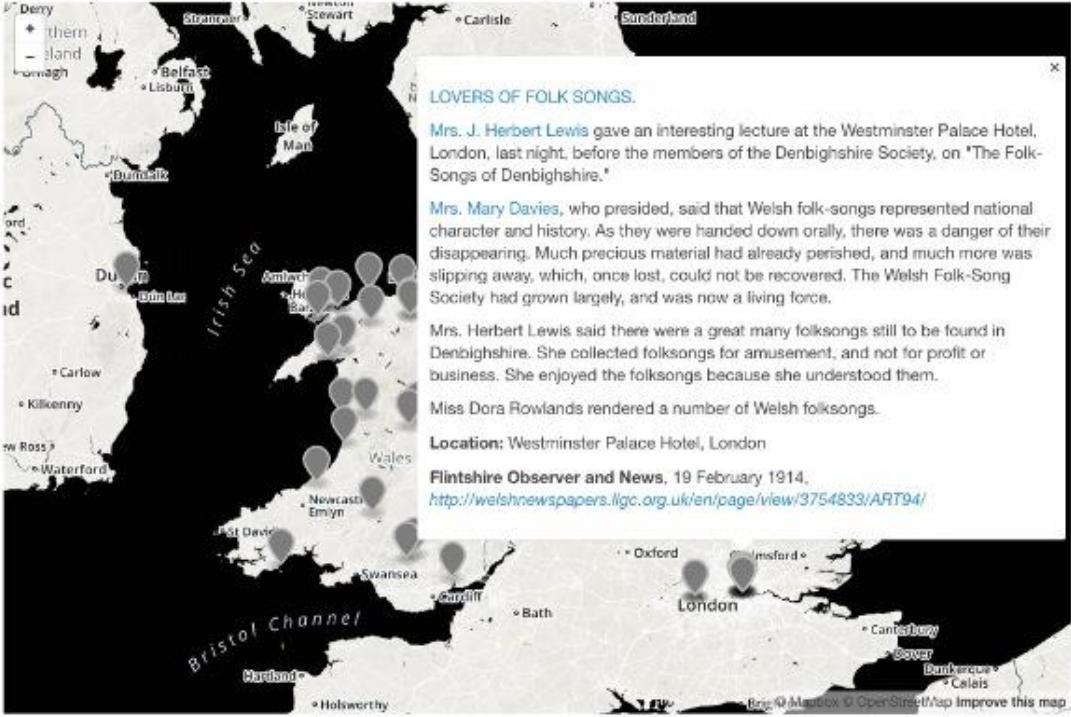
# Visualising Data

- *Welsh Traditional Music*

- Integration of sources to map traditional music and its cultural reception

- Andrew Cusworth: Open University and National Library of Wales



Welsh traditional music prototype

| Home | Sources | People | Events | Melodies | Maps | Case studies | Back |

LOVERS OF FOLK SONGS.

Mrs. J. Herbert Lewis gave an interesting lecture at the Westminster Palace Hotel, London, last night, before the members of the Denbighshire Society, on "The Folk-Songs of Denbighshire."

Mrs. Mary Davies, who presided, said that Welsh folk-songs represented national character and history. As they were handed down orally, there was a danger of their disappearing. Much precious material had already perished, and much more was slipping away, which, once lost, could not be recovered. The Welsh Folk-Song Society had grown largely, and was now a living force.

Mrs. Herbert Lewis said there were a great many folksongs still to be found in Denbighshire. She collected folksongs for amusement, and not for profit or business. She enjoyed the folksongs because she understood them.

Miss Dora Rowlands rendered a number of Welsh folksongs.

Location: Westminster Palace Hotel, London

Flintshire Observer and News, 19 February 1914, http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/page/view/3754833/ART94/

This website represents the digital output of a research project involving a collaborative partnership between the Open University and the National Library of Wales. The project was supported by an AHRC Capacity Building Block Grant.

# Digital methods in the humanities highlight challenges of data driven research

1. The underlying data and metadata

2. Linking data from disparate collections

3. The human infrastructure: data sharing, rights management, open data and open access…

4. Invisibility of digital methods in scholarly outputs: we do not 'show our workings'

5. Supporting multi and inter-disciplinarity.

# Data 'biographies'
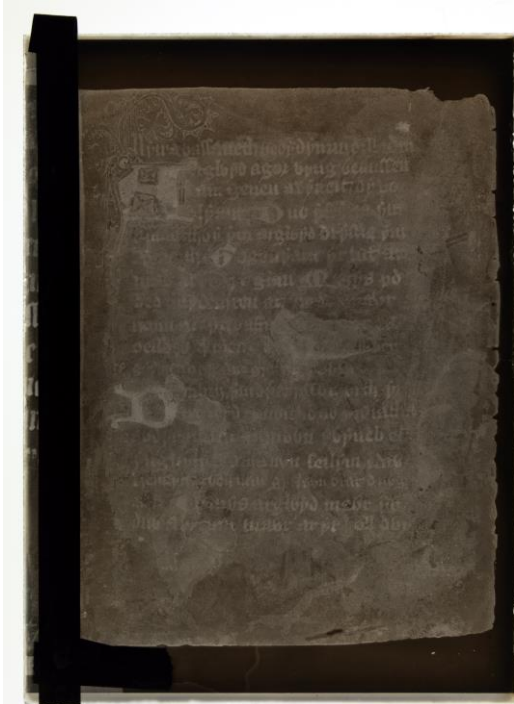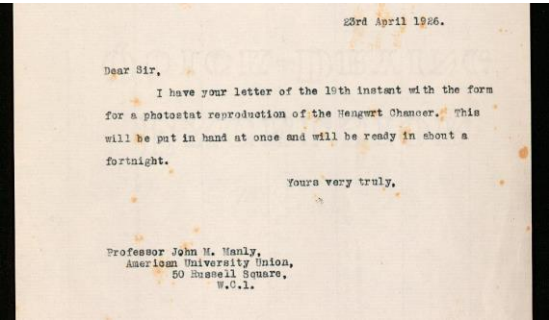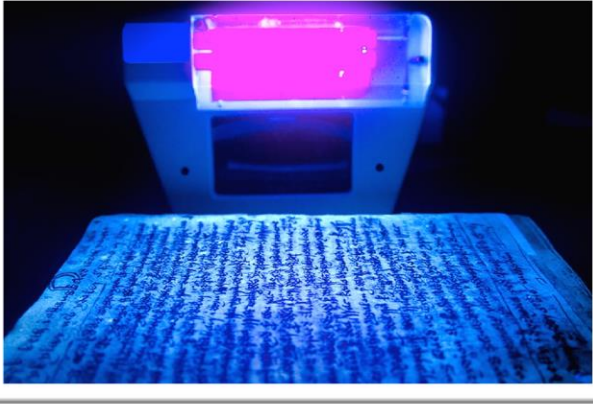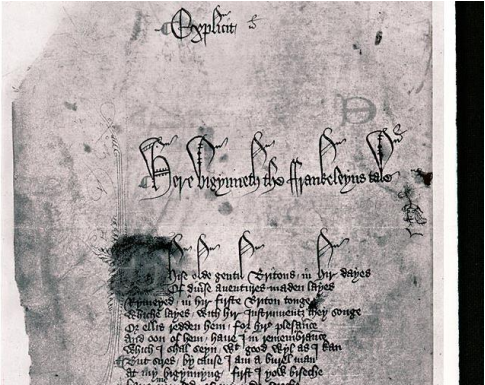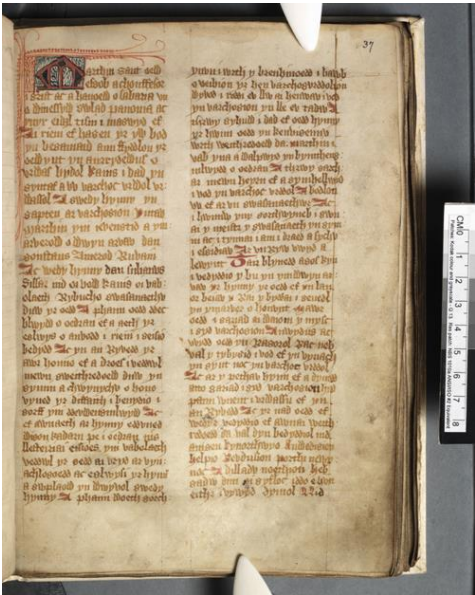
# Multi and interdisciplinary data driven research: 'The snows of yesteryear: narrating extreme weather': http://eira.llgc.org.uk

- Identified accounts, representations of extreme weather events in academic, institutional and public sources;

- Climatologists integrated sources into scientific research and [visualisations](#)

- Digitally connected primary and secondary references to weather, from archives on meteorology, geography, natural history, folklore, documentary accounts and artworks

- Community and performative aspects

- Co-curation and integration of data
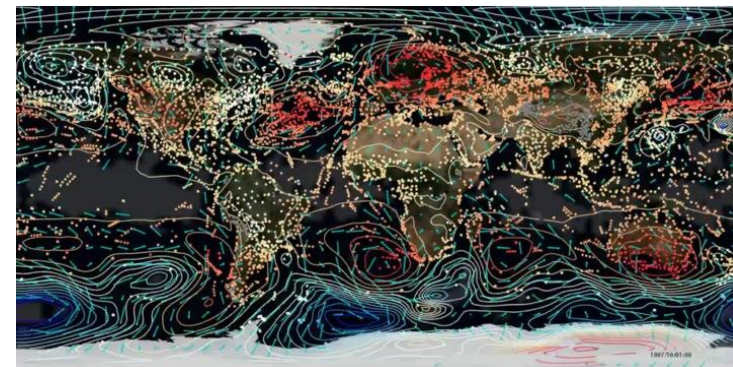
# Addressing the challenges: lessons from data driven research in the humanities

- Better collaborations with the cultural heritage sector are key

- Understanding of data creation and management needed

- We need to understand the human infrastructure: the scholarly ecosystem around data driven research

- Develop new approaches to documenting and describing digital methods *within* traditional publications

- The key to big data is its unpredictability and un-structured nature: moving beyond scaling up, into the realm of the *Known Unknowns*

- Enquiry-led understanding of the essential elements of data and its complexities is transferrable across disciplines and genres

- *From small things, big things one day come…*

# Thank you!

# @lornamhughes



**Beyond the Digital Humanities: ESF Network for Digital Methods in the Arts and Humanities (NeDiMAH.eu) final event: London, May 5th, 2015**