In 1949, Jesuit scholar, Father Roberto Busa began to collaborate with IBM to build a massive lemmatized concordance to the works of St. Thomas Aquinas. By the mid 1950s he had established in Milan the first humanities computing center, which both IBM and Father Busa referred to as a Center for Literary Data Processing. This turn toward thinking of texts as data – or as potential sources of data – to be processed using computers and algorithmic, quantitative methods, has its legacy in many of today’s digital humanities and electronic textuality, from the creation of electronic editions to so-called distant reading and quantitative analyses and visualizations of very large corpora of texts.

Geoffrey Rockwell
University of Alberta, Canada

“Replicating Father Busa’s Methods”

Steven Jones
University of South Florida

“Reverse-Engineering the First Humanities Computing Center: A Media-Archaeology Approach”

Ted Underwood
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

“Genealogies of Distance”

Laura Mandell
Texas A & M

“What Can You Do with ‘Dirty OCR’?: Digital Literary History beyond the Canon”

Saturday, September 24th, 2016, Information Commons, 4th Floor
Lake Shore Campus, Loyola University Chicago
6501 N. Kenmore Avenue
8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Reception to Follow

For more information, contact: Prof. Paul Eggert at peggert@luc.edu

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