

INSTANT HISTORY

THE POSTWAR DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND THEIR LEGACIES

Our day-conference will explore several aspects of this legacy of Father Busa's mid-century humanities computing, including the history of natural language processing and digital text processing, systems of textual markup and the creation of digital scholarly editions, topic modeling and large-corpora analysis



Father Busa standing next to an IBM mainframe.

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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