DH Portfolio Transcript

1:

(0-20 seconds)

As a pretty much all-around STEM kid, I decided to take on the digital humanities with an expectation that it would be a pretty simple mash up of computer science and English. And as my time in our digital humanities class comes to an end, I wanted to reflect on some of the skills I learned and explain why my original perception of digital humanities is far from this mash up I described.

(20-40)

Our first assignment was a simple video that took our original report and saw us transform them into something a bit more engaging. I used Adobe Rush to make the video, which is a software that I had never used before. I quickly learned how simple and easy to use it was and began taking full use of its functionalities. But first, I needed a way to grab videos from online for my own video.

(40-60)

For all of my newfound screen recording needs, I turned to Snagit. I tried a lot of other knock off versions at first, because, well, they were free. With a lot of trial and a lot more error, I gave

into Snagit and bought it. Snagit quickly became my best friend in this class since I would go on to use it in almost every project we had. So, I guess it ended up being worth the 30 bucks.

2:

(0-40)

Getting back to editing our first video, I kept it pretty simple. I took a lot of screen recorded videos and mashed them together. I ended up using a function called cross dissolve to make some of the transitions between videos less abrupt. I learned how to insert title slides in certain places to make sure the audience was following along. In a lot of cased when I would do a voiceover onto the video, the timing would be off. So, I learned how to slightly lengthen or shorten the audio to line up with the video. I wanted everything to flow really well so there wouldn’t be any distractions. I think this is also something important I learned from the digital humanities. You don’t have to teach everything through a research paper or some super boring report. You can transform knowledge into legitimately engaging and informative forms.

(40-60)

For our next project, we began our journey with podcasting. I definitely wasn’t super comfortable with this assignment, but I powered through. We began by using a software called Audacity which I had never really heard of but that’s ok. I only used Audacity for the actually recording part and trimming off some of the edges.

3:

(0-20)

I ended up using a program called Adobe Audition to actually edit down the podcast since I had used it before. I knew how to do some basic things like amplifying the audio and making certain sections louder to balance the audio. It also has these super useful markers, which I ended up using a lot. I also took some of the background noises and spikes in audio and evened them out to make the entire experience slightly more enjoyable.

(20-40)

Something I ended up using a lot was the multi-track mix. This allowed me to overlay tracks so that I could put in background music. I ended up using multiple songs, so seeing them all on top of one another made the problem of timing easier to figure out. I also learned to do things like fade in or out of audio, which I used a couple of times in my actual podcast to make it seem more professional.

(40-60)

And finally, I want to talk about putting together my portfolio and some final thoughts I have about the class and digital humanities. I’m a big aesthetics person, so I actually had a lot of fun with the portfolio. I didn’t get as creative as I wanted because I had other exams to study for, but I definitely had a purpose for the choices I made.

4:

(0-20)

First, I kept everything centered, because, in my personal opinion, symmetry is sexy. I also kept everything in black and white because I didn’t want to distract from my reflections. I wanted the portfolio to feel very easy to navigate and look aesthetically pleasing with different sized titles and cut-offs between sections. I also took screenshots of the files I input to the portfolio and set them as the picture you click on.

(20-40)

On the html side of things, I learned how to take various projects from our site and put them into my portfolio. For one, I found how to take the audio from our podcast with the sliding time bar and put that in. I also learned to go on vimeo and take the embedded code for my videos to put in my portfolio.

END:

As I start looking at my portfolio as a whole, I really started to reflect on what I had learned in the class, since this voiceover I’m doing right now is pretty much the final piece of my journey in English 480.

Digital humanities have a great deal to do with how we apply digital resources to convey a message. Representing things digitally has become an essential element of our lives and making sure that representation is actually useful is an essential aspect of DH. I really enjoyed creating reflections on the class because it made me realize how many things, I learned that I hadn’t really thought about. Even though this class is ending, I doubt my adventures with the digital humanities is over. I now realize just how much DH impacts other disciplines and how useful it really is.