

Learning Materials

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Week Two -- Free lunch

What? Managing your research via a Personal Bibliographical Database

When? 12noon-2pm Wednesday 9 October 2019

Where? Clephan 2.34

Who? Prof Gabriel Egan



Why? You don't need to learn the minutiae of any particular referencing system like "MLA", "Harvard", "MHRA", or "Chicago" because you can now get your computer to write all your references for you. It doesn't matter whether you want to use footnotes or endnotes for referencing, or in-text "author-date" citations, or any other style you've seen before: they can all be automatically written for you using a Personal Bibliographical Database.

What really matters about referencing is that you capture the important bits of bibliographical information at the moment when you have the item in your hands: things like the author's name, the title, the publisher, and so on. This hands-on session using the Personal Bibliographical Database software called Zotero will show you how to capture that information when you have the item and how to then use that information to have your word-processor (say, Microsoft Word) write perfectly formatted citations and a perfectly formatted bibliography for you. You'll save dozens of hours (if you're and MA student) or hundreds of hours (if you're a PhD student) on referencing if you do this, and your referencing will be immaculate.

Preparation? Bring to the session your laptop computer and some examples of the kinds of works you'd like to be able to cite in your writing (books, articles, and so on). If you are comfortable installing software onto your computer, then before you come to the class download and install the free standalone version of Zotero (just do a web-search for "Zotero Download" to find it.)



Week Three -- Free lunch

What? what is 'Data' to Historians and Literary Scholars?

When? 1-2.30pm Wednesday 16 October 2019

Where? CL1.19

Who? Dr Kelley Wilder



Why? Research is the generation of new knowledge from new data and information. But what is the difference between data and information and how do we get from one to the other? This session brings together the basics of epistemology--the theory of knowledge--and practical considerations of the raw materials for historical and literary scholarship and shows how to use empirical evidence (especially in the form of numbers) to distinguish between answers that are merely precise and those that convey truly accurate assertions about the world.



Week Four -- Free lunch

What? Image Formats and Why they Matter

When? 1-2.30pm Wednesday 23 October 2019

Where? CL1.19

Who? Dr Kelley Wilder



Why? Do you have questions like "When should I use a compressed image format and when not?" and "What does digital degradation of an image look like and how can I avoid it?" This session explains why there are different formats for storing images and teaches students how to choose the best for their work.



Week Seven -- No Free Lunch as We're Handling Poisons

What? Beginner's hands-on class in letter-press printing (Part 1)

When? 4-6pm on Wednesday 13 November 2019

Where? Clephan 0.31

Who? Dr Takako Kato



Why? This session will give hands-on experience in setting type by hand--which is the way all books were made until the 20th century--and the imposing of it to make pages that we will then print on the Centre for Textual Studies' 19th-century Albion printing press. In this first session we will set the type and next week we will print from it. If you can't make both classes, it's possible to come to just one or the other.



Week Eight -- No Free Lunch as We're Handling Poisons

What? Beginner's hands-on class in letter-press printing (Part 1)

When? 4-6pm on Wednesday 20 November 2019

Where? Clephan 0.31

Who? Dr Takako Kato



Why? T This session will give hands-on experience in setting type by hand--which is the way all books were made until the 20th century--and the imposing of it to make pages that we will then print on the Centre for Textual Studies' 19th-century Albion printing press. In this second session we will print the type we set last week. If you can't make both classes, it's possible to come to just one or the other.



Week Nine -- Free Lunch

What? Visiting Libraries and Archives

When? 1-2.30pm on Wednesday 27 November 2019

Where? CL2.35

Who? Dr Natalie Hayton and Deborah Mutch



Why? Why do I need to visit archives? Aren't archives just for History students? How do I start? How do I find the right archive? What do I do with all these new sources? Why do these people keep bringing me boxes of stuff I didn't ask for? There's so much stuff! Take a deep breath, relax and we'll help you to understand the joys (and frustrations) of primary research in the archives.





Week Fifteen -- Free Lunch

What? From PhD to Post-Doc and Beyond

When? 1-2.30pm on Wednesday 8 January 2020

Where? CL2.35

Who? Rebecca Mason (Glasgow University)



Why? What can you do after a PhD in History? Rebecca Mason is a Post-Doctoral Research Associate on a project funded by the Economic History Society and will talk about the transition from PhD to what comes after and what it takes to build an academic career.



Week Twenty-One -- Free Lunch

What? Getting Published

When? 1-2.30pm on Wednesday 19 February 2020

Where? CL2.35

Who? Prof Kenneth Morrison and Prof Deborah Cartmell



Why? Because you want your work to be published, right? This session will cover the important things you need to know about submitting articles to journals and getting them accepted, and approaching book publishers (to get your thesis out in that form).



Week Twenty-Two -- Free Lunch

What? Text Mining with Microsoft Word and Excel

When? 1-2.30pm on Wednesday 26 February 2020

Where? Hugh Aston Building, room HU2.04

Who? Prof Gabriel Egan



Why? A surprising amount of analysis of language can be done using nothing more than a spreadsheet. This session assumes no past experience in creating spreadsheets and offers a gentle introduction to the sorting and filtering of textual data and then--and this is the biggest step anyone ever takes with a spreadsheet--the writing of a formula to do some kind of calculation on the data. The examples will all be based on textual data, and the only maths we will rely on are the basic arithmetic operations that Lewis Carroll's Mock Turtle called "Ambition, Distraction, Uglification, and Derision".



Week Twenty-Four -- Free Lunch

What? Introduction to Python Programming for Humanities Research

When? 1-2.30pm on Wednesday 4 March 2020

Where? CL1.32e

Who? Prof Gabriel Egan



Why? Sometimes the only way to get a computer to do what you want for your Humanities research is to write a computer program (some software) yourself. This is surprisingly easy to do and this hands-on session will introduce you to the Python programming language and get you started writing simple programs that solve problems specifically arising from your research and that no one has already written software for. It's pitched at absolute beginners.