A Moral Voyage: BDIC and the Senior Summary

I know it’s a little early for me to be waxing poetic about the CHC experience – graduation is still VERY far away – but it was for an assignment. Each BDIC student has to write a “Senior Summary” as their final graduation requirement. It’s half assessment – what did you actually do for your curriculum, what did you learn, what skills did you acquire, etc. – but it’s also half reflection on your BDIC career. It allows me to review what I’ve accomplished, and think about how to present it to future employers or graduate schools.

I actually applied for BDIC after taking an honors course, “Doing the Digital Humanities-HONS 301 with Professor Poehler”. It was one of those moments of destiny - I knew right after the first class this was something I wanted to study in-depth. And BDIC seemed like the best way to both figure out what aspect of digital humanities I was interested in and to explore lots of different ways of thinking about the digital realm.

These past two years in BDIC have been all about connecting the dots, finding areas of focus, and developing the critical skills to create and analyze digital works. I’ve been able to take some of my favorite classes thanks to BDIC. I never thought I would be studying the evils of Google, meeting Binyavanga Wainaina, or virtually traveling through the streets of Pompeii. (The fact all three of those topics could converge somewhere is amazing in itself.) Most importantly, I’ve learned that digital humanities is nebulous - there are so many different opportunities and directions to take in this field. While the evaluation of digital scholarships is still in the works, the DH community has started creating their own guidelines to be critical of digital works. The opportunities I’ve had as an undergrad to sift through the craziness that is DH will really benefit me in the long run.
BDIC has been a great way to explore my interests and begin to understand how they can fit together for professional and academic goals. It’s been an empowering part of my CHC curriculum, because I’ve created so many different projects and pieces of writing to contribute to a greater conversation. And writing this senior summary has allowed me to take the time to realize and appreciate how far I’ve come academically.

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