D A V I D   J .   T H O M A S

Digital Scholar and Ancient Historian (he/him)
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Education

M.A.	History, Brown University, Providence, RI, July 2010 Ph.D. Candidacy, Spring 2013 Master of Arts, History, July 2010 Fields: Greek & Roman History, Medieval History, Greek Epigraphy
M.A.	History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, June 2008 Fields: Ancient History, Medieval History
B.S.	History Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, June 2003

College Experience

2023-Present	**Boston College**, Boston, MA **Senior Digital Scholarship Specialist** **O'Neill Library** Provided digital project consultations for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research projects, including identifying methods, tools, and platforms. Managed and oversaw faculty digital project development. Developed and built full-stack web applications for academic research. Delivered digital scholarship classroom instruction, including working with faculty to effectively incorporate digital scholarship concepts. Created online asynchronous educational materials. Consulted around the college regarding digital pedagogy.

2018-2020	**University of South Florida**, Tampa, FL **Instructor of Ancient History and Digital Humanities** • EUH 2011/12 – Ancient History I/II • EUH 3412 – Roman Republic • EUH 3421 – Early Crusades • HIS 3968 – Hacking History • LIT3419 – Religious and Philosophical Themes (Ancient Religions) • HIS 4936 – Digital History - Seminar • HIS 4936 – Programming the Past - Seminar • HIS 4936/6939 – Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean – Seminar Designed numerous sections of ancient history and digital humanities to undergraduates and graduate students. Advised numerous ongoing digital projects and initiatives on campus. Published several software packages, including a Python package to ease tasks for DH students, and two different packages, one for Python and another for JavaScript which are full-stack kick starters for new DH projects.
2014-2018	**University of South Florida**, Tampa, FL **Visiting Instructor of History** • EUH 2011/12 – Ancient History I/II • EUH 3412 – Roman Republic • HIS 3930 – Community and Exclusion in Ancient Greece • HIS 4900 – Digital Humanities Workshop • HIS 4936/6936 – Introduction to Digital Humanities – Seminar • HIS 4936/6936 – Programming the Past - Seminar • HIS 4936 – Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean – Seminar Taught the first DH classes on campus. Designed numerous sections of ancient history and digital humanities to undergraduates and graduate students. Advised the first Digital Humanities projects on campus. Designed and taught a series of workshops to faculty and students at the Advanced Visualization Center. Served as lead developer on a funded startup project.
2008-2014	**Brown University**, Providence, RI **Teaching Assistant** • HIST 1000A/B – Hellenistic Greece/Shaping of the Classical World • HIST 1530 – Korea: Contending with Modernity • HIST 1730/40 – Antebellum America/Civil War & Reconstruction • HIST 1730A – North American Environmental History Planned and led weekly discussion sessions. Assisted professors and students in classroom and during office hours.

2005-2007	**Northern Illinois University**, DeKalb, IL **Teaching Assistant** • HIST 140 – Asia to 1500 • HIST 110 – Western Civilization to 1500 • HIST 113 – Western Civilization Since 1815 Planned and led weekly discussion sessions. Assisted professors and students in classroom and during office hours.

Other Teaching Experience

2014	Roanoke College, Salem, VA Study Abroad Assistant Coordinator Assisted in coordination, instruction, and supervision of 17 students for an intensive 3-week summer course for Roanoke College. Sites visited included Athens, Corinth, Sparta, Mycene, Pylos, Delphi, and Thebes.
2013-2014	Brown University, Sheridan Writing Center, Providence RI Writing Fellow Gave numerous writing consultations for students, both undergraduate and graduate.
20011-2014	Johns Hopkins University, Center for Talented Youth,, Bristol, RI Campus Instructor, 2013-2014 Teaching Assistant, 2011-2012 Designed and taught one section of Etymologies for grades 7-8 at an intensive, 3-week-long residential summer camp for gifted youth.
2004-2005	Kaneland High School, CUSD #302,, Maple Park, IL Social Studies Instructor Designed and taught numerous sections of World History I, American History since 1865, and Consumer Economics.

Academic Presentations & Publications

2016	**Conference Panelist**, Digital Humanities methodologies in the Classroom: Advantages and Pitfalls (but mostly Advantages. "Teaching Data Criticism: A Macro and Microscopic Trip to Pausanias' Greece." 96th Annual Meeting, *Classical Association of the Midwest and South - Southern Section*. Atlanta, GA, October 29th.
2015	**Conference Panelist**, Supporting Digital Humanities: Challenges and Opportunities for Libraries, "Humanities and the Digital." 35th Annual Conference, *Charleston Library Conference*. Charleston, SC. November 6.

2014	**Conference Panelist**, Performance, Social Ritual, and Power. "Networking Status and the Political Religion of Roman Eleusis." 2014 Annual Meeting, *Association of Ancient Historians.* Montreal, Quebec. May 11.
2013	**Conference Panelist**, Envisioning Religious Practice in Local Contexts. "Rome and Athens' Eleusis: Imperial Identity and Elite Status in the Kerykes." 2013 Annual Meeting, *Theoretical Archaeology Group.* Chicago, IL. May 11.
2011	**Conference Panelist**, Religious Innovation and Empire. "The Mysteries of Roman Athenian Identity and the Activities of the Kerykes at Eleusis." 2011 Annual Meeting, *Association of Ancient Historians*. May 7.
2008	**Article**, "Blood, Cult, and Status in Archaic Athens: The Origins and Rise of the Attic Genos." In *From the Remote to the Recent Past*. Edited by Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Nicholas C.J. Pappas. Athens: Athens Institute for Education and Research.
2007	**Conference Panelist**, Ancient Beliefs. "Blood, Cult, and Status in Archaic Athens: The Origins and Rise of the Attic Genos." 5th International Conference on History, *Athens Institute for Education and Research*. Athens, Greece, December 29.

Other Presentations

2016	**Invited Speaker**, "USF in the News." *USF Libraries*, USF Digital Scholarship Faire. April 12th.
2016	**Panel Chair**, "Teaching Students to Parse the Past." ΦΑΘ Orlando Regional Conference. Orlando, FL. January 2nd.
2016	**Invited Speaker**, "The Macroscope: The New Boundaries of Thick Data and Critical Inquiry." Meeting of the *Suncoast Information Specialists*. Ruskin, FL. April 25th.

Digital Projects

2014-2019	**Project – Sole Developer** Networks of Roman Eleusis, eleusis.thePort.us First created a LAMP web application based upon my dissertation research, allowing users to visualize social and ideological relationships found in Greek inscriptions. The entire architecture has since been entirely rewritten to its current form, a MySQL, ExpressJS, Angular, NodeJS single-page application. Current features include dynamic data entry through approved user accounts.

2016	**Project & Publication - Lead Developer** Global Interdisciplinary Food Technologies (GIFT) Knowledge Repository, Repository: github.com/thePortus/generator-djangular-gift Designed and programmed a full-stack web application designed to store, aggregate, and analyze open-source data uploaded by scholars from a wide variety of fields. Also created a rapid-start generator which automatically writes the boilerplate code for new features. The output of the GIFT project, this generator is powered by Yeoman to offer a solution to DH projects needing to create their own full-stack modern layered web applications with fully encrypted user logins. The backend is written in Python/Django, and the frontend is in AngularJS 1.x. The generator will ask a few questions and then create the raw application that can easily be altered. Further generators create new widgets or API routes.
2014-2020	**Project – Lead Developer** Severan Database Project, University of South Florida http://hennarot.forest.usf.edu/main/other/severan/spc/ https://github.com/usf-portal/severan-database-project Provided long-term technical oversight and assisted project planning. Redesigned project data models for long term publication on GitHub.
2015	**Project – Advisory Board Member** Florida Postcard Project, University of South Florida http://flpostcards.web.usf.edu/ Provided long-term technical oversight and assisted project planning. Developed project solutions for database design, data entry, and language control.
2015	**Project – Consultant** https://arrestinginequality.org/ Provided solutions and help in crafting the original data model and controlled vocabulary while the project was hosted at USF. It has since migrated to the University of Georgia.

Solo Digital Publications

2019	**Ape-Stack Server**, AngularJS/PostgreSQL/ExpressJS/NodeJS Repository: github.com/thePortus/ape-stack Ape-Stack is an attempt to modernize and built upon the core idea of the generator-djangular-gift package (see below): to provide a scaffolding, standards, and kick starter solution to DH projects needing to build a modern full-stack server application. Like djangular-gift, the application is properly layered with a RESTful API backend, full TDD/BDD testing suites, testing coverage, and continual integration built in. The backend, is written in NodeJS, making this package entirely JavaScript, easing design and expertise demands.

2018	**DHelp**, Python
	Repository: github.com/thePortus/dhelp
	Pip: pypi.org/project/dhelp
	DHelp is a Python package created to allow my students (and any DH students) to quickly perform a large number of operations that they need to use on a regular basis, including loaded and altering different kinds of data, performing text analysis in a number of languages, and even do network analysis. The core ideas of Arakhhne (see below) are contained within the linguistics module of DHelp, and are streamlined and more efficient.
2016	**Arakhne Text Loom**, Python
	Repository: github.com/thePortus/arakhne
	Pip: pypi.org/project/arakhne
	Created and published a Python 3.5 module designed to allow anyone to load and entire corpus of texts, clean them, and export the results in just one line of code. Currently it works for English, Latin, and Classical Greek. Module enables scholars and students with limited programming experience to quickly dive into text analysis.

Demonstrations and Other Digital Experience

2019	**Demonstration – Sole Author**
	Anglo-Saxon Charter Analysis.
	github.com/thePortus/asc-analysis
	Created a demonstration/tutorial of digital methods which can either be downloaded and run locally, or run in-browser. Demonstration uses Python to analyze about over 2,500 people who appear in almost 500 charters from Anglo-Saxon England, c. 600-900. Tutorial and documentation shows how to scrape data right from the project website, store it in a local database, export data, perform network analysis to find key individuals, and run some basic text analysis.
2016-2019	**Demonstration – Sole Author**
	USF in the News
	public.tableau.com/views/USFintheNews2011-2016/USFintheNews
	A demonstration of how to produce results fast with DH techniques. Originally created for a faire, within a space of just 48 hours every story published about USF worldwide was gathered using a free chrome extension and visualized with Tableau. In 2019, the visualizations and data were revamped and republished.
2009	**Project – Graduate Digital Encoder**
	U.S. Epigraphy Project, Brown University
	usepigraphy.brown.edu/projects/usep
	Digitally encoded major U.S. collections of Greek and Latin inscriptions in XML, using conventions of the EpiDoc project.

2007-2008	**Webmaster** Office of External Programming, Northern Illinois University Updated and maintained office webpage, designed new content and graphics, developed websites for projects and events under the purview of the office, oversaw office databases and mailing lists.

Languages & Select Digital Skills

Programming:	HTML5/CSS3/JS5+, XML, PHP, Perl, C/C++, SQL, Python/Django, Regex, NodeJS, ExpressJS, TypeScript, Angular
Skills:	Server/Client-Side Programming, Spatial Analysis, 3D Modeling and Design, GIS, Network Analysis, TEI-Compliant Text Encoding, Text Analysis, Database Design, Web and Graphic Design, Git Version Control, Web Master, Data Control, Data Scraping/Mining, Windows/OSX/Linux Environments, Visualization
Languages:	Classical Greek, Latin, French (Reading Comprehension), German (Reading Comprehension)

Teaching & Research Interests

Digital Scholarship/Humanities. Textual, Network, and Spatial Analysis. Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing. Web and database programming. Data versioning. Data scraping/scrubbing. Data visualization. Greek and Roman History. The Post-Classical Polis. Mediterranean Interactivity. Methods and Theory of History/Ancient History. Social History and Material Culture. Religious History. Identities and Representation. Greek & Latin Language and Literature. Archaeology and Epigraphy.

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association, Association of Ancient Historians, Association for Computers and the Humanities, Society for Classical Studies, Archaeological Institute of America, Classical Association of the Midwest and South.