Best Practice Principles of Designing Your First Project
The Five Parts of a Research Project

- a question, problem, or provocation
- sources (primary or secondary)
- an analytical activity
- an audience
- concrete products
What is the role of Richmond, VA in the American Civil War?
George Alfred Townsend (1865) and Kenneth Noe (1997): “Richmond ... remains an offstage presence, a sort of metropolitan version of Hamlet's father, mentioned with frequency but rarely seen.”
"Mining the Dispatch," seeks to explore—and encourage exploration of—the dramatic and often traumatic changes as well as the sometimes surprising continuities in the social and political life of Civil War Richmond.
Creating and/or Refining your Question

- who?
- what?
- when?
- where?
- why?
- how?

| to describe | to contribute | to develop | to explore |

for what purpose?
Innovation?

Producing
- Producing your own secondary source

Reading
- Major Questions

Transcribing & Analyzing
- Performances of the Scholar in Historiography-Centric Historical Research Processes

Identifying
- Primary Sources/Archives

Revising your Questions

Reading
- Secondary Sources

Identifying
- Primary Sources/Archives

Transcribing & Analyzing
- Secondary Sources
Semi-Digital Scholar

**Producing**
- Producing your own secondary source

**Reading**
- Major Questions
- Performances of the Scholar in Historiography-Centric Historical Research Processes

**Transcribing & Analyzing**
- Primary Sources/Archives
- Identifying
- Transcribing & Analyzing

**Identifying**
- Digital Catalogue
- Digital Finding Aid
- Digital Repositories

**Revising your Questions**
- Word
- Citation Software

**Secondary Sources**
- Word
- Citation Software
- Digital Catalogue
- Digital Finding Aid
- Digital Repositories
Language and Boundaries

Pre-suppositions about computing, computational scientists, and humanists

Probability versus certainty: Does A+B really equal C? and what constitutes C anyway?

Recognizing what systems can and cannot do for humanists and computational scientists
Sources and Materials

scarcity and abundance
primary and secondary
feasibility
quality and complexity
Serving Many Masters

"the roots of the concepts [of interdisciplinarity] lie in a number of ideas that resonate through modern discourse—the ideas of a unified science, general knowledge, synthesis and the integration of knowledge."

Credits

Jennifer Guiliano
Simon Appleford
“Best Practice Principles of Designing Your First Project”
www.devdh.org