Tech, Tech, And More Tech
Evaluate Your Needs

- What do you want to do?
- What is my budget? (Open Source or Commercial)
- Who will be the primary user?
- Has someone else done something similar?
- Is there an existing solution that I can use?
- Do I have to build something from scratch?
Strategies for Finding Tools

Where should I look?

- Google (carefully!)
- Digital Humanities Literature
  - DHQuarterly
  - DigitalHumanitiesNow.org
- Conference and Workshop Proceedings
- Recent Books
- NEH Office of Digital Humanities
- Bamboo DiRT
Strategies for Finding Tools

Welcome //
Bamboo DiRT is a tool, service, and collection registry of digital research tools for scholarly use. Developed by Project Bamboo, Bamboo DiRT makes it easy for digital humanists and others conducting digital research to find and compare resources ranging from content management systems to music OCA, statistical analysis packages to mindmapping software.

I need a digital research tool to . . .
- Analyze data
- Analyze texts
- Author an interactive work
- Blog
- Brainstorm/generate ideas
- Build and share collections
- Collect data
- Communicate with colleagues
- Conduct linguistic research
- Manage bibliographic information
- Manage tasks
- Network with other researchers
- Organize research materials
- Publish and share information
- Search visually
- Share bookmarks
- Stay current with research
- Take notes/annotate resources
Evaluate The Technology

Do not use a cannon to kill a mosquito.

--Confucius
Questions to Ask

Can I maintain the technology myself?

Does my technology require long term investments (e.g. job changes, resource changes)?

Am I overestimating my teams’ experience with a particular technology?
Evaluate The Technology

Topic Modeling:

• Topic Modeling GUI
• MALLET
• Custom LDA Solution Written In R

Spatial Analysis:

• Google Maps/Google Earth
• WorldMap
• ESRI ArcGIS
If In Doubt ...

• Experiment with existing tools that have been used for similar projects
• Ask the community!
**Common Errors**

- building custom websites using HTML, CSS, JQuery

- Having “stale” content that requires hand-corrections/updating

- Creating a funnel where all contributions have to be funneled to one person for approval
Credits

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