Computing

Humanities

# What's the relationship?

Willard McCarty, 11/6/19

# An historical account

1. 1949–1991: *and*

2. 1991– 2004/5: *in*

3. 2004/5 – 2019 → ['digital humanities']

# A problem with 'digital humanities'

A separate, sometimes superior way of doing scholarly work by using computers.

But what is the *relationship* between that work and computing?

What would a computing <u>of</u> the humanities be like?

# What does an **of** communicate?

1. 'She has a way <u>of</u> acting, speaking, moving etc.'

2. 'He is a person <u>of</u> his time.'

3. "She stood letting him adore her and tremble with joy <u>of</u> her."

# How to pursue a relationship?

1. True, self-aware interdisciplinary collaboration;

2. Investigation of promising analogies in other disciplines.

# Maxims to live by[+]

1. Figure out the intrinsic coherence of each practice you would understand;

2. Figure out the common ground.

[+]N. Jardine, "Philosophical engagements with distant sciences", *Science in the Forest, Science in the Past II*, Cambridge, 6/19.

# Alternatives

1. Everyone's helper, a.k.a the perfect servant
2. A version or flavour of discipline X
3. Epistemological engineering
4. Experimental human science
5. Digital impact sociology
6. Anthropology of instrumental reasoning
7. ... ?