What do you do with a million hours…
Announcing the Digging into Data Challenge

The Digging into Data Challenge is an international grant competition sponsored by four leading research agencies, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) from the United Kingdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) from the United States, the National Science Foundation (NSF) from the United States, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) from Canada.

What is the "challenge" we speak of? The idea behind the Digging into Data Challenge is to answer the question "what do you do with a million books?" Or a million pages of newspaper? Or a million photographs of artwork? That is, how does the notion of scale affect humanities and social science research? Now that scholars have access to huge repositories of digitized data -- far more than they could read in a lifetime -- what does that mean for research?

Applicants will form international teams from at least two of the participating countries. Winning teams will receive grants from two or more of the funding agencies and, one year later, will be invited to show off their work at a special conference. Our hope is that these projects will serve as exemplars to the field.

The advent of what has been called "data-driven inquiry" or "cyberscholarship" has changed the nature of inquiry across many disciplines, including the sciences and humanities, revealing new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration on problems of common interest. The creation of
The Tragicall Historie of
HAMLET
Prince of Denmarke.

Enter two Comedians.

STAND: who is that?
Tis I.
O you come most carefully upon your watch,
And if you meete Marcellus and Horatio,
The partners of my watch, bid them make haste.
I will: See who goes there.

Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

Hor. Friends to this ground.
Mar. And legeemen to the Dane,
O farewell honest soilder, who hath releasted you?
1. Barnardo hath my place, give you good night.
I. Content
- Maintained by libraries for a period of 15 years

II. Transcription and Encoding
- Maintained for 15 years by libraries and digital humanities centers

III. Cloud of Widgets
- Maintained by nodes of Bamboo universe for a period of 5 years
- Can be assembled into interfaces using “recipes”

IV. User-generated Data
- Maintained by university presses
- Includes annotations, tags, and crowd-sourced transcriptions