
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE HUMANITIES: EMERGING PERSPECTIVES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY POSSIBILITIES

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Crossref DOI - <https://doi.org/10.63665/rh.v7i2.64>

Abstract :

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence has significantly transformed various fields of knowledge, extending its influence beyond science and technology into the domain of the humanities. Traditionally associated with human creativity, interpretation, and critical thought, the humanities are now engaging with AI as both a methodological tool and a subject of inquiry. This paper examines the role of Artificial Intelligence in the humanities by exploring its applications in literary studies, history, linguistics, philosophy, and cultural analysis. It highlights how AI-driven tools enable new forms of research, reinterpretation of texts, and preservation of cultural heritage while also raising ethical, philosophical, and epistemological concerns. The study argues that AI does not replace humanistic inquiry but reshapes it by offering innovative approaches that expand the scope of humanities scholarship.

Keywords : Artificial Intelligence, Humanities, Digital humanities, Literary studies, Interdisciplinary research

The humanities have long been concerned with understanding human experience, culture, language, history, and values through critical interpretation and reflective analysis. For centuries, humanities research relied primarily on close reading, archival study, and philosophical reasoning. With the emergence of Artificial Intelligence, these traditional modes of inquiry are undergoing significant transformation. AI introduces computational methods that allow scholars to analyse vast amounts of data, uncover hidden patterns, and generate new insights that were previously difficult or impossible to achieve through manual methods alone. This shift has given rise to new interdisciplinary engagements between technology and humanistic scholarship. In literary studies, Artificial Intelligence has opened new avenues for textual analysis and interpretation. Machine learning algorithms can process large literary corpora to identify stylistic patterns, thematic trends, and authorship markers across historical periods. Such tools enable scholars to revisit canonical texts as well as marginalized literary works, offering broader perspectives on literary history. AI-assisted analysis complements close reading by providing macro-level insights while preserving the interpretative depth central to literary criticism. Rather than diminishing the role of the critic,



AI expands the range of questions that can be asked of literary texts. Historical research has also benefited from the application of AI technologies. Digitization of archives combined with natural language processing allows historians to analyse historical documents, letters, and records at an unprecedented scale. AI tools assist in transcription, translation, and categorization of historical materials, making them more accessible for scholarly analysis. These developments contribute to the democratization of historical knowledge by enabling the recovery of voices and narratives that were previously overlooked or inaccessible due to archival limitations.

In linguistics and language studies, AI plays a crucial role in understanding language evolution, translation, and communication. Computational linguistics and AI-powered translation systems facilitate comparative language studies and documentation of endangered languages. For humanities scholars, these technologies support the preservation of linguistic diversity and enable deeper engagement with oral and written traditions across cultures. At the same time, they prompt reflection on the cultural nuances of language that cannot be fully captured through algorithmic processes alone. Philosophy and ethics occupy a central place in discussions of Artificial Intelligence in the humanities. The increasing reliance on AI systems raises fundamental questions about consciousness, agency, creativity, and responsibility. Humanities scholars critically examine the implications of delegating interpretative and decision-making processes to machines. Ethical concerns related to bias, authorship, data ownership, and cultural representation are actively debated, highlighting the necessity of human oversight and moral reasoning in the development and application of AI technologies.

The emergence of digital humanities represents a significant convergence of computational tools and humanistic inquiry. Digital mapping, data visualization, and AI-driven pattern recognition allow scholars to explore cultural phenomena across time and space. These methods encourage collaborative research and interdisciplinary dialogue, challenging traditional disciplinary boundaries. Digital humanities projects demonstrate how technology can enhance, rather than undermine, the interpretative and critical foundations of the humanities. Despite its potential, the integration of Artificial Intelligence into the humanities is not without challenges. Overreliance on computational methods risks reducing complex human experiences to quantifiable data. There is also concern that technological access remains uneven, potentially reinforcing existing academic and cultural inequalities. Humanities scholarship therefore emphasizes the need for balanced approaches that combine technological innovation with critical reflection and cultural sensitivity. The role of the humanities becomes increasingly important in shaping the ethical and cultural dimensions of Artificial Intelligence itself. Humanistic perspectives contribute to responsible AI design by emphasizing values such as inclusivity, empathy, historical awareness, and social justice. By engaging critically with AI, humanities scholars help ensure that technological progress aligns with human values and cultural diversity.

The use of Artificial Intelligence in the humanities has also transformed research practices related to archives, museums, and cultural institutions. Digitization supported by AI enables the preservation and restoration of manuscripts, artworks, inscriptions, and historical



artifacts that are vulnerable to physical decay. Image recognition and pattern analysis assist scholars in identifying motifs, symbols, and stylistic continuities across cultures and historical periods. These technologies allow humanities researchers to engage with cultural heritage in new ways while ensuring its transmission to future generations. At the same time, such practices raise questions regarding authenticity, ownership, and the ethical management of digital cultural resources.

AI has further influenced narrative studies and creative practices within the humanities. Computational storytelling, text generation, and narrative modelling challenge traditional notions of authorship and creativity. While machines can generate texts that mimic human language, humanities scholars critically examine the distinction between imitation and genuine creativity. This engagement does not seek to equate machine output with human expression but instead uses AI-generated texts as a lens to better understand narrative structures, stylistic conventions, and the cognitive processes involved in storytelling. Such explorations deepen theoretical discussions about creativity, originality, and meaning.

In the field of cultural studies, AI-driven data analysis enables the examination of media, popular culture, and social discourse at scale. Social media texts, visual content, and digital interactions can be studied to understand contemporary cultural trends, identity formations, and ideological shifts. Humanities scholars apply critical frameworks to interpret AI-generated data, ensuring that quantitative findings are situated within social, historical, and cultural contexts. This integration strengthens cultural analysis while maintaining the interpretative rigor that defines humanities scholarship.

Pedagogical practices in the humanities have also evolved with the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence. AI-assisted learning tools support personalized education, adaptive assessment, and enhanced access to learning materials. For humanities education, these technologies enable students to engage with texts, languages, and historical materials in interactive ways. However, educators emphasize that AI should function as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for critical discussion, debate, and reflective thinking. The humanities classroom remains a space for dialogue, ethical reflection, and interpretative diversity, which cannot be fully replicated by automated systems.

The relationship between Artificial Intelligence and the humanities also extends to questions of power and representation. Algorithms trained on biased or incomplete data may reinforce dominant cultural narratives while marginalizing alternative voices. Humanities scholars play a crucial role in interrogating these biases by analysing the cultural assumptions embedded within AI systems. Critical engagement ensures that AI technologies do not perpetuate historical inequalities related to race, gender, language, or geography. This intersection of AI and critical theory underscores the importance of humanities perspectives in shaping equitable technological futures.

Globalization and cross-cultural exchange further complicate the interaction between AI and the humanities. AI tools are increasingly applied to multilingual and multicultural contexts, raising concerns about linguistic dominance and cultural homogenization. Humanities scholarship advocates for culturally responsive AI systems that respect local



knowledge systems and diverse epistemologies. By foregrounding cultural specificity, humanities researchers contribute to more inclusive and context-aware technological applications. The evolving collaboration between technologists and humanities scholars represents a significant shift in knowledge production. Interdisciplinary research teams bring together computational expertise and humanistic insight, resulting in more nuanced and socially responsible outcomes. These collaborations demonstrate that the humanities are not resistant to technological change but actively shape its direction through critical engagement and ethical reasoning.

In essence, Artificial Intelligence represents both a tool and a challenge for the humanities. It reshapes research methodologies, expands interpretative possibilities, and invites new forms of interdisciplinary collaboration. At the same time, it reinforces the importance of human judgment, ethical reasoning, and cultural understanding. The dialogue between AI and the humanities thus marks a transformative moment in knowledge production, where technology and humanistic inquiry coexist in shaping the future of scholarship.

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