

Shiny Things and How to Make Them Work

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The future of the humanities will depend on its ability to reach out to audiences beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries and educational levels. Through initiatives like knowledge exchange and public engagement, university-based projects have used technology to facilitate new forms of humanistic research for different kinds of audiences. These projects however face a range of challenges- from funding to correctly tailoring content for different audiences to working with technical experts. In my paper, I will discuss my fieldwork results from interviewing practitioners in these contexts, drawing lessons, challenges, and ways forward from the data. I will show how these projects engage with debates around value and relevance in the humanities, and how experimentation with humanistic research provides a way forward for our collective disciplinary home.