

The Blended Learning Speaker Series and the Digital Humanities Seminars present
a dialogue between Jeffrey Ravel and Crystal Hall:

Whales, Galileo, and the Digital Humanities



Tuesday, Nov. 7
4:30 - 6:00 pm
in Founders 120



34,000 Theater Performances and 2200 Images of Whales: Some Lessons Learned in the Digital Humanities

Jeffrey Ravel - Professor and Head of History at MIT

This talk will draw on experiences directing two digital humanities initiatives, the Comédie-Française Registers Project and the Visualizing Maritime History Project. Topics will include the pleasures and perils of international collaborations, the overlap between research and pedagogical agendas in the Digital Humanities, and the synergies between material collections and digital projects. Triumphant DH narratives will be avoided; expect instead a tempered assessment of the challenges facing humanities scholars working in digital spaces today.

Lessons from Galileo's Digital Library

Crystal Hall - Associate Professor of Digital Humanities at Bowdoin College

This presentation describes an ongoing project to digitally recreate Galileo Galilei's personal library. Rather than treating the library as a catalog of books, the project uses digital tools to create and navigate an intellectual artifact of choices and circumstances. The lessons from the library have three ends: a better understanding of early modern intellectualism, identifying the strengths and limitations of digital tools, and suggesting the research and pedagogical opportunities of such a project.