

AI News Digest

06/15/2026 - 06/21/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: ARTS, MEDIA & PERFORMANCE

Digital Preservation and Creative Expression in Focus

This week, discussions around digital preservation and creative expression take center stage in the arts and media landscape. The concept of skeuomorphism is explored in relation to book history, while initiatives like the Alabama Digitarium and 'Now & Here' emphasize the importance of preserving cultural heritage through digital means. Dylan Field's insights on creativity in the AI era highlight the opportunities for innovative expression amidst technological advancements. Additionally, the resurgence of older technologies reflects a growing desire for mindful tech usage.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Skeuomorphism is critiqued for misrepresenting user interactions with AI.
- ✓ The Alabama Digitarium 2026 will focus on cultural preservation by digital humanists.
- ✓ Emerging scholars are collaborating with communities to showcase original research.

IMPLICATIONS

- The emphasis on digital preservation may reshape how cultural artifacts are archived.
- Creative professionals might leverage AI to enhance their artistic expressions.
- A shift towards mindful technology could influence future tech design and usage.

1. Editors' Choice: A Skeuomorphic View of Book History

Category: Research

Departments: Communication, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Skeuomorphism in AI Design, User Input Misrepresentation, Cultural Critique of Media Technology

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article examines the interplay between artificial intelligence and book history, focusing on the concept of skeuomorphism as a critical framework. Cordell argues that the chat box's design misrepresents the connection between user inputs and language model outputs, thereby obscuring understanding. He proposes skeuomorphism as a valuable heuristic for book historical scholarship and the activities of book labs, suggesting it serves as an embodied cultural critique that reveals the complex technical, social, and political dynamics of media technology.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/06/a-skeuomorphic-view-of-book-history-ryan-c-cordell/>

2. CFP: Alabama Digitorium

Category: Research

Departments: Communication, Philosophy, Sociology & Anthropology, Educational Leadership

Topics: AI Ethics, Digital Preservation, Cultural Heritage Documentation, Marginalized Experience Representation

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

In 2026, Digitorium will center its theme on "Preserve," emphasizing the role of Digital Humanists in the preservation of culture and society. The initiative aims to explore and document various levels of preservation, including the digital safeguarding of ancient artifacts and the representation of marginalized experiences often overlooked in mainstream archives. This focus on preservation is presented as a foundational value that enhances access to artifacts and narratives at risk of being lost.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/06/alabama-digitorium-alabama-digitorium/>

3. Weekly Highlight: Now & Here

Category: Research

Departments: Art, Communication, History, Sociology & Anthropology, Philosophy

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Community Engagement, Cultural Narrative Analysis, Collaborative Research Models

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The "Now & Here" initiative showcases original research projects developed by emerging scholars in partnership with various community organizations, historic sites, and public lands. This collection highlights the contributions of the Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, emphasizing collaborative efforts in the humanities. The projects aim to engage with local histories and cultural narratives, fostering a deeper understanding of community contexts.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/06/weekly-highlight-now-here/>

4. 'Hard Fork' Live Part 2: Dylan Field on Standing Out in the A.I. Era

Category: Business

Departments: Art, Communication, Creative Writing, Educational Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, Creative Expression, Risk-Taking in AI, Innovation in Design

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Dylan Field, the CEO of Figma, emphasized the importance of taking risks in creative fields such as writing and design. He suggested that the current environment presents an opportunity for individuals with a creative voice to express themselves. This statement reflects a broader trend in the creative industry, where innovation and personal expression are increasingly valued.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/17/podcasts/hard-fork-live-dylan-field.html>

5. The smartphone era created an attention crisis - slow tech is fixing it

Category: Business

Departments: Communication, Psychology, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Consumer AI, Slow Tech Movement, Screen-Time Reduction Apps, Mindful Technology Usage

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

A recent article highlights the resurgence of interest in older technology, exemplified by the iPod Shuffle, as consumers seek a more mindful approach to tech usage. Tony Fadell, the iPod's creator, expressed surprise at encountering an advertisement for the device in a New York subway, reflecting on the contrast between past and present music consumption methods. Joy Howard, CMO of Back Market, noted a growing demand for "slowtech," which emphasizes reduced screen time and a desire for experiences that limit constant connectivity. This trend is echoed by Austin Murray, who is developing a screen-time reduction app, emphasizing that excessive screen time is a design issue rather than a personal failing.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/06/18/the-smartphone-era-created-an-attention-crisis-slowtech-is-fixing-it/>

6. Opportunity: Join The DO Team 2026/27

Category: Education

Departments: Art, Communication, Chicano Studies, Languages & Linguistics, Sociology & Anthropology, Educational Leadership

Topics: Digital Humanities, Area Studies, GLAM Disciplines, Oceania Studies

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

The Digital Orientalist has announced an open call for contributors and team members for the 2026-2027 academic year, targeting individuals engaged in digital humanities and area studies. The initiative encourages applications across a range of fields, including but not limited to African Studies, Central Asian Studies, and GLAM disciplines. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a clear connection to digital humanities methodologies and theoretical frameworks, with a particular interest in expanding coverage to include new areas such as Oceania and Pacific Island Studies.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/06/cfa-join-the-do-team-2026-27/>

7. Report: The World in an Archive: Preserving the Websites of Geographers, Cartographers, and Map Enthusiasts

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Communication

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Digital Preservation Techniques, Born-Digital Archiving, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) AI

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

The Geographic and Cartographic Professional Societies and Organizations Web Archive aims to preserve the digital presence of organizations that influence the fields of geography and cartography. In an interview, Carissa Pastuch outlines the methodology behind the collection's development, detailing its contents and the significance of archiving born-digital materials. The initiative highlights the growing necessity of documenting these fields in an increasingly digital landscape.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/06/the-world-in-an-archive-preserving-the-websites-of-geographers-cartographers-and-map-enthusiasts/>

8. Report: Ecosystem Notes: Black Culture, Black Futures, and a Fight for Our Lives

Category: Other

Departments: Communication, Sociology & Anthropology, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Community Engagement, Collaborative AI Projects, Cultural AI Applications

Impact Score: 11.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The article provides updates from LifexCode, detailing ongoing projects and activities within its labs and among its members. It invites readers to engage with the community by sharing the newsletter, attending events, or providing feedback. The focus is on fostering collaboration and communication within the LifexCode ecosystem.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/06/ecosystem-notes-black-culture-black-futures-and-a-fight-for-our-lives/>