

AI News Digest

07/13/2026 - 07/19/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

AI's Expanding Role in Language and Cultural Preservation

Recent discussions highlight the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on language creation and cultural heritage documentation. Peter J. Denning critiques Alan Turing's foundational assumptions about AI, suggesting a reevaluation of its capabilities. Meanwhile, innovative projects like the Save Our Signs initiative and 3D digitization efforts at the Institute of Classical Studies showcase AI's potential in preserving and interpreting historical artifacts. However, the rise of AI-generated biographies raises concerns about authenticity and quality in literary production.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ AI can generate entirely new languages, enhancing linguistic innovation.
- ✓ The Save Our Signs initiative has collected over 15,000 photographs to combat censorship in national parks.
- ✓ Critiques of Turing's assumptions challenge the perceived independence of intelligence from physical systems.

IMPLICATIONS

- AI's language generation capabilities could revolutionize communication and cultural expression.
- Preservation projects utilizing AI may redefine how we document and engage with history.
- The proliferation of AI-generated content necessitates new standards for authenticity and quality in publishing.

Key Metrics: Over 15,000 photographs collected by the Save Our Signs initiative.; Engagement in 3D digitization at the Institute of Classical Studies.

1. Alan Turing's biggest AI assumption may have been wrong

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics, Representation Problem, Tacit Knowledge, Artificial General Intelligence

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

In his book "Turing's Mistake: Escaping the Yoke of Unintelligent Machines," computer scientist Peter J. Denning critiques foundational assumptions made by Alan Turing regarding artificial intelligence, specifically the independence of intelligence from physical embodiment and the validity of the Turing test as a measure of machine intelligence. Denning argues that these assumptions have led AI research astray, particularly in the pursuit of artificial general intelligence (AGI), which he deems unlikely to succeed. He highlights the challenge of tacit knowledge-understanding that is difficult to articulate or encode-asserting that machine learning cannot adequately capture essential human experiences such as common sense, emotions, and practical skills. Denning concludes that the limitations of current AI stem from the "representation problem," as tacit knowledge cannot be effectively translated into a format that machines can process.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/07/260713084850.htm>

2. This AI tool doesn't just speak languages-it invents them

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Chicano Studies, Languages & Linguistics

Topics: Natural Language Processing, Linguistic Innovation, Language Generation, Computational Linguistics

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence have demonstrated its ability to not only translate between existing languages but also to generate entirely new languages. This capability highlights the potential of AI in linguistic innovation and communication. The findings suggest that AI can facilitate the development of novel linguistic structures, which may have implications for fields such as computational linguistics and language learning.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-07-ai-tool-doesnt-languages.html>

3. Report: Digitizing Antiquities: A 3D Photogrammetry Placement at the Institute of Classical Studies

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Art, History
Topics: Generative AI, 3D Digitization, Computational Preservation, Cultural Heritage Documentation

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 4
Practical Impact: 5	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The article details the authors' experience at the Senate House MakerSpace, University of London, where they engaged in 3D digitization and documentation of antiquities from the Hellenic and Roman Library at the Institute of Classical Studies. The focus was on utilizing computational methods to enhance the tangible preservation of archaeological heritage. The findings highlight the potential of digital technologies in safeguarding and documenting historical artifacts.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/07/digitizing-antiquities-a-3d-photogrammetry-placement-at-the-institute-of-classical-studies/>

4. Editors' Choice: Dataset Context(ualisation) in Documentation: Best Practices, Recommendations and Open Questions | Journal of Open Humanities Data

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Communication, Philosophy
Topics: AI Ethics, Dataset Documentation, Data Curation Practices, Digital Humanities

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 5	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

This discussion paper examines data curation from various perspectives, including academic and community organizations like Cultural Heritage Institutions. It highlights the significance of robust and consistent dataset documentation and offers recommendations for data management. The findings aim to assist Digital Humanities practitioners in effectively curating data for their institutions and personal projects. Additionally, the paper raises future questions regarding data curation practices.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/07/dataset-contextualisation-in-documentation-best-practices-recommendations-and-open-questions-journal-of-open-humanities-data/>

5. Report: Save Our Signs: Preserving Censored Histories in America's Largest Outdoor Classroom

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Communication, History, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Censorship Documentation, Public Engagement AI, Community-Driven Archives

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The Save Our Signs (SOS) initiative was launched to address censorship issues affecting national parks in the United States by leveraging public engagement and library resources. Since its inception in July 2025, the project has collected over 15,000 photographs from 422 national park sites, documenting both standard interpretive signs and instances of censorship, such as blank spaces where signs were removed. Additionally, the archive includes images of community-driven responses, highlighting public sentiment and resistance to censorship. This effort aims to create a comprehensive people's archive that preserves the history and narratives associated with national parks.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/07/save-our-signs-preserving-censored-histories-in-americas-largest-outdoor-classroom/>

6. Someone Used A.I. to Write an Unauthorized Biography of Me. I Don't Recommend Reading It.

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: English, Computer Science, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Generative AI, AI-Generated Literature, Content Authenticity, Consumer Trust in AI, Literary Market Impact

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the emergence of AI-generated biographies flooding platforms like Amazon, raising concerns about the quality and authenticity of such content. It highlights the use of AI tools to produce these books, often resulting in poorly written and misleading narratives. The piece questions the motivations of those creating and publishing these works, suggesting a potential impact on the literary market and consumer trust. It emphasizes the need for scrutiny regarding the proliferation of AI-generated literature.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/16/technology/ai-slop-books-biography-amazon.html>

7. Opportunity: BCHDP Early Notice Survey

Category: Business

Departments: History, Communication, Educational Leadership

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Community-Based Digitization, Content Preservation Techniques, Grant Application Strategies

Impact Score: 10.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

The British Columbia History Digitization Program (BCHDP) is inviting prospective applicants to signal their intent to apply for grants in the upcoming funding cycle. The program will prioritize applications from community-based organizations to enhance capacity for the preservation and digitization of unique content related to British Columbia. While early notice responses are accepted until August 7, 2026, submitting early is encouraged to facilitate additional support and improve the likelihood of a successful application.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/07/bchdp-early-notice-survey-2027-28-cycle/>