AI News Digest

10/26/2026 - 11/01/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

Cultural Sectors Confront AI Ethics, Bias, and Institutional Futures

Recent reports reveal that generative AI is unsettling the humanities landscape on multiple fronts. AI chatbots have been caught reproducing jokes verbatim from young female comedians, raising urgent questions about intellectual-property rights and gendered bias in algorithmic content. Meanwhile, the DHNow newsletter spotlights Unicode's historic addition of Egyptian hieroglyphs and urges GLAM institutions to adopt human-centered AI frameworks. Scholarly essays further critique the entrenched human-exceptionalist view of AI, urging libraries, archives, and museums to reposition themselves as civic infrastructure in an AI-augmented world.

KEY FINDINGS

✓ AI chatbots are plagiarizing jokes from young female comedians, exposing gaps in IP enforcement and gender bias mitigation.

✓ Unicode's expansion to include Egyptian hieroglyphs signals a broader push to make cultural scripts AI-compatible, while GLAM institutions are urged to develop adaptive strategies.

✓ Academic essays argue against binary tool-versus-rival narratives, positioning cultural institutions as essential civic infrastructure amid generative-AI transformation.

IMPLICATIONS

→ Policymakers and platform providers will need stronger safeguards to protect creators' rights and to audit gendered bias in AI outputs.

→ Libraries, archives, and museums are likely to invest in AI literacy, ethical guidelines, and technical infrastructure to responsibly integrate generative tools.

→ Humanities scholarship may increasingly shape AI governance, promoting collaborative human-AI ecosystems rather than competitive hierarchies.

1. Bodacious A.I. Bots Are Stealing Jokes From Young Female Comedians

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration, Philosophy, Sociology & Anthropology
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Gender Bias in Generative Content, Intellectual Property Protection, Plagiarism Detection for LLMs

Impact Score: 16.0
Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 1
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

AI chatbots are reproducing jokes verbatim from young female comedians. This practice raises concerns about intellectual property rights and gender bias in AI-generated content. Exposure to plagiarized material may influence audience perceptions and expectations of comedy. The article calls for scrutiny of how AI systems curate and present comedic material.

https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/29/arts/ai-bots-jokes-theft-comedians.html

2. DHNow Newsletter, October 28, 2026

Category: Other
Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Philosophy, History
Topics: Natural Language Processing, Unicode Hieroglyphs, Humanistic AI Framework, Open-source Chatbot Development, GLAM AI Adoption

Impact Score: 16.0
Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The current DHNow issue, curated by Colleen Nugent McLean and Nico Larrondo, features articles on Unicode's expansion to include Egyptian hieroglyphs, strategies for GLAM institutions to adapt to emerging technologies, and a humanistic framework for AI. It also aggregates job listings, calls for papers, project updates, and reports, including a new asynchronous course on building chatbots with open-source tools. The editors announce a Fall call for guest editors to help shape future content.

https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/10/dhnow-newsletter-october-28-2026/

3. Editors' Choice: Off the pedestal, into the world

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Philosophy, Sociology & Anthropology
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, AI Exceptionalism, World-Extension Metaphor, Humanist AI Framework

Impact Score: 15.0
Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 1	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Cassandre's essay "Off the pedestal, into the world" critiques the tendency to evaluate AI solely as a tool inferior to or a rival superior to humans, arguing that this stems from longstanding human exceptionalism. Drawing on James Bridle and Christine Webb, she inverts the common metaphor by portraying computers as extensions of the world rather than the world as a computer. She proposes shifting the central question from AI's relative intelligence to whether a technology brings humanity closer to or farther from the world. The piece offers humanists a conceptual framework for assessing AI beyond notions of rivalry and replacement.

https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/10/off-the-pedestal-into-the-world/

4. Editors' Choice: Escaping the Technology Trap, Reclaiming Liberalitas

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, History, Sociology & Anthropology, Philosophy
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Generative AI Curation, AI-augmented Archiving, Civic AI Literacy

Impact Score: 13.0
Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0	Educational Value: 2	Innovation / Novelty: 1
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Rosalyn Metz launches a four-part series, adapted from her Fantastic Futures keynote, that examines how libraries, archives, and museums can maintain their missions amid generative-AI transformation. She positions these cultural institutions as civic infrastructure that cultivates community skills and independence. The series will engage with Carl Frey's *The Technology Trap* and Helena Rosenblatt's *The Lost History of Liberalism* to frame its argument.

https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/10/editors-choice-escaping-the-technology-trap-reclaiming-liberalitas/