
The effect of internet revolution and the proliferation of cyber texts throughout the world have led to a new theory of reading in literary studies — Technocriticism. Hence, it is heartening to know that scholars like Jeffrey A. Rydbery — Cox have started making the reading public conscious of this new direction to literary and cultural studies. Humanities aided by computational tools has the potential to change the way that students, scholars and general public study with primary resources in Humanities —an outcome of seven years work in the fields of digital Humanities and digital Libraries- claims author in the book spread over six chapters. He postulates his theses (in introductory chapter) that questions have been similar in pre digital era for scholars and libraries in providing access to source materials and preserving realm of practice continues with new tools. His argument that History of Galileo’s Sidereus Nuncius and later response of Kepler to work remain a touchstone for the rest of the work. The second chapter elaborate how ‘digital humanist ‘and ‘digital librarian’ provide access to scholarship focusing on SGML, XML and TEI (text encoding Initiative) and devoting few pages on role of parsers and hypertext in allowing readers to work with text in languages not well known to them. He claims that hypertext will make users much comfortable in contextualizing information. The “culled use of
Information Technology” is focused for carrying out these concepts in humanist context. The next chapter turns to question of enabling new scholarship in exploring some projects particularly in quantitative studies of literature corpora.

In the fourth segment of the book the author has demonstrated how technocriticism has become a powerful force in literacy theory which cannot be ignored. There is now a need for a rethinking of pedagogy. In the chapter entitled “Quantitative studies of Literature”, Rydbery – Cox cites the work of Burrows entitled “Computation to Criticism: A Study of Jane Austen’s Novels and an Experiment in Method”; Burrows study highlights how the disparities between the linguistic habits of the character in the novels of Jane Austen help us understand their characters and their relationship to each other. One can easily see the rationale behind his use of “Correlation – matrices” – the basis for a core approach that will eventually enable students and researchers get a clear perspective of the novels and at the same time conduct new types of scholarship. In the chapter entitled “Quantitative Studies of Vocabulary”, Rydbery – Cox introduces in to Gregory Crane’s book – “The Blinded Eye: Thucydides and the New Written Word”. The book involves a detailed study of the two works of history written by the 5th century Greek writers, Herodotus and Thucydides respectively. Crane’s book eulogizes Thucydides “Reductivist Thinking” which has enabled him to eschew unnecessary details like women, children, family and instead focus on political strife in the conduct of war – the central tenets of his study.
The chapter also involves Michael Stubbs examination of two handbooks wherein he has used slightly complex techniques to uncover the ideology of patriarchal society. Stubbs points out that the Girl Guides' handbook defines girls in reference to and families only and thereby is explicit in a stereotypical representation of women. This social bias sees the women as only the “Other” of the male. Stubbs analyses the texts through an automatically generated techniques – the word frequency functions finally, in the last chapter of this segment, Rydbery – Cox brings to light the creation of Lexical databases and electronic corpora for Lexicographers to write their dictionaries. He aptly points out how the previous cumbersome process of collecting raw material has been done away with due to the advent of Electronic environment. The final chapter explores structures for institutional repositories for long term preservation of digital objects. It is a sound reading for humanist scholars and librarians who want to reap the fruits of digitization in coming decades.

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