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Giles Bergel

Computer Vision, AI and Textual Studies

The State of the Art

5.30–7pm
Tuesday, 17 March 2020
John Percival Building 2.01

CENTRE FOR EDITORIAL AND INTERTEXTUAL RESEARCH

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Giles Bergel is a digital humanist and book historian based in the Department of Engineering Science at the University of Oxford. HIs interests include bibliography and book design; the histories of copyright and the British book trades; text encoding and critical editing; and digital library infrastructure.

Computer vision has made significant progress in recent years, thanks in part to developments in machine learning (AI), and is now making an impact on textual studies. Computers can reliably match the same printed page or illustration, or visualise variant typesettings or images, recognise handwriting, or segment documents into meaningful classes. This talk will give an account of the state of the art in this area, including critical issues for the development of a truly humanistic AI. It will also demonstrate free and open source software tools that researchers can use to make their own images searchable, and will include time for attendees to experiment and learn more about the capabilities and limits of this technology.

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