Australian Academy of the Humanities’
2nd Humanities, Arts and Culture Data Summit
and
3rd international DARIAH Beyond Europe workshop

27-29 March 2019
National Library of Australia, Canberra
Digital methods in the QUT Digital Media Research Centre

Jean Burgess | @jeanburgess

Humanities, Arts and Culture Data Summit | Canberra | March 2019
Digital methods

1. Using ‘the methods of the medium’ (Rogers, 2013; 2017) to study the internet’s role in culture and society

2. Critical digital methods have co-evolved with digital media technologies and business models

3. From HTML pages to apps, platforms, and algorithms
QUT Digital Observatory

Building on TrISMA ARC LIEF (QUT + 6 other universities + NLA)

- 3.7 million Australian Twitter accounts, 2.4+ billion tweets captured to date
- 1+ million new tweets per day, from 140,000 daily active users
- Comprehensive map of follower/followee network structure
- Trends over time
The Australian Twittersphere

Axel Bruns
@snurb_dot_info

4m known Australian accounts
Network of follower connections
Filtered for degree ≥1000
→ 255k nodes (6.4%), 61m edges

Edges not shown in graph
Issue mapping - #agchatoz (Burgess, Galloway & Sauter)
Issue mapping - #gamergate (Burgess & Matamoros-Fernández)
Twitter over time (Burgess)
Regulating internet content through notice & takedown

Proportion of YouTube videos removed (random sample)

More granular removal reasons (where available)
YouTube stops recommending alt-right channels

In a long-awaited move, YouTube seems to have made major changes to its ‘up next’ recommendations.

We used the 80+ YouTube channels listed by Rebecca Lewis in her report on Alternative Influence Networks on YouTube as a starting point. These are influential ‘alt-right’ channels that push reactionary views—“a general opposition to feminism, social justice, or left-wing politics”, “from mainstream versions of libertarianism and conservatism, all the way to overt white nationalism.”

Using a random sample of 3.6 million videos over the last month, we counted the number of times that a video from one of these channels was recommended by YouTube.

We can see a sharp decline in recommendations for ‘alternative influence’ channels.
Thank you!
@jeanburgess