

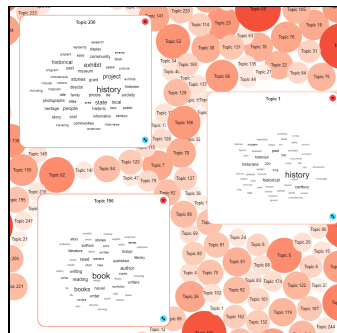
The humanities are robustly public in everyday events and activities.

By contrast with the sciences, the media often makes the humanities seem to be siloed in the academy (see our [KF 5-2](#)). But one way the humanities bridge outward to the public is through robust representation in events, activities, and other everyday forms of public engagement. In our [Collection 1](#) (82,324 articles mentioning “humanities” published mostly during 1989-2019 in 850 U.S. news sources), the humanities appear frequently in topics characterized by listings for local or regional arts events, bookstore readings, historical or art exhibits at museums, etc.

In a 250-topic model of our Collection 1 ([C-1.250](#)), areas of the humanities such as history and literature are thus prominent in topics such as [#1](#) (about history awards and announcements), [#230](#) (history grants and events), and [#196](#) (book events, including announcements of prizes and awards and notices of book talks and readings). See also our [KF-5-3](#), which compares the humanities to the sciences as “the art of ordinary life” based on our [Collection 21](#) (28,957 articles mentioning the “humanities” or “science[s]”).

Using related datasets from WE1S, project researchers Lindsay Thomas and Abigail Droge corroborate such findings in their article “The Humanities in Public: A Computational Analysis of US National and Campus Newspapers.” Pointing to the statistical association of the humanities with “events, festivals, talks” and also with notices of “life events” such as wedding announcements and obituaries, Thomas and Droge observe that an “expansive range of institutions [are] associated with the humanities.” They add: “Though many

topics still do focus on the infrastructures of higher education, we also observe bookstores, theaters, and galleries appearing in event announcements, as well as topics about libraries..., museums..., the military..., summer camps..., and primary and secondary education.”



C-1.250 topics #1, #230, and #196 viewed in TopicBubbles.
(See [larger image](#))

These findings suggest that humanities resonate most in public discourse when they are translated into concrete and participatory practices, whether these are identified explicitly as “the humanities” or instead are embedded in the ongoing rhythms of “everyday” social and personal life. *The humanities are things that happen everyday.*

(See also Michael Levenson's 2017 book, [The Humanities and Everyday Life: The Literary Agenda](#).)

Document collection studied: [C-1 \(start page\)](#)

Topic model studied: [C-1.250](#) (250 topics)

Interesting sample topics: [#1](#), [#230](#), [#196](#)

Reports & lab notes behind finding:

Lab-5 documentation, DOI

<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4831113>

Related scholarship: Lindsay Thomas and Abigail Droge, “The Humanities in Public: A Computational Analysis of US National and Campus Newspapers” (*Journal of Cultural Analytics*, forthcoming)