# Dan Cohen's Digital Humanities Blog » Blog Archive » THATCamp Was All THAT, And More

I was hoping to provide a wrap-up of THATCamp[1] (The Humanities and Technology Camp) in this space many days ago, but other commitments got in the way of my blogging.

Let me just say in summary that I completely agree with Mills Kelly's sense[2] (echoed by Tom Scheinfeldt[3] and Marjorie McLellan[4], among many others) that going to THATCamp made me yearn for a serious makeover of the standard professional conferences I've gone to my entire career, especially the annual conference of the American Historical Association[5]. (The digital humanities are not immune, by the way: the panels-and-papers format has infected these meetings as well.) In my opinion, such conferences tend to focus too much on the job market, padding the CV, and showing how clever you are, rather than building the discipline collaboratively. THATCamp showed how informative, engaging, and constructive a conference can be when everyone participates, there are no lectures or read papers, the format is highly flexible, and everyone feels open to speak—including candidly about the gaps in one's knowledge as well as what one feels knowledgeable about.

For those looking for a more comprehensive sense of what happened, check out the Google Blog Search feed for THATCamp posts[6] or scan the raw feed of our IRC channel[7]. And if you're interested in the digital humanities, it's really worth making your way through the entire THATCamp blog[8] for ideas and perspectives from THATCampers on the state of the art and the issues we face.

Hope to see you at THATCamp 2009!

This entry was posted on Tuesday, June 10th, 2008 at 10:30 pm and is

filed under THATCamp[9]. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0[10] feed. You can leave a response[11], or trackback[12] from your own site.

## References

1. ^ THATCamp (thatcamp.org)
2. ^ Mills Kelly's sense (edwired.org)
3. ^ Tom Scheinfeldt (www.foundhistory.org)
4. ^ Marjorie McLellan (tellhistory.wordpress.com)
5. ^ American Historical Association (historians.org)
6. ^ Google Blog Search feed for THATCamp posts (blogsearch.google.com)
7. ^ the raw feed of our IRC channel (thatcamp.org)
8. ^ THATCamp blog (thatcamp.org)
9. ^ View all posts in THATCamp (www.dancohen.org)
10. ^ RSS 2.0 (www.dancohen.org)
11. ^ leave a response (www.dancohen.org)
12. ^ trackback (www.dancohen.org)

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http://lab.arc90.com/experiments/readability