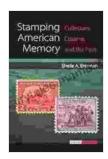
# Collectors, Citizens, and the Post-Digital Humanities

#### Abstract

In an era of increasing digitization, the humanities are facing a profound transformation. As more and more of our cultural heritage is digitized and made available online, the traditional roles of collectors and citizens are being challenged. In this essay, I argue that the post-digital humanities offer a new way of understanding the relationship between collectors, citizens, and the digital realm. I begin by providing a brief overview of the history of collecting and its relationship to the humanities. I then discuss the ways in which digitization is changing the nature of collecting and how this is impacting the role of citizens in the humanities. Finally, I propose a new model for the post-digital humanities that emphasizes the importance of collaboration and community engagement.

The humanities have long been associated with the collection and study of cultural artifacts. From the earliest days of human history, people have collected objects that have cultural significance. These objects can tell us about the past, present, and future of human society. They can provide insights into our values, beliefs, and aspirations. And they can help us to understand the ways in which we have interacted with the world around us.



Stamping American Memory: Collectors, Citizens, and the Post (Digital Humanities) by Akira Toriyama

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In recent years, the digitization of cultural heritage has had a profound impact on the humanities. As more and more of our cultural heritage is made available online, the traditional roles of collectors and citizens are being challenged. In the past, collectors were the primary gatekeepers of cultural heritage. They had the resources to acquire and preserve objects that were of cultural significance. And they had the expertise to interpret these objects and make them accessible to the public.

Today, digitization is making it possible for anyone to access cultural heritage materials. This has democratized the humanities, making it possible for everyone to participate in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of our cultural heritage. However, it has also raised new challenges. How do we ensure that the materials that are digitized are representative of our diverse cultural heritage? How do we prevent these materials from being used for harmful purposes? And how do we ensure that the digital realm is a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone?

#### **The Post-Digital Humanities**

The post-digital humanities is a new field of study that seeks to address these challenges. The post-digital humanities is not a rejection of the digital realm. Rather, it is a recognition that the digital realm is a new and important space for the humanities. The post-digital humanities seeks to

develop new ways of understanding the relationship between the digital and the physical world. And it seeks to create new tools and methods for collecting, preserving, and interpreting cultural heritage materials in the digital age.

One of the most important aspects of the post-digital humanities is its emphasis on collaboration and community engagement. The post-digital humanities recognizes that the digital realm is a shared space. And it seeks to create new ways for people to come together to collect, preserve, and interpret cultural heritage materials. This can be done through online forums, social media, and other digital platforms.

The post-digital humanities also emphasizes the importance of diversity and inclusion. The post-digital humanities seeks to create a digital realm that is welcoming and inclusive for everyone. This means ensuring that the materials that are digitized are representative of our diverse cultural heritage. And it means creating new ways for people to participate in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of cultural heritage materials, regardless of their background or experience.

#### **Collectors and Citizens in the Post-Digital Humanities**

In the post-digital humanities, the roles of collectors and citizens are changing. Collectors are no longer the primary gatekeepers of cultural heritage. And citizens are no longer passive consumers of cultural heritage materials. In the post-digital humanities, collectors and citizens are working together to create a new and more inclusive digital realm.

Collectors can play an important role in the post-digital humanities by providing access to their collections. They can also provide expertise in the

interpretation of cultural heritage materials. And they can help to raise awareness of the importance of preserving our cultural heritage.

Citizens can play an important role in the post-digital humanities by contributing to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of cultural heritage materials. They can also help to create a more inclusive digital realm by sharing their own stories and experiences. And they can help to raise awareness of the importance of preserving our cultural heritage.

The post-digital humanities is a new and exciting field of study. It offers a new way of understanding the relationship between collectors, citizens, and the digital realm. And it seeks to create new tools and methods for collecting, preserving, and interpreting cultural heritage materials in the digital age. The post-digital humanities is a collaborative and inclusive field that is open to everyone. It is a space where collectors and citizens can work together to create a new and more inclusive digital realm.

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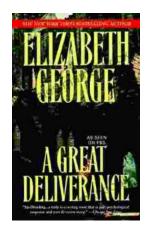
- Figure 1: "Collectors and Citizens in the Post-Digital Humanities" by the author.
- Figure 2: "The Post-Digital Humanities" by the author.



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