



Knowledgeable Research (KR)

ISSN: 2583-6633 | CODEN: KRABAU

International Open-Access Peer-Reviewed Refereed Multidisciplinary Journal

<https://knowledgeableresearch.com>

Spl. 01, Issue 04, July, 2026

Received: 09/06/2026 | Accepted: 21/06/2026 | Published: 31/07/2026

Technology and Digital Humanities in Contemporary English Literature

¹**Ms. R. Rich Rachel*** (Research Scholar)

Department of English, PSG College of Arts and Science Coimbatore

²**Dr. M John Suganya** (Associate Professor)

Department of English, PSG College of Arts and Science Coimbatore

Abstract:

The 21st century have seen a tremendous change in the relationship between humanities and science. Literature, language, culture, and technology do not work individually instead they shape the world. The rapid growth of digital humanities, technology, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and global communication networks has influenced human beings in understanding identity and social behaviour. Within this changing landscape, cultural practices such as consumerism, addiction, escapism, and altered lifestyles have emerged as important subjects of literary and cultural studies. The study of English literature has been transformed due to the invasion of technology and digital humanities. Digital Humanities use technology such as computers, online archives, data analysis, and artificial intelligence and various other creative platforms to analyse the literary texts including the themes, literary devices in various innovative ways. Research scholars have a wide digital platform to access various materials, references, books, online resources related to their research. Technology has various e – books, audio notes, and research papers which is accessible to all the scholars around the world. In contemporary literary studies, digital tools encourage interdisciplinary research by connecting literature with culture, media, history, and technology. This research reflects the connection between the humanities and sciences through technology. The paper argues that technology and digital humanities plays a major role in wide spreading the benefits of literature across the world. Thus, Technology and Digital Humanities have expanded the scope of English literature, making literary studies more interactive, research-oriented, and globally connected.

Keywords: Humanities, Wide Accessibility, Digital humanities, Modern Culture, Technology, Artificial Intelligence.

***Corresponding Author:**

Ms. R. Rich Rachel

Email: richu0325@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION:

Technology has the traditional world into a fast moving digital world. In contemporary English literature, technology and digital humanities influenced literature right from the way it is written to the various analytical tools used to analyse literature. Digital humanities connect literature and technology with its various computation methods with traditional humanities. As literature and technology is combined scholars have the privilege to analyse literature with various digital tools including digital archives, documentation, resources access and fetching multiple secondary resources for research purposes. The influence of technology is reflected in the society including peoples' culture and identity. Digital based concepts are incorporated in literary works by the writers which include the themes of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, social media and digital communication. Technology gives easy accessibility for the people to read e-books, audiobooks, online forums and digital libraries. Due to this digital world the scope of literature has widened thus lessens the geographical barriers. Nowadays readers have the flexibility to access any literary works through mobile phones, computers

and tablets thus making it easy accessibility for the readers. Technology supports fun based interactive learning and collaborative research among scholars and students across the world thus ending the social and cultural barriers. Sharing of ideas and literature based discussions in the online community has become popular due to the online platforms. This results in more dynamic, inclusive and innovative contemporary English literature connecting people globally in the digital age.

Digital humanities refer to use of technical and digital tools in the field of humanities including literature, history, philosophy and culture. Technology has huge impact on writers and readers. It combines conventional way of analysing literature along with text mining, data visualization and online collaboration. The scholars are benefited with digital humanities in multiple ways including preserving literary works digitally, helps in analysing various texts using various digital tools, provides worldwide access to the scholars, creates an interactive learning environment and also increases interdisciplinary researches. Digital humanities render opportunities for the

scholars to engage themselves in collaborative scholarship where researchers from different parts of the world work together. As a result, research has become more innovative and creative in the modern academic world. Online databases made journals, manuscripts and other articles easy accessible for the researchers.

Technology has changed the traditional way of publishing texts. Computers, smart phones and artificial intelligence changed the ways of literary publication. With the invent of technology authors are now flexible in publishing their works through E-books, online magazines, digital journals and blogs thus reducing the cost of printing. This online publication helps the writers to gain global audience. Online platforms such as Kindle and various other online literary websites are providing multiple opportunities for the budding writers. The internet has given rise to new literary forms such as fan fiction, interactive storytelling, hypertext fiction, web novels and social media poetry. This gives opportunity to all the people interested in literature to publish their works online so that no talented writers are left behind. Researchers from different countries can collaborate through digital platforms thus

encouraging global collaboration. Technology has changed the process of writing itself the writers are using digital software to write, edit and organize their works. Writing applications render services like style ideas, spell check, grammar correction and vocabulary enhancement which helps the writers to enhance the quality of their work. Artificial intelligence based tools can edit text, generate ideas for the content and give innovative ideas to enrich the text. These digital advancements have made writing process easy and fast.

Social media has become a major platform for literarians. Platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and many others serve as best platforms for writers to share their blogs, poems, short stories and literary opinions. Social media poetry has gained popularity among young minds due to its simplicity and subjectivity. Many contemporary writers earned fame with their writings in online platforms. Through online platforms a close relationship is formed between writers and readers as readers have the option of talking directly to the writers through comment section. Online book clubs and reading communities encourage people with interest in literature.

Therefore, technology has made literature into an interactive and democratic field.

Digital archives help in preserving the literary texts and historical documents such as Online university archives, project Gutenberg, Google books and digital manuscript collections thus helping the scholars to access various texts for the research. These archives help in preserving cultural heritage, history and supports literary research. These digital archives help in the protecting important documents and preserve it for the future generation to access. Scholars use the method of “text mining” or “distant reading” to analyse the key points of the text by using various digital tools to analyse narrative structures, writing style, themes and patterns, character relationships and word frequency. Franco Moretti introduced the concept of “distant reading” to explore literature through quantitative analysis. It also helps in corpus linguistics which helps in analysing the language patterns with the help of large digital text collection known as corpora. Corpus analysis is used to examine vocabulary usage, stylistic patterns, narrative structures, character interactions and historical language changes. These tools simplify the task of literary analysis. Digital

humanities have made literature interactive often combining text with audio, graphics, animation, hyperlinks, images and videos being a change from the conventional way of reading printed texts.

Educational field has highly benefitted with technology where students have access to various resources to learn, online lectures, multimedia tools, digital tools, power point presentation and so on. Students who stay in remote areas are greatly benefitted with the help of online classes. With the help of these virtual classrooms teachers can communicate with the students despite of their geographical boundaries. Educational websites and applications aid the scholars with multiple research ideas. Therefore technology has changed the teaching process.

The COVID-19 pandemic has boosted the importance of technology. Due to the lockdown people were connected only through technology. Online classes and meetings played a major role in the educational field and industrial fields. Technology helped in maintaining the routine. Online webinars, workshops and digital reading communities were popular during this period. This period

demonstrated the growing importance of technology.

During the pandemic, the technology has shifted the traditional way of teaching into a digital one. Schools, colleges and universities inculcated various applications including Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Meet and many other applications to teach students via online. Teachers got adapted to this new digital world and prepared presentations, online assignments and notes to support students. This transformation to digital world highlighted digital literacy among both teachers and students. Due to the emergence of technology distance barriers are broken and ensures smooth flow of education without any interruptions. All the materials, assignments and texts can be accessed by students through the digital platform.

The lockdown has increased the access of e-books, online libraries and online journals due to this many authors gained fame with the help of online audience. As the physical libraries and book stores remain closed, online resources became the only source to do research for the scholars and remained the solo source of entertainment. During this period webinars, seminars and workshops had their own demand where scholars used

these platforms to gain knowledge and to discuss research related queries. Collaboration among scholars and students became common with the help of the digital platform. Due to this pandemic, the importance of technology was realised with the digital archives.

Adding to this, social platforms served as place to express thoughts and a medium to communicate. Instagram, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter provided opportunity for all the writers, poets and artists to exhibit their talents in these digital platforms. Web novels, digital book discussions, online poetry gained popular during the period of lockdown. This digital media helped people to communicate with each other despite of the physical isolation. Though books were read through it never failed to provide the comfort to the readers and made them intellectually engaged.

Technology also played an essential role in the industrial sectors. Many companies followed “work from home” method so that the employees can complete their activities and work at home. Virtual meetings were conducted for the employees to attend and all sort of activities like file sharing and communication took place via digital platforms. This online mode of working

reflected the flexibility provided by the digital era thus retaining the professional productivity. The distance barriers were broken with the help of online communication platforms which also helped many organizations to run effectively despite of the global crises.

Peoples' attitude towards technology were completely changed permanently by witnessing the benefits of technology. People who were totally unaware of the digital screens became popular with the online platforms for online shopping, education, entertainment purposes and many other uses. Telemedicine and online medical consultations became popular during the pandemic as they provided medical consultations through online so people had no necessity to leave their house. Digital payment applications became day to day use app after the effect of pandemic.

However, the pandemic also led the people to face the issues of spread of unequal internet. Many students and workers faced the difficulties of network issues as they live in remote areas and also due to the lack of technical knowledge and digital devices. This digital divide posed education challenges for the communities weak in economy. Therefore, the pandemic not only

emphasized the importance of technology but also exposed the divide caused due to limited digital access. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic made people realise the true value of technology in all the fields especially in the field of education and industrial sector.

Another important contribution of technology in the field of literature is translation and communication. Literary works written in different language can be accessed by people globally with digital translation. This leads to the promotion of cultural and global understanding. Because of this advancement in the technology assists the readers to access world literature in various literary platforms. This digitilization increases literary interaction despite of their location. Online communication helps in collaboration whereas scholars can collaborate with any other scholars who reside in any location even school kids can collaborate their projects with their friends anywhere from the world. The growth of digital communication has created a worldwide literary network connecting writers, researchers and readers from different countries.

Contemporary English writers explore the themes of technology on human

life. Writers often use the concept of artificial intelligence examining the relationship between humans and robot. It has become the central theme in both speculative fiction and science fiction. Writers explore the themes of isolation showcasing how people lost their connectivity with other human beings as people are addicted to the digital world as way to escape from the real world. Writers also explore online identity construction, emotional disconnection, internet addiction, psychological effects of digital communication and virtual relationships. They criticize over reliance on technology and its various depressing consequences. Contemporary literature frequently includes the theme of surveillance and privacy reflecting the loss of privacy, government surveillance, digital control and data collection. Virtual reality and digital existence serves as a major themes distinguishing the difference between reality and illusion in the modern literature. Writers blur the distinction between virtual reality and illusion by portraying them as a constructed reality.

Contemporary literature includes the themes of surveillance and privacy as a consequence of data collection, government surveillance and loss of privacy. Technology

has increased the threat of misuse of personal information and regarding cybersecurity. Writers project digital control over the dystopian societies in their literary texts. These literary works provide warning signs for the readers to be aware of the misuse of personal information and the dangers of technology. These themes encourage readers to raise question against the authenticity of humans in the modern digital era. Science fiction and dystopian novels often portray futuristic societies dominated by artificial intelligence and technological systems, thereby reflecting contemporary fears regarding technological development.

Though technology has its own benefits it also has various disadvantages too. The major disadvantage is unequal technical access to all the people. Technological benefits are accessible to the people who have good internet access whereas people in remote areas have less accessibility to technology due to the poor internet connection. Copyright and plagiarism is considered as the major challenge which creates a doubt regarding the authenticity of the information. The content is easily shared via online which increases the risk of unauthorised reproduction and leads to

violations. As internet provides a bulk of information certainly leading to confusion and also lessens the research efficiency. Continuous screen-based reading weakens the eyesight and also weakens the concentration. Since technology and artificial intelligence provide various information over dependency on digital tools reduces the traditional interpretive skills and also reduces humanistic engagement.

Technology and Digital Humanities have significantly transformed the field of Contemporary English Literature with the connection between traditional literary studies with digital humanities. The invent of technology into literature has changed the methods of reading, writing, publishing, preserving, and analysing literary texts. Digital tools help the scholars to refine their text and access various literary texts with the help of various digital platforms such as online archives, digital libraries, online lectures, artificial intelligence and digital tools. The emergence of Digital Humanities has led to combine literature with other branches including science and media which results in interdisciplinary studies.

Technology has also democratized literature by providing opportunities for writers to

publish their works through blogs, social media, digital journals, and online platforms without depending completely on traditional publishing houses. Readers has the opportunity to access literary texts easily through mobile phones, tablets, and computers, which has widened the reach of literature globally. Digital communication and online collaboration help the scholars connect globally to interact and do research works.

At the same time, contemporary literature reflects the influence of technology on human life by exploring themes such as artificial intelligence, virtual identity, surveillance, privacy, emotional isolation, and internet addiction. These themes provide the readers a detailed analysis of both advantages and disadvantages of emergence of technology. However, despite its numerous advantages, technology also possess various challenges such as unequal digital access, plagiarism, copyright issues, information overload, and excessive dependence on digital tools. Therefore, it is very important to maintain a balance between technological advancement and humanistic values.

In conclusion, Technology and Digital Humanities have reshaped Contemporary

English Literature into a more interactive, accessible, and globally connected field, on the other hand encouraging critical discussions about the impact of technology on human culture, identity, and society. The incorporation of digital tools has transformed the way literature has served and analysed. Scholars and students can access various resources using digital archives for text mining and text analysis and also used for global collaboration. Technology has led to the emergence of various new literary texts such as web novels, fan fiction, electronic literature and so on thus expanding the boundaries of literature. Contemporary literature also adds the advantages and disadvantages of technology into their genres covering topics like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, cybersecurity etc. Therefore, Digital Humanities modernize the literary studies thus developing the relationship between technology and human beings. Furthermore, futuristic developments in technology in the fields of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and digital communication have the capability to create newer possibilities for literary creativity, academic research, and global cultural exchange, making Digital Humanities an essential field in

understanding contemporary literature and evolving human societies.

REFERENCES

1. Berry, David M., and Anders Fagerjord. *Digital Humanities*. John Wiley & Sons, 2017.
2. Burdick, Anne, et al. *Digital Humanities*. MIT Press, 2012.
3. Chartier, Roger. *The Order of Books*. Stanford University Press, 1994.
4. Dr Edward Vanhoutte, et al. *Defining Digital Humanities*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2013.
5. Hayles, Katherine. *How We Think : Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis*. The University Of Chicago Press, 2012.
6. Jenkins, Henry. *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide*. New York University Press, 2006.
7. Manovich, Lev. *The Language of New Media*. MIT Press, 2001.
8. Matthew Lee Jockers. *Macroanalysis : Digital Methods and Literary History*. Urbana (Ill.) [Etc.] University Of Illinois Press, 2013.
9. McGann, Jerome J. *Radiant Textuality : Literature after the World Wide Web*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

10. Microsoft Teams. "Microsoft Teams."
Microsoft,
www.microsoft.com/en/microsoft-teams. Accessed 28 May 2026.
11. Moretti, Franco. *Distant Reading*. Verso, 2013.
12. Project Gutenberg . "Project Gutenberg."
Project Gutenberg, 2019,
www.gutenberg.org. Accessed 27 May 2026.
13. Ramsay, Stephen. *Reading Machines*.
University of Illinois Press, 2011.
14. Ryan, Marie-Laure. *Narrative as Virtual Reality*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015.
15. Turkle, Sherry. *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*. Basic Books, 2011.
16. Zoom. "Zoom Video Communications."
Zoom, zoom.us. Accessed 26 May 2026.