Socio-technical Data Analytics (SODA)

Faculty, researchers and students in the socio-technical data analytics group at GSLIS design, develop, and evaluate new technologies in order to better understand the dynamic interplay between information, people and technology.

We are a highly interactive group with complementary areas of interest that span a range of genres from the humanities and everyday life, to journalism, scientific literature and the geopolitical domain. Our research approaches draw on techniques in information retrieval, data and text mining, knowledge discovery, social computing and collaboration, and network analysis. Our domains typically include text, but we also explore multimedia such as games and music, and social media data such as twitter feeds.

Funding partners include Google, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Library of Congress, and the Environmental Change Institute. Current projects:

- Sociotechnical Data Analytics (IMLS). PI: Blake
- Defining and Solving Key Challenges in Microblog Search (Google). PI: Efron
- Collaborative Research: The Impact of Scientific Funding (NSF) PI: Torvik
- Preserving Virtual Worlds 2 (IMLS). PI: McDonough
- The Investigative Journalism Education Consortium (McCormick Foundation). Coordinator: Houston
- Towards Evidence-Based Discovery (NSF). PI: Blake
- Meeting the Challenge of Language Change in Text Retrieval with Machine Translation Techniques (Google). PI: Efron

In addition to the research activities, faculty teach courses that lead to the specialization in Socio-technical Data Analytics (see www.lis.illinois.edu/academics/programs/soda).

Affiliated Faculty

Catherine Blake, Associate Professor & Associate Director for the Center for Informatics in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS)
Jana Diesner, Assistant Professor
J. Stephen Downie, Professor & Associate Dean for Research
David Dubin, Research Associate Professor
Miles Efron, Assistant Professor
Brant Houston, Knight Chair Professor
Jerome McDonough, Associate Professor
Vetle Torvik, Assistant Professor
Michael Twidale, Professor