

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910955886403321
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Titolo	Friending the past : the sense of history in the digital age / / Alan Liu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago : , : The University of Chicago Press, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	9780226452005 022645200X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (333 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	302.23/1
Soggetti	Social media and history Communication - Technological innovations - Social aspects Digital media - Social aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Introduction: the sense of history -- Friending the past -- Imagining the new media encounter -- When was linearity? -- Remembering networks -- Like a sense of history.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Friending the Past -- 2. Imagining the New Media Encounter -- 3. When Was Linearity? -- 4. Remembering Networks -- 5. Like a Sense of History -- Appendix: Hypothetical Machine-Learning Workflow for Studying the Sense of History -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Can today's society, increasingly captivated by a constant flow of information, share a sense of history? How did our media-making forebears balance the tension between the present and the absent, the individual and the collective, the static and the dynamic-and how do our current digital networks disrupt these same balances? Can our social media, with its fleeting nature, even be considered social at all? In Friending the Past, Alan Liu proposes fresh answers to these innovative questions of connection. He explores how we can learn from the relationship between past societies whose media forms fostered a communal and self-aware sense of history-such as prehistorical oral societies with robust storytelling cultures, or the great print works of nineteenth-century historicism-and our own instantaneous present. He concludes with a surprising look at how the sense of history

exemplified in today's JavaScript timelines compares to the temporality found in Romantic poetry. Interlaced among these inquiries, Liu shows how extensive "network archaeologies" can be constructed as novel ways of thinking about our affiliations with time and with each other. These conceptual architectures of period and age are also always media structures, scaffolded with the outlines of what we mean by history. Thinking about our own time, Liu wonders if the digital, networked future can sustain a similar sense of history.

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