In this presentation I consider how a combination of new analytic tools and Very Large Data will transform the questions and practices of humanities. Since 2000, online databases such as ECCO and EEBO have enhanced access to large reservoirs of textual information for large numbers of researchers across the globe. There is currently vigorous debate over whether this material has allowed humanities researchers to do more efficiently what they had always done, or whether it has promoted genuinely innovative historical insights by posing historical questions that were impossible without the new technology. Either way, the next generation of research tools, coupled with the creation of new 'well formed' textual and visual datasets, will radically transform the way scholars interact both with the digitised residue of the past and with present day audiences. I look at the range of interpretive tools currently being designed to interrogate the reams of data now appearing online, and examine the probable ways in which humanities research will change in the next few decades. I conclude by addressing how both traditional and novel humanities practices can coexist in an increasingly digitally-oriented field.