Bug or Feature? 4.0 Oslo/Hybrid, 7th-9th of November, 2023

Definition

Bug or Feature? is an annual two-day symposium organised by a group of scholars working within the broader field of Digital Humanities. The symposium is designed to encourage open discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of different digital technologies applied in different areas of the Humanities. We specifically encourage participation from scholars working on digital projects who have yet to produce results they can present at larger, more traditional conferences, students and scholars in the process of planning a DH project and those who have finished a DH project and wish to share their experiences with specific tools. The aim of BoF is to shape an environment where projects and ideas can be discussed, regardless of whether the current stage is conceptual or finished, since we believe that having a space for experiments and failures is crucial when working within DH.

Day 1

To this end, we are introducing a new format to BoF? 4.0. On day 1, a group of predetermined guest speakers will present their projects. Each of them will submit a 2-3 page essay, which will be distributed to the other participants in advance of the symposium. All participants are asked to read these essays, where the guest speakers will present their current project, the digital tool(s) used and an issue they have encountered when using the tool.

In a 20-minute presentation at the symposium, the guest speakers will have the opportunity to expand on their essay. This will be followed by an open discussion of experiences and potential solutions with the other participants.

Day 2

For day 2, we are inviting abstracts of no more than 250 words to bugorfeature@protonmail.com. The day will follow a more traditional format with presentations no longer than 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion following each presentation. We welcome contributions by scholars from all fields at all stages of their careers, who are working on projects considered within the domain of Digital Humanities. Abstracts need to be submitted at the latest by September 30th, 2023.

Day 2 will also feature our traditional "rant slam", where every participant is invited to vent about a specific problem they have encountered recently in a non-insulting, non-personal way.

List of guest speakers (alphabetical)

- Nesina Grütter, Institut Dominique Barthélemy,
 Université de Fribourg (CH)
- Sven Kraus, University of Basel (CH)
- Elisabeth Magin, Arkeologisk seksjon, Universitetet i Oslo (NO)
- Isabelle Marthot-Santaniello, University of Basel (CH)
- Margareth Warburton, University of Basel (CH)

Participation

We are very happy to announce that this year's Bug or Feature? will finally take place physically again in Oslo, Norway. However, digital participation will also be possible for those who can either not afford to travel or have other commitments. We would nevertheless like to encourage everyone to consider physical attendance to give us all a chance to recover from pandemic-imposed restrictions. As always, we also welcome attendants who are not presenting themselves. Please remember to specify this on your return form.

Special Arrangements

We are aware that this year's Bug or Feature? takes place during what for many is still term time, and participants may have to give and/or attend lectures while the symposium is taking place. To encourage physical participation, we have arranged for a separate room at the venue, to be used by participants who need a quiet space to give/attend a lecture. The use of this separate room will follow a schedule, so please notify us as much in advance as possible precisely when you will need to book this room.

Venue

This year's Bug or Feature? will be hosted at the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, Norway. Participants attending digtally will receive an email with Zoom links in advance. Bug or Feature? also runs a Discord server, where past and current participants are invited to join, interact and ask questions about past symposia and the current one. Invites to join the Discord server will be sent as part of the further information once participants have signed up.

Arrival and Departure

To allow us two full days for the symposium, arrival is on the 7th of November over the course of the day. The official departure is on the 9th after the conclusion of the symposium at around 4pm CET. There is no specific programme for the evening of the 7th, but if participants are interested (and uncertain where to find food in Oslo), we may organise an informal dinner.

Travel and Accommodation

The Museum of Cultural History is in the centre of Oslo, a few minutes' walk from the train/T-bane station Nasjonalteatret. Several hotels are nearby and early booking is recommended. We have not made arrangements with specific hotels, but if you are unsure where to stay, we will be happy to help you.

Signing Up

To send in an abstract and/or sign up for attendance, please fill out the registration form and return it to bugorfeature@protonmail.com at the latest by September 30th, 2023 (if you are submitting an abstract and/or are planning to attend physically) and by October 31st, 2023 if you want to attend virtually without presenting.