ACH Identity Statement

Note: this would be text for our http://ach.org/about-ach/ page. It would not be language to include in our constitution and/or bylaws at this time.

The Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) is a major professional and scholarly society focused on the digital humanities throughout the United States. While based in the U.S., ACH is open to all, regardless of geographic location, as non-U.S. members have important perspectives to offer to U.S.-based digital humanities practitioners.

We welcome members of any academic affiliation or professional role who are interested in the digital humanities and who would like to help shape the values and priorities of our organization. We especially welcome those who live in regions of the world that are not represented by existing professional organizations.

Recognizing that intellectual, cultural, institutional, and other forms of diversity make a vital contribution to scholarship and practice, ACH advocates for and supports all of our members in their digital humanities work. Digital humanities is a broad term encompassing a wide range of subject domains, methods, and communities of practice, including (but not limited to) computer-assisted research, pedagogy, and software; resource creation, curation, and engagement; physical computing; the use of digital technologies to write, publish, and review scholarship; and humanistic research into and about digital objects and culture. ACH recognizes that this work is inherently and inextricably sociopolitical, and thus advocates for social change through the use of computers and related technologies in the study of humanistic subjects.

Through its publications, conferences, workshops, outreach, training opportunities, and other mentoring activities, ACH aims to offer assistance to members at all levels of experience. Its support of open-access publications and open-source tools are part of its mission to increase access to scholarly work in the digital humanities and in the academy more broadly.

Our membership participates in the global digital humanities community as a constituent organization of the Alliance for Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO). In conjunction with the Canadian Society for Digital Humanities / Société canadienne des humanités numériques (CSDH/SCHN), Humanistica, L'association francophone des humanités numériques/digitales (Humanistica), Australasian Association for Digital Humanities (aaDH), centerNet, The European Association for Digital Humanities (EADH), and the Japanese Association for Digital Humanities (JADH), ACH encourages a diverse, inclusive future for digital humanities that advocates for openness, access, and professional scholarship.