

PROPOSAL

Digital Humanities Support Units in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

Key Information

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Session Format

Workshop - full-day, Tuesday, March 15, 2022 (09:00–16:00 CET)

OR

Workshop - two half-days, Monday & Tuesday, March 14–15, 2022 (13:00-16:00 CET)

Intended Audience

- Anyone working in the ALM sector with Digital Humanities support, outreach, training, and research
- ALM institutions planning on building up Digital Humanities support units
- Members of the DHNB working group “Digital Humanities at Libraries, Archives and Museums” – DHLAM

Approximate Number of Participants

- max. 20 presenters
- max. 40 participants working in small groups

Title

Digital Humanities Support Units in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

Workshop Description

Status of the field DHN2019 saw the founding of the working group for Digital Humanities at Libraries, Archives and Museums right after the British Library Lab had sparked a global network of so-called GLAM-Labs (<https://glamlabs.io>) and many National Libraries, Archives and Museums joined in. Since then, a guide on how to Open A GLAM-Lab (Mahey 2019) has been published and big and small lab-like units have been springing up all over the place. While the focus of the previous workshop, hosted by the Royal Danish Library at DHN2019, was on how the ALM sector in the Nordic and Baltic Countries has opened up its cultural heritage collections digitally to both the general public and researchers, students, and activists internationally, the DHNB2022 workshop will take a closer look at the concrete units and the infrastructure they have created or are planning to create in order to support, foster, carry out, and preserve Digital Humanities research. While there already are fully functional and successful labs in the Nordic and Baltic countries (e.g. at the Royal Danish Library, DIGHUMLAB), the goal is to map out all initiatives that support DH within the LAM sector.

Aims & Goals The aim of this workshop is to bring together the coordinators and drivers of DH support units at ALM institutions in the Nordic and Baltic Countries and beyond for an exchange of experience, for much needed discussions, and exploring options for collaboration as well as delimitation. Thus, the individual units will become visible as parts of a greater network of DH in practice and will become recognisable as an emerging supra-national infrastructure. A representative selection of DH support units from the different DHNB countries will present their activities by giving lightning talks. The Nordic-Baltic perspective will be opened up by presentations from selected DH support units from Europe and beyond. The workshop participants will then work together to map out the Nordic and Baltic DH units at ALM institutions according to a set of parameters previously agreed on. A tentative list of parameters could be:

DH Unit Parameters How is DH research - and teaching - supported in the Nordic and Baltic Countries? · Is support of DH research part of the larger digital strategy? · Which are the institutions - and which are the dedicated units at these institutions - that support DH? · If there are no dedicated units, is there staff designated to DH supporting tasks? · How do they organise the support? · Who is supported (researchers, staff, students, teachers; general public; affiliates w/ institutions)? · Is access to digital collections (both digitised and born-digital content) provided and if so, how? · Is training provided (e.g. specific tools and approaches, working with digital collections, access, etc.)? · Are training and support provided outside the scope of the institutions' collections? · Is

dissemination of DH research part of the support (events hosted, exhibitions, show-cases, blogs, podcasts, videos)? · In what way are the digital projects (outcomes, workflows, etc.) preserved and made accessible (e.g. through dedicated repositories, catalogue entries, web archives)? · Is there a physical location (e.g. a “lab-like” space within the LAM institution)? · Is there use of equipment, computers, hardware, “lab”-facilities; books/analog media; space, furniture, etc.? · Is there a virtual/online presence? Is software (licensed, working station) provided, a common work-space online, chat/video-chat/discord, social media interaction? · Are these DH units ‘rogue’ units, which emerged as a reaction to an imminent demand, formed outside of an institutions mandate or framework? · Or are they fixed-term or even long-term, integrated units (cf. policy; bottom-up / top-down)? · Are DH units affiliated with other infrastructures? · What about staff and background/training? · Is research initiated by/lead by DH unit? · What about authorship/contributions to research/representation as contributors? · Is the support for free or a paid service? · How is the relation of the unit to DH researchers/students/practitioners at the institution and outside of that institution? · How are the needs of the research environments mapped in order to offer the best possible support? · In regards to an open definition of digital humanities: are fields outside of the traditional humanities considered? · How are digital methods placed in an interdisciplinary discourse?

Output The concrete output of the workshop will be an interactive map of DH support units and how they might supplement each other within national and transnational contexts. The map will be published via the DHNB website and will serve as a supplement to the similar but outdated map provided by CenterNet (<https://dhcenternet.org/>), and the overview provided by the EADH (<https://eadh.org/education/digital-humanities-centres>). Additionally, the short presentations will be made accessible online and expanded with short descriptions of those units that could not be presented as well as new units that are yet to be launched. Finally, the outcome of the discussions and the mapping will be collected in a written report to be published in 2022 as a collective work by all participants describing the status quo of the Nordic and Baltic DH infrastructures provided by the ALM sector.

Curation The DHLAM working group will have the responsibility of curating the map of DH units and keeping the information about them up to date and foster a good flow of communication between the individual units.