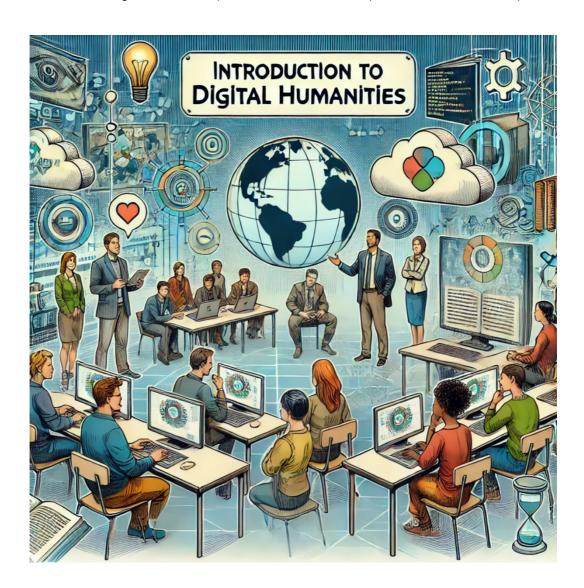# Introduction to Digital Humanities

Manuel Burghardt, Thomas Efer & Andreas Niekler – Computational Humanities Group

1   Dates and times

- **Lecture** (Manuel Burghardt, HS 20)
  WED – 11:15 – 12:45
- **Hands-on** (Thomas Efer, Andreas Niekler, room t.b.a.)
  THU – 1st group 13:15 – 15:45,
  THU – 2nd group 13:15 – 15:45
- **How to pass?** Individual projects (no group work!) – **Deadline: 14.03.2025**

2 Syllabus

Color scheme: `Theory of DH` `Data methods` `Analytical methods` `DH Project`

16.10.204	**Introductory session – Welcome to DH!**
17.10.204	Exercise
23.10.204	**Challenges and characteristics of DH**
24.10.204	Exercise
30.10.204	**Debates and criticism in the digital humanities**
~~31.10.204~~	No exercise (Reformationstag)
06.11.2024	**Scholarly practices, workflows and tools in the DH**
07.11.2024	Exercise
13.11.2024	**Gathering and modeling data**
14.11.2024	Exercise
~~20.11.2024~~	No lecture (Buß- und Bettag)
21.11.2024	Exercise
27.11.2024	**Preparing and annotating data**
28..11.2024	Exercise
04.12.2024	**Analyzing your data (Primer for statistics)**
05.12.2024	Exercise
11.12.2024	**Finding textual similarities: Stylometry**
12.12.2024	Exercise
18.12.2024	**Finding themes in large text collections: Topic modeling**
19.12.2024	Exercise
	Christmas break (23.12.2024 – 04.01.2025)
08.01.2025	**Finding relations in your data: Network analysis**
09.01.2025	Exercise
15.01.2025	**Spatial humanities and geovisualization**
16.01.2025	Exercise
21.01.2025	**Topic assignment and project requirements**
22.01.2025	Exercise
29.01.2025	**Crash course in scientific working**
30.01.2025	Exercise
05.02.2025 06.02.2025	**Individual consultation hours for the projects / Submission of project proposals**

3 Requirements for project reports

3.1 Structure

Introduction (~1 page): Paint the big picture of DH (what is it, how is it different from traditional humanities, etc. – use references here!) and frame your project, that means: what is the humanities aspect of your project – could it be attributed to a specific humanities discipline?

Research agenda (~1 page): What are you going to do in your project? Explain your research goal in a few sentences. Keep in mind: a research goal is not "I want to find out if method X can be used on corpus Y", but rather it is a specific scholarly question, for example: "I want to investigate what are the most dominant topics in a corpus of Harry Potter books" or "I want to find out who has the most influence on the COVID vaccination debate on Twitter". In 1-2 sentences also mention which data and method you will use to investigate your research question (you will provide more details on these in the next sections).

Data overview (~ 1 page): Give an overview of your data – where is it from, provide some descriptive statistics regarding its extent, temporal distribution, etc. Can you imagine any biases of the dataset with regard to you research question? You study digital <u>humanities</u>, so please also show some critical thinking and try to reflect on what you are doing.

```
Datasets:

• Data collections for the humanities – Moodle course (WiSe 2021-
  2022): https://moodle2.uni-leipzig.de/mod/page/view.php?id=1645771
• NLP Datasets: https://github.com/niderhoff/nlp-datasets
• Humanities Datasets (Princeton):
  https://hc3.princeton.edu/humanities-datasets
• Humanities Datasets (Rutgers):
  https://libguides.rutgers.edu/c.php?g=337057&p=2272539
• Feel free to propose your own dataset …
• [more to come]
```

Method overview (~ 1 page): Explain the method you use and briefly summarize its theoretical practical underpinnings (check out the respective lectures here specifically; use additional references if necessary). As with the data: reflect on potential biases and limitations of your method with regard to you research question.

```
Methods:

• Stylometry
• Topic modeling
• Network analysis
• Geovis
```

Related work (~ 0.5 - 1 page): How has this method been used before in the DH? Search for at least 3 examples (scholarly papers!) and briefly summarize their main motivation / research question in 2-3 sentences. It should become clear, how the method was used to answer the particular research question. Briefly discuss you

Experiment design (1 page): Describe how you used the method on your data; anything to be skeptical about here? Did you encounter any problem that might cause issues for the results … you guessed it already: We want you demonstrate some critical thinking here as well ;-)

Results and discussion (2-3 pages): What did you get as a result from using your method on your data? Typically, this section includes plots, tables, lists, etc. Interpret / discuss these results in a way you can answer your initial research question. Also link to a repository that contains scripts, data and results.

Conclusion (~ 0.5 - 1 page): Briefly sum up the main insights: what did you find out with regard to your research question? But also, what did you find out concerning the digital data and methods you used (it is "critical thinking" time again ☺).

References (~ 0.5 - 1 page): I asked you to use some references in some of the sections. Please make sure you list all the cited works at the end of you project report, in the "references" section. Feel free to use any (existing) citation style you are comfortable with, but please: stick to one style (don't mix up different styles) and try to get it correctly. Reference management tools like Zotero or Citavi can be extremely helpful here (getting into one of those tools should be beneficial for all the upcoming semesters, whenever you have to write a seminar paper or – at some point – a Bachelor thesis).

3.2 Styleguide

- The language of your report can be German or English
- Your project report in total should be in between the range of 8 (min) – 12 (max) pages
- Please use a serif font (Palatino, Garamond, Times, …) in font size 11pt
- Please use 1.5 linespacing and page margins around 2-3 cm (top, bottom, left, right)
- Please number your pages and also number your sections.
- Please proof read your paper (ideally, have somebody else proof-read it as well)