From idea to implementation: Manifesto for integrating Digital Humanities into the academic curriculum - phase 2



Organizers:

Stefania Scagliola - University of Luxembourg - <u>Stefania.Scagliola@uni.lu</u>, Gerben.Zaagsma@uni.lu

Susan Aasman - Centre for Digital Humanities - University of Groningen - s.i.aasman@rug.nl

This workshop is envisioned as a follow up of a workshop held at the DH Benelux in 2017, which had the intent to lay the basis for a manifesto on how to integrate Digital Humanities in the regular humanities curriculum. During the workshop we discussed the problem that most of the teaching on DH is offered in separate minor and/or master programs, but is scarcely integrated into regular humanities subjects. A key issue seemed to be time constraints and the tension that is created vis a vis older traditional academic skills that are needed. How to reconcile the time consuming investment in skills development crucial for being able to apply digital methods, with the time needed to acquire an overall, topic-oriented knowledge of a field? How to avoid the practice of students limiting their searches to easy to digest and to reproduce bits of information? What is the appropriate way of sharpening the mind, struggling with a long and complex text or learning to write code? How do we deal with divergent levels of digital skills among students and lecturers? The key question that is recurrent is: what can and should we in- and exclude in terms of basic or extended digital skills into the existing and institutionalized time frame of our standard courses? 2017 yielded a visualized cartoon of the hurdles that DH faces, a presentation of

best practices and a list of core issues that should be dealt with at the institutional level of humanities faculties. A start with a manifesto was made, but this initiative needs to be further developed. What we have in mind for 2019, is to elaborate on the possibility of differentiation: offering a diverse mix of teaching content, from very easy to more complex and imagining how this can be spread throughout the time frame of a bachelor and master trajectory. In this line of thinking a number of very short presentations – following the Pecha Kucha format - will be presented of small and flexible teaching interventions that can be easily integrated in a regular course or teaching programs. These will cover a variety of disciplines (media studies, history, art history, language studies). In addition, as a concrete and collaborative task, we will ask the participants of the workshop to update the current manifesto, by writing short and telling statements about specific topics that have to be tackled. We will also ask them to help compile an overview of digital skills from very easy to complex, that according to them should be taught/mastered at a certain stage of the bachelor and master curriculum within the humanities. Our idea is that by crowdsourcing the lived experiences of experienced lecturers and turning them into concrete proposals that take into account the need for diversity with regard to the time and effort that is required, we can support a viable form of integration of DH into teaching.

These lecturers are willing to present a best practice:

Susan Hogervorst - ESCCH/Erasmus Universiteit / Open Universiteit -
Susan.Hogervorst@ou.n

Norah Karrouche - Vrije Universiteit - ESCCH - Erasmus Universiteit - karrouche@eshcc.eur.nl

Davy Verbeke - Universiteit Gent - <u>Davy.Verbeke@UGent.be</u>
Fien Danniau - Universiteit Gent - <u>Fien.Danniau@UGent.be</u>
Stefania Scagliola - C²DH - University of Luxembourg - <u>scagliola@uni.lu</u>