



Workplan LIBER Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group

This document outlines the work plan for LIBER's Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group. This group was launched in July 2017 as a Digital Humanities Working Group with a two-year scope. In November 2017, its scope was expanded to include Digital Cultural Heritage.

Currently the group has four teams working on the following topics:

1. Enhancement of skills of librarians in DH;
2. Cooperation with research community;
3. Roles of libraries & raising awareness;
4. Policies and portfolios of libraries in DH.

An inaugural workshop was held at LIBER's 2017 Annual Conference. During the workshop, these topics were defined more specifically through group discussions. The following descriptions draw on input from the participants.

Enhancement of skills of librarians in DH

The skill-building team is focused on the skills and competencies that are needed for librarians to work in DH. Which skills do we have (e.g. knowledge about collections and metadata), which skills are needed (e.g. knowledge about tools and methods, soft skills) and how do we acquire them (e.g. collaboration with researchers, join curriculum, online resources)?

Cooperation with the research community

The cooperation-team is focused on defining and strengthening the relationship between libraries and the research community. Where can we find the research community (e.g. (inter)national research groups, within faculties, GLAM), how can we build (new) relationships (e.g. advocate on behalf of libraries about collections and possibilities, teach in curricula) and which good examples of collaboration that can we use to our benefit (e.g. DH Labs, DARIAH/CLARIN, CERL).

Raising awareness in libraries

The awareness-team is focused on how to make libraries (and their management) aware of DH and the role they can play in it. Engagement equals awareness, but to become engaged several tools might be needed, such as use cases and a common language for cross-sector working.

Policies and portfolios of libraries in DH

The policies and portfolios-team is focused on the organisational issues around including DH in your library. How to structure DH (e.g. Lab, Center of a team), which workflow suits your organisation, which resources and staff are needed to facilitate this. This coincides with the decisions on what your portfolio of activities is around DH (e.g. data providing, project management or research).

Work plan

The activities of these teams will lead to the output defined in the group's proposal and feed into the LIBER Strategy plan. Where possible, we will link to the projects in which LIBER participates.

Nature of input

The input required by the group over its two-year timeline is focused on getting as much information as possible with little effort, in order to keep the threshold for participation low. This is also the reason why the input is not specified in great detail. The libraries and librarians participating in the group are all working in digital humanities but some are more experienced than others and will thus be providing varied input. All input is welcomed and valued.

Privacy

When supplying input, each member is asked about the level of openness they attach to that piece of text. If needed, due to privacy reasons, the input is kept within the group. All open input will be collected and shared on an open platform (possibly the new LIBER document management system).

DH related events

The goal of the group is to set up a knowledge network. Achieving this is easier when the members know each other and where they can meet. We are therefore keeping track of DH events throughout Europe, and also noting which members of our group will attend each event. This facilitates networking and ensures knowledge about the events is spread throughout the working group.

Activities

Year 1 (July 2017 - July 2018)			
No.	Activity	Deadline	Output
1	Recommend 3 must-reads (article, blog post, books)	01-12-'17	1 blog per team with list of 3
2	Recommend 3 tutorials or how-tos	01-12-'17	1 blog of team 'Skill-building' with list of 3
3	Identify 3 challenges in your library and describe them (max. 200 words per challenge)	01-02-'18	1 blog per team with 3 challenges
	<i>Working group meeting</i>	<i>1st week of April</i>	<i>Networking & discussions</i>
4	Identify 3 strengths of your library and describe them (max. 200 words per strength)	01-04-'18	1 blog per team with 3 strengths
5	Take one strength or challenge and expand that into a use case-blog (max. 800 words)	01-06-'18	Collection of use cases available on Zenodo → one blog post to summarise

6	Summary of team output	01-07-'18	1 report per team with input over the year (max. 2 pages)
7	<i>Workshop LIBER 2018:</i> - Present team output - Discuss outline 'State of DH in Europe'-report	July 2018	Setup outline 'State of DH in Europe'-report
Year 2 (July 2018 - July 2019)			
No.	Activity	Deadline	Output
8	Update recommendation of 3 must-reads (article, blog post, books)	01-09-'18	1 blog per team with list of 3
9	Update recommendation of 3 tutorials or how-tos	01-10-'18	1 blog per team with list of 3
10	Define a minimum of 3 questions for survey on DH in Europe	01-10-'18	Collection of questions on state of DH in Europe
11	Core group: Develop survey for state of DH in Europe	01-11-'18	Survey
12	Collect input from LIBER members	01-03-'19	Survey results
13	Process output of survey into report	01-06-'19	1 blog per team
14	<i>Workshop LIBER 2019</i> - Present 'State of DH in Europe'-report	July 2019	Report 'State of DH in Europe'

Final report

A report on the state of digital humanities in European research libraries is the final physical output of this group and is meant to feed into the activities planned for the remainder of the strategy plan (2019-2022). From this report, we can define areas which still need attention to reach the goals set by LIBER.

Network

Another output of the group is the knowledge network that we will have set up by collaborating with each other, our universities, colleagues and research communities. We feel that this might be the most valuable contribution to the DH landscape in Europe, as this means librarians can find colleagues with similar ideas, thoughts and visions and can discuss their activities, plans and challenges to overcome them together and to support each other in their digital humanities work.