DIGITAL HUMANITIES & DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKING GROUP: 2019-2021 WORKPLAN

Introduction

The LIBER DH & DCH WG has concluded the work set out in their first work plan, finishing their work with a LIBER-wide survey on digital humanities and collections. This is a proposal to continue the working group for another 2 years, from July 2019 to July 2021, and outlines our proposed work plan for that period. This proposal was approved by the LIBER Executive Board at the LIBER 2019 Annual Conference.

Group Members

The working group is open to employees from all LIBER libraries. Currently, the group consists of 31 people, six of which make up the core team. Two people in the current team, including one of the co-chairs, will step down in July 2019.

The working group has invited new members to the core team, so that in 2019-2021 it would consist of:

- Co-chair: Lotte Wilms (KB Netherlands)
- Co-chair: Kirsty Lingstadt (University of Edinburgh Library)
- Core team member: Liam O'Dwyer (Dublin City University)
- Core team member: Marian Lefferts (CERL)
- Core team member: Caleb Derven (University of Limerick)
- Core team member: Merisa Martinez (KU Leuven)

Recently, the WG has sent out a call for new members to join the working group.

Themes

Following the survey conducted in 2019, the WG has identified several themes that could benefit the LIBER community. This work plan revolves around those themes. We propose each theme is addressed in a staggered manner, meaning a new theme is launched every 2 months, actively seeking collaboration across the LIBER community for each theme.

1. Digital Collections (captained by Marian Lefferts & Lotte Wilms)

The theme Digital Collections is focused around the creation and practical technical accessibility of digital collections as data. The working group will examine how collections are offered to DH researchers, which barriers they encounter and how libraries can successfully offer their collections across their user base. Special focus will be given to access across borders, unwanted bias in digital collections and facilitating easy access through technology.

Within this theme we will seek active collaboration with CERL and the LIBER WG Copyright and Legal Matters.

2. Impact (captained by Kirsty Lingstadt)

In order to secure ongoing resources and funding for digital humanities work the impact of this work needs to be demonstrated. This work strand will explore how impact of digital humanities activities, including providing access to digital collections as data, within libraries can be measured.

Within this theme we will seek active collaboration with DARIAH and Europeana.

3. Prov(id)ing expertise (captained by Caleb Derven)

Libraries are natural partners in digital humanities research. However, how do libraries go from being data/service providers to partner? This is what we would like to dive into as a working group. We will be looking at what is needed for a library to strengthen their position as a partner and how they can make sure their voice is heard.

Within this theme we will seek active collaboration with the LIBER WG Digital Skills and the global Building Library Labs network.

4. Building relationships (captained by Liam O'Dwyer)

Finally, when the scope, intended impact, collections and reach of your DH programme has been defined, libraries can set out to build the relationships that benefit them and the researcher when working with digital humanities. The working group will be looking at the various ways in which libraries raise awareness about their work and collections and also how they keep in touch with their research community.

Within this theme we will seek active collaboration with the global Building Library Labs network and DARIAH.

Output

Each theme will work with the working group's members on deciding which outputs are most beneficial to the members. We are looking at a mix of result such as:

- Webinars
- Recommendations
- White paper
- New/updated reading lists
- Case studies
- Collection of documents as examples
- Workshop/conference tracks at both LIBER 2020 and LIBER 2021

Goal of the working group

In the summer of 2021, the DH & DCH Working Group will have existed for 4 years. Our primary goal stated in the original proposal for the working group was the creation of a knowledge network on DH in libraries. With these 4 new themes we hope to build on the already established network and to strengthen the position of libraries in the European digital humanities network. Our end goal is therefore that LIBER libraries can easily find peers in the library sector, know where to find relevant information on digital humanities, and know how to provide their collections as data and therefore be a true partner in digital humanities research.