

Preface

Digital Humanities (DH) is an emerging field that lies at the intersection of Information Technologies (IT) and Humanities. The field includes both scholars and practitioners in a wide range of disciplines that comprise diverse but complementary areas like data mining, interactive visualization, GIS (Geographical Information Systems), multimedia games, digital story telling, library and information science, history and archeology to name a few. More recently, DH is starting to draw attention from different IT companies, the public sector and commercial actors. These latest developments are starting to pave new business opportunities for these companies and at the same time bringing new funding possibilities to the humanities.

The unique cross-sector and cross-disciplinary Digital Humanities Initiative at Linnaeus University¹ is proud to organize the *first International Symposium in Digital Humanities* to be held in Sweden, on November 7th-8th 2016 in Växjö². Linnaeus University has become the first Swedish university (thereby making Sweden the second Nordic country) to join DARIAH-EU³, Europe's largest initiative on DH spanning 18 countries, which is therefore supporting the Symposium. Linnaeus University aims to act as a strong driving force in the region and boasts well-established, close collaborations with the surrounding business sphere and the community at large. Due to this specific orientation, this Symposium is co-sponsored by Växjö City Library, Växjö Kommun, the Big Data Consortium with funding from Region Kronoberg & Regionförbundet i Kalmar län, and IEC – Information Engineering Centre.

In the call for papers we have invited researchers and practitioners in related disciplines to Digital Humanities to present, discuss and demonstrate different possibilities, current efforts and upcoming trends in this emergent field. The responses have been very encouraging and we have received 26 different contributions. Each submission has been peer-reviewed by at least two reviewers. The Programme Committee (PC) consists of 16 members coming from the UK, Italy, Croatia, Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The final program boasts 2 invited speakers, 1 panel, 6 sessions with a total of 17 presentations, and a poster session with 4 submissions. The authors come from 10 countries on 3 continents; while the majority are from universities and related academic institutions, there are also 3 representatives from the external public sector (National Library of Norway, Det Fria Ordets Hus (The House of Free Speech from Växjö) and Musik i Syd (a Swedish music institution in the regions of Skåne and Kronoberg).

Of the invited speakers, Marianne Ping Huang, Development Coordinator at Aarhus University and the representative for Denmark in DARIAH-EU, will talk about Digital Humanities and DARIAH-EU. Theresa Anderson, Head of the Connected Intelligence Centre at University of Technology, Sidney will deliver an invited talk entitled “*Keeping the Human in the Digital: Challenges of Technology and Transdisciplinary in a Data-Intensive World*”.

The panel entitled “*Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries: Current Efforts, Perspectives and Challenges*” will be delivered by representatives of the four Nordic countries. Presentations are organized into six sessions: 1) Digital Humanities and Linguistics, 2) GLAM and Textual Scholarship, 3) Interactive Tools, 4) DH across Disciplines, 5) DH across Sectors, and 6) GIS and Visualisation.

¹ <http://lnu.se/en/digihum/>

² <https://lnu.se/en/research/conferences/international-digital-humanities-symposium/>

³ <http://dariah.eu>

We strongly believe that this Symposium and the rich discussions that will arise will be thought provoking for the participants and will play a key role in fostering a larger community of Nordic DH researchers and practitioners in the coming years.

Special thanks to the invited speakers and all the authors for making this Symposium on Digital Humanities such a rich and diverse event in terms of content and future collaborative possibilities. Our sincere gratitude also to the PC members who have provided their valuable reviews and have done so on a tight schedule! And not the least, we highly appreciate the important support of our sponsors – they have made it possible to arrange a registration-free two-day event with all meals and coffee breaks included.

Koraljka Golub and Marcelo Milrad, Linnaeus University

Växjö, November 2nd 2016