

DIKULT207 – Fall 2017

Digital Humanities in Practice: Project Work on Developing a Scholarly Database of Electronic Literature

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Regular: Tuesday & Thursday, 14:15-16:00, [SPL](#) Und.rom 129

Exceptions: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:15-14:00 and 14:15-16:00, [SH](#) Sem.rom K, and [SH](#) Sem.rom F

See schedule below under Time • Room for detailed information

Course introduction

The course focuses on the development of both theoretical and practical skills in digital humanities. Students will learn how digital platforms can be used in research in the humanities. In the theoretical component of the course, students read academic texts on digital humanities research and do practical research on selected projects in the digital humanities. The course focuses on student active research. Students gain practical research experience as digital humanists by developing projects in ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base. This knowledge base is a scientific, open access, relational database programmed in Drupal that documents creative work, research, events and actors in the field of electronic literature.

Students in the course will gain practical experience through working with one or more of the following areas:

- editing: researching, writing, and editing entries about electronic literature in the Knowledge Base
- web design and user interface development
- project planning and implementation; team-work and academic collaboration
- documentation
- visualization based research methods

This course provides a unique opportunity for students to get real-world experience working with scholars on an international research project in electronic literature and the digital humanities, and to contribute to the state of the art in these fields.

The ELMCIP Knowledge Base is based at the University of Bergen and can be accessed at <http://elmcip.net/knowledgebase>

Contributions to the ELMCIP Knowledge Base are publicly accessible and licenced with a Creative Commons, non-commercial share-alike license (nc-sa).

Teaching Methods

There will be four hours of teaching each week for twelve weeks during the semester, split between one theoretical and one practical seminar each week.

Student workload is estimated at 20 hours per week from the beginning of the semester until the exam, including during weeks without classes. This time should be spent attending classes, reading the assigned readings, completing assignments, contributing to the database projects, and gathering relevant material in the library and online (books, articles, videos, etc).

If there are fewer than five students enrolled in the course, the institute can chose to reduce the hours of instruction, as per guidelines published on Mitt UiB. If this is the case, students will be able to find

information about the revision of course hours at the start of the semester, before the deadline for semester registration (Sep. 1).

Class meetings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Double classes are from 12:15-14:00 and 14.15-16:00 and single classes from 14:15-16:00. **See schedule below under Time • Room for detailed information.** Assignments will be posted on Mitt UiB.

UiB course pages

English: <http://www.uib.no/course/DIKULT207>

Norwegian: <http://www.uib.no/emne/DIKULT207>

ELMCIP KB Teaching Resource record: <http://elmcip.net/node/12095>

Reading list DIKULT207 – Fall 2017

A New Companion to Digital Humanities

John Unsworth, Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens (eds.)

Chichester: Wiley/Blackwell, 2016. ISBN: 9781118680643

<http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1118680596&bcsId=9977>

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media

Marie-Laure Ryan, Lori Emerson, Benjamin J. Robertson (eds.)

Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2014. ISBN: 9781421412245

<https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/johns-hopkins-guide-digital-media>

These texts will be supplemented with online readings, which will be available through Mitt UiB, including extensive use of the ELMCIP Knowledge Base: <http://elmcip.net/knowledgebase>

Supplementary literature:

Debates in the Digital Humanities

Matthew K. Gold (ed.) Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2012.

ISBN: 9780816677955. Online at <http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/>

Schedule

Week • Date	Time • Room	Topic	Comment
33 • 17.08.17	12:15-14:00 • JUS Aud 2	Orienteringsmøte	
34 • 22.08.17	14:15-16:00 • SPL Und.rom 129	Course introduction Reading: ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base: Project Report	
34 • 24.08.17	14:15-16:00 • SPL Und.rom 129	Workshop Introduction to the ELMCIP Knowledge Base (KB). Setting up KB accounts and editing records. Reading: ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base: Project Report	Homework: Finish records
35 • 29.08.17		No Class	
35 • 31.08.17	14:15-16:00 • SPL Und.rom 129	Readings: Introduction to the field of Digital Humanities (DH) “ Defining the Digital Humanities ” (<i>Debates</i> , 67-71) “Sorting Out the Digital Humanities” (Svensson, <i>A New Companion to DH</i> , 476-492) Workshop ELMCIP Knowledge Base (content, platform) + presentation of database user guide in ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base: Project Report . Exploration of the KB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Content types ■ Cross references ■ Metadata (fields, tag taxonomy, open and controlled vocabularies, e.g. NT2 database) ■ Contribution, workflow and guidelines ■ UI concerns (production, theme, functionality) Create and develop entries from the ELO Conference 2017 (creative works/critical writing) and EBR (critical writing).	Homework: Finish records
36 • 05.09.17	14:15-16:00 • SPL Und.rom 129	Readings: Introduction to DH 2 “ What is Digital Humanities and What’s It Doing in English Departments? ” (Kirschenbaum, <i>Debates</i> , 3-11) “ The Humanities, Done Digitally ” (Fitzpatrick, <i>Debates</i> , 12-15)	Homework: Finish records
36 • 07.09.17		No Class	

37 • 11.09.17	12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 • SH Sem.rom F	<p>Readings: E-Lit as DH “Electronic Literature as Digital Humanities” (Rettberg, <i>A New Companion to DH</i>, 127-136) “Electronic Literature” (Rettberg, <i>Johns Hopkins Guide</i>) “Electronic Literature Organization” (Luesebrink, <i>Johns Hopkins Guide</i>) “Exploratory Programming in Digital Humanities Pedagogy and Research” (Montfort, <i>A New Companion to DH</i>, 98-109)</p> <p>Workshop 1 Create and develop entries from ELO 2017 conference (cf. creative works, critical writing. Source: ELO 2017 Book of Abstracts and Catalogs) and EBR (critical writing). Comparative analysis of works from journals in different periods.</p> <p>Workshop 2 From stub to complete record—researching and developing existing records of works and critical writing in the KB. Cross-reference Platform in All Creative Works.</p>	
37 • 12.09.17	12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 • SH Sem.rom K	<p>Readings: Rethinking DH and Preservation “Graphical Approaches to the Digital Humanities” (Drucker, <i>A New Companion to DH</i>, 238-250) “Ancient Evenings: Retrocomputing in the Digital Humanities” (Kirschenbaum, <i>A New Companion to DH</i>, 185-198)</p> <p>Workshop Create and develop entries from ELO 2017 conference (cf. creative works, critical writing. Source: ELO 2017 Book of Abstracts and Catalogs) and EBR (critical writing). Comparative analysis of works from journals in different periods.</p>	
38 • 19.09.17	VM-sykkel	No class	
38 • 21.09.17	VM-sykkel	No class	<p>Homework: ELMCIP Documentation Trackpad: https://etherpad.net/p/ELMCIP</p>
39 • 25.09.17	12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 • SH Sem.rom F	<p>Readings: Platform and Software Studies “Platform” (Bogost and Montfort, <i>Johns Hopkins Guide</i>) “Platform Studies: Frequently Questioned Answers” (Bogost and Montfort, DAC09)</p>	

		<p>“Software Studies” (Fuller, <i>Johns Hopkins Guide</i>)</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Cross-reference Platform in All Creative Works: goo.gl/TB1JFp</p>	
39 ● 26.09.17	<p>12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 ● SH Sem.rom K</p>	<p>Readings: Distant Reading and Macroanalysis</p> <p>“Graphs, Maps, Trees” (Moretti, 67-93, Mitt UiB)</p> <p>“Mining the Knowledge Base” (J. Rettberg, S. Rettberg, 1-12)</p> <p>Workshop: Gephi tutorial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gephi workshop based on Jill Walker Rettberg’s tutorial <input type="checkbox"/> Visualizing Electronic Literature projects ideas. Brainstorm about students projects. <input type="checkbox"/> Document with Drafts & Comments about Students’ Projects: https://etherpad.net/p/ELMCIP 	<p>Homework for 2 weeks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finishing ELO 2017 documentation 2. Complete Cross-reference Platform in All Creative Works. 3. Prepare Project Outline
40 ● 03.10.17		No class	
40 ● 05.10.17		No class	
41		Høstferie: Reading Week	
42 ● 17.10.17	<p>14:15-16:00 ● SPL Und.rom 129</p>	<p>Readings: Software and Taxonomy vs. Folksonomy</p> <p>“Hard Constraints: Designing Software in the Digital Humanities” (Ramsay, <i>A New Companion to DH</i>, 449-457)</p> <p>“Critique of the Semantic Web” (Cramer)</p> <p>“Toward a Semantic Literary Web” (Tabbi)</p> <p>“Ontology is Overrated” (Shirky, 1-19)</p> <p>Workshop</p> <p>Documentation of Platform/Software records in ELMCIP.</p>	<p>Project / Paper outline due at https://etherpad.net/p/ELMCIP</p>
42 ● 19.10.17	<p>14:15-16:00 ● SPL Und.rom 129</p>	<p>Workshop</p> <p>Work on Gephi and ELMCIP. Developing tags in a specific set of records in preparation for visualization: working with journals/platform. Create software/platform records, cross-reference on works.</p>	
43 ● 24.10.17	<p>12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 ● SH Sem.rom K</p>	<p>Readings</p> <p>“An Emerging Canon? A Preliminary Analysis of All References to Creative Works in Critical Writing Documented in the ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base” (S. Rettberg)</p> <p>“Visualising Networks of Electronic Literature: Dissertations and the Creative Works They Cite” (J. Rettberg)</p> <p>“Digital Poetry and Critical Discourse: A Network of Self-References?” (A. Seiça)</p>	
43 ● 26.10.17	<p>12:15-14:00 +</p>	Workshop	Paper Drafts

	14:15-16:00 • SH Sem.rom F	Platform/Software records Project workshop: Paper Drafts	due
44 • 31.10.17		No class	
44 • 02.11.17		No class	
45 • 07.11.17	12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 • SH Sem.rom K	Workshop Project workshop	Work with visualisations projects
45 • 09.11.17	12:15-14:00 + 14:15-16:00 • SH Sem.rom F	Workshop + Meetings Project workshop: Paper redrafting	Work with visualisations projects Meetings with Alvaro
46 • 14.11.17		No class	
46 • 16.11.17		No class	
48 • 30.11.17	Inspira	Hand in paper/digital exam (research project) Deadline: 13:00 via Inspira	Papers uploaded to folder TBA, 13:00. Paper length: ~3,000 words, Times New Roman 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing, ~5 pages + figures and bibliography
48 • 01.12.17 (?)	TBA	Oral exam: 20 min presentation of research project	

Course structure

▣ Selected readings

What are the digital humanities (DH), and where does this project fit within this context?
Students shall formulate questions from individual readings; situate the theoretical concepts.

▣ Platform introduction

What is ELMCIP? What is the Electronic Literature Knowledge Base as a platform?

▣ System and technology introduction

Drupal, the system/platform, is an open source CMS (Content Management System); the setup of the Knowledge Base, important features and functionality.

▣ Platform studies

Theory and practice on platforms, and the Platform & Software content type.

▣ Visualizing the database

Visualization strategies and techniques.
Graph visualization software: [Gephi](#)

▣ Collective practical projects

The practical projects will be centered around:

1. Recording recent conferences ([ELO Conference 2017](#)), critical writing, creative works, cross-documenting platform in creative works, and document journals and their issues.

We work with tags in relation to recent activities in the field, and in relation to the notion of technicity in form of the new content type: Platform.

2. Platform specific work

- Open source works
- How platform effect genre
- Platform and location
- Platform field specification

▣ Research paper based on practical project

What conceptual issues are coming out of the task (practical project)?
Example: the project's scope, platform and aesthetics, platform and politics, etc.
Identify and work around an individual research question to produce an analytical exam paper (and oral presentation).

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students will have:

- an overview of current debates and concepts in the digital humanities, and familiarity with a selection of digital humanities projects
- a basic understanding of a Drupal database
- experience of team-work and of working on an international collaborative research project

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- research and write critical descriptions of works and actors in an aesthetic field for a scholarly database
- assess the usefulness of a range of digital humanities strategies in specific scholarly work
- discuss and prioritise organisational and design choices in developing a scholarly database

Expectations

- Each student needs to create or modify/edit 60 records (5 records/week)
- Create at least 3 information visualizations
- Each student needs to select a subset (journal, platform, genre, etc.) and identify patterns and trends, and perform an analysis on that basis
- Each student should be able to contextualize their analysis within the theoretical context of DH