



Digital Humanities Course in Mainz

Dates

21–23 January, 2019

Location

Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Mainz, Alte Universitätsstraße 19, D-55116 Mainz, Germany

Organising Institution

Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Mainz

Contact

Marco Büchler, buechler@ieg-mainz.de

Trainers

- Anna Aschauer.
- Marco Büchler.
- Ines Grund.
- Ilenia Laudito.

General Aims

The course seeks to cover both practical and theoretical topics in order to allow participants to understand not only the digital topics per se, but understand how research reached there. That is either the theoretical background for an innovative tool or the context for the development of an existing one. In second place, they will be able to adapt such approaches in their own working methods and extend the knowledge they receive in other fields.

In addition, the course offers a case study – intertextuality – investigated holistically (distant and close) that can offer an insight to the very core of digital humanities and research. The same goes for digital editions and texts which is a sine qua non for digital humanities, since a vast number of materials are textual sources.

Finally, the programme is structured in such a way that it deals with the participants at the same time as students and teachers, teaching them new things and simultaneously how they arrived there, which is fundamental in all modern pedagogical methods. Leaving, then, their time in Mainz they will have not only learnt new things, but they will be able to re-discover their research and teaching materials in new terms.



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Specific Learning Goals

- The participant will gain basic knowledge and skills in the use of COSMO-tool, data management and integration to large Databases.
- The participant will gain basic knowledge and skills in content search engines and data integration.
- The participant will gain basic knowledge on metadata standards.
- The participant is able to install and run TRACER on their own devices and learns how to configure TRACER for different usages.
- The participant knows how to optimise a text mining engine for precision and recall.
- The participants knows how an analogue text can be digitised so that it can be processed with digital tools.
- The participant gains skills in a digital edition while they are familiarised with methods, challenges and needs of such an edition.
- The participant gains skills in theoretics of digital editions, text-encoding, and data mining.
- The participant will gain knowledge and skills in geo-referencing, including experiences in necessary amount of data items per map, problems of geo-referencing and accuracy based on granularity of maps.

Unique Contribution to the ReIReS Training Programme

The Mainz DH course introduces participants to the theoretical, methodological, and practical aspects of Digital Humanities. By discussing, then, topics ranging from the changes digital technologies bring to the very identity of a scholar until the process of digitisation of their materials and research [Lecture by Marco Büchler]. The latter aspect is, furthermore, discussed within the context of digitisation of personal data and materials and at the same time by integrating one's own data to larger systems.

In light of the second set of presentations [by Anna Aschauer, Ilenia Laudito, and Marco Büchler] various digital tools are presented to participants that allow them to re-discover their materials, contextualise it in a broader framework and introduce a macroscopic approach in their research.

The aspect of digital tools is, moreover, expanded by the presentation on GIS and geo-referencing for historical studies [Ines Grund and Marco Büchler] where the participants are introduced to Geography and Digital Methods and are familiarised with cutting-edge methods that allow them to conduct their research by integrating new components in it.

Although the Mainz DH course uses specific case studies to discuss the various topics that are raised, the course as a whole is built on theoretical approaches with a methodological dimension that will equip the participants with the necessary skills to later experiment with other and/or new tools for their research as well.

Programme

Monday January 21, 2019	DATABASES AND DATA INTEGRATION 10:00–13:00 h: Cosmo-tool, Anna Aschauer
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	<p>Link: https://cosmotool.de.dariah.eu/cosmotool/personsearch/</p> <p>Description: Cosmo-tool was developed within the DARIAH-DE project and is a portal for searching and tracing historical persons in time and space for uncovering serendipity in match-making common travel routes of different persons. Through Cosmo-tool, then, scholars can study historical persons as figures of action and interaction in the broad context of 'their world', where and when they went, what occurred, how they influenced these places and other persons and how they influenced them back.</p> <p>Session Aims: Participants will gain knowledge on using Cosmo-tool and the integration of their own data in large Databases. The slot will finish with a discussion on scholarly needs in contrast to limitations of personal rights, i.e. glossy persons.</p> <p>15:00–18:00 h: RETOPEA, Ilenia Laudito</p> <p>Link: http://heron-net.be/retopea/</p> <p>Description: RETOPEA (Religious Toleration and Peace) is a Horizon 2020 fund project that seeks to study the coexistence of past societies through religious differentiations and differences. Struggles based on religious differences have occurred since the dawn of time, however all through this winding journey people found ways to overcome them and live together in peace. This knowledge, then, is – for RETOPEA – an experience that can be used by us to face inter-religious societies and achieve religious peace, which is not always the case.</p> <p>Session Aims: Participants will learn how to integrate their own data in a content search engine and gain knowledge about metadata standards. Within the latter topic, the challenge of what are good and what are bad metadata will also be dealt. Furthermore, they will learn about the challenges of multilingual metadata systems.</p> <p>Train-the-Trainer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. familiarisation and use of COSMOTOOL and RETOPEA.2. knowledge and skills in data management and integration.3. components of macroscopic approaches in one's own research.
<p>Tuesday January 22, 2019</p>	<p>DIGITAL TOOLS AND DIGITISED METHODS</p> <p>10:00–13:00 h: TRACER, Marco Büchler</p> <p>Link: https://www.etrapp.eu/research/tracer/</p> <p>Description: TRACER is a software for the detection of historical text reuse (intertextuality). TRACER is created by Marco Büchler and is designed to facilitate text reuse detection, while it has been used to</p>





	<p>detect plagiarism in a text, as well as verbatim and near verbatim quotations, paraphrase and even allusions. TRACER can be used in both contemporary and historical texts, while it has been successfully tested on Ancient Greek, Arabic, Coptic, English, German, Hebrew, Latin and Tibetan.</p> <p>Session Aims: Participants install and run TRACER on their own machines. They learn how to configure TRACER for different usages and gain knowledge in optimising a text mining engine for precision and recall. The experiments are conducted on an English Bible edition.</p> <p>15:00–18:00 h: Digitising Ourselves, Marco Büchler</p> <p>Link: No link available</p> <p>Description: with the rise of Digital Humanities scholars have access to a vast number of new ideas, methods, and approaches to study their material and, undoubtedly, this has been a quite refreshing breeze for the humanities per se and their scholars as well. However, before that the Humanities have a large history of ideas, methods, and approaches that constitute their tradition and heritage. How are we, then, to view these in light of Digital Humanities? Are they to be left behind or can they be re-discovered within the digital paradigm?</p> <p>Lecture Aims: The lecture provides a theoretical and epistemological treatise of Digital Humanities and text analysis, using intertextuality as a case study. In this, intertextuality is approached closely as a manual analytical method. The participants will be familiarised with a digital text and how can an analogue text be digitised so that it can be processed with digital tools. Text-encoding will be an important component together with mapping methods and digital editions, allowing them to create their own micro-data ecosystems.</p> <p>The lecture will bring forth issues on epistemological aspects of text analysis, data and research sustainability while it smoothly completes the study of an approach, intertextuality, together with the previous session and at the same time sets the path for the following one.</p> <p>Train-the-Trainer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the theoretics of digital research;2. knowledge and skills in distant and close reading, text-encoding, data mining;3. expression of ‘analogue’ approaches in digital terms;4. digital intertextuality.
Wednesday	DIGITAL EDITIONS AND DIGITAL INNOVATION





January 23, 2019

10:00-13:00 h: Controversia & Confession, TBD

Link: <http://www.controversia-et-confessio.de>

Description: Controversia & Confessio is one of the academy's long-term projects, since 2007, in the field of the humanities. It is a cooperation between the Leibniz Institute for European History, the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbuettel.

Session Aims: Participants are introduced to and gain skills in a digital edition while they are familiarised with methods, challenges and needs of such an edition.

15:00-18:00 h: Geo-referencing of historical maps, Marco Büchler, and Ines Grund

Link: No link available

Tool: the online tool aims to georeference historical maps for proper use in GIS systems.

Session Aims: The session starts with an introduction to GIS and the possibilities that historians have when actively combining history and geography, two scientific fields that have long interacted. GIS has largely changed geography itself and its importance can be parallelised with the introduction of "digitality" in the humanities. Then the participants are familiarised with a crowd-sourcing platform for geo-referencing, while they will geo-reference common and/or own maps for research purposes. They will gain skills in geo-referencing, including experiences in necessary amount of data items per map, problems of geo-referencing and accuracy based on the granularity of maps.

Train-the-trainer:

1. further exploration of possibilities for digital editions;
2. data management and integration;
3. GIS and georeferencing for historical studies (theory and applications) .

