SIG AH Newsletter

Association for Information Science & Technology:
Arts & Humanities Special Interest Group

SIG AH explores the applications of information science to the full range of activities in the arts and humanities. This includes the computerized storage and retrieval of text, image and sound; new methods for the organization of scholarly work; bibliometric and other studies of information dissemination; artistic use of information technology; and the social structure of disciplines in the arts and humanities. SIG AH also has an abiding interest in the humanistic implications of information technology and the information society.

— Mission statement rev. Ralph Dumain, ca. 2000

2016-2017 Officers

Chair: Jeremy McLaughlin
San Jose State University

Chair-Elect & Social Media: Christian James
Catholic University of America

Membership/Events: Julie Carmen
Central Washington University

Communications: Tim Gorichanaz
Drexel University

Website: Arjun Sabharwal
University of Toledo

Archivist/Newsletter Editor: Marcus Ladd
Miami University

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Message from the Chair

Jeremy McLaughlin

2016 was another exciting year for SIG AH. As you can see from the numbers below, our membership continues to grow, along with our overall presence within the Association. This is a direct result of activities like the 2016 Virtual Symposium, AH-sponsored webinars including *Technology and Publishing: The Work of Scholarship in the Age of its Digital Reproducibility* by Martin Paul Eve, and recent Annual Meeting Panels including our co-sponsored session with SIGs VIS and DL in Copenhagen.

As important: SIG AH has a full set of Officers for the 2016-17 year.

You've probably noticed new membership emails and increased listserv activity alongside our growing social media presence. This is the "public face" to the event and communications planning that is taking place behind the scenes. The new Officers (elected in October 2016) have contributed their time and creative energy towards continuing to grow SIG AH and engage with the ASIS&T community about topics of importance to our Special Interest Group. Be on the lookout for more communications in the coming months.

Our first Newsletter in 2017 (we hope to publish at least two more this year) includes content from our Officers and an update about the 2017 Virtual Symposium and Student Research Award. As always, SIG AH events are free to attend and we would love to give away some money to students again this year (up to $1,000 in individual awards).

Membership

2013: 92

2014: 121

2015: 147

2016: 159

2017: 182

Please help us promote the Virtual Symposium and the Student Awards, and plan to join us on April 18 or 19.

If you ever have any suggestions for an event or webinar, if you would like to contribute content to an upcoming Newsletter, or if you would like to share feedback, please feel free to get in touch with SIG AH at ASIST.SIGAH@gmail.com.

We look forward to working with all of you in the new year!

2017 Virtual Symposium on
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY
in the ARTS & HUMANITIES

#VisitAH

The theme for the 2017 Symposium is The Information and the Technology of Open Science in the Humanities. Digital technology has had a profound impact on scientific and scholarly communication. This includes fundamental changes to how individuals and groups find information, carry out collaborative projects, and publish, assess, and preserve growing amounts of content. In the sciences, the idea of open research processes and dissemination is inherent in changing research practices; but how are the concepts related to Open Science applied to research in, and about, disciplines in the Humanities?

We are delighted to have the following confirmed speakers at the 2017 Virtual Symposium:

Miriam Posner: Research data
UCLA

Bjorn Hammerfelt: Research metrics
The University of Borås

Michael Black: Web scraping
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Kate Hayes: Open Symphony
Independent Musician

Alexander Monea: Speculative code theory
George Mason University

Jamie Thomas: Zombie discourse analysis
Swarthmore College

Joan Beaudoin: Information retrieval in art history
Wayne State University

David Bourget: Philosophy, PhilPapers
University of Western Ontario

Joe Locke & Ben Wright: The American Yawp
University of Houston-Victoria & University of Texas at Dallas

Additional details about the speakers, and the agenda, will be available on the 2017 Virtual Symposium website: http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/2016/10/23/2017-symposium/.

Please RSVP (not required) at http://bit.ly/RSVP17Symp.

Digital Humanities Update

Julie Carmen

The Digital Humanities is rapidly gaining favor due to the funding opportunities which have grown over the past few years. Every day, I read about a new digital archive or project joining the open access ranks, spurred by the growing understanding of what primary sources are and their developing use for improved research. Societies are realizing the need to keep our history correct and better understood, thus, they are searching for support to preserve their special collections and make them more accessible to the world. In addition, the Digital Humanities have created more opportunities for mashable art and creative outlets.

Because of the ability to curate images from medieval manuscripts, I am able to create fiber renditions of painted drawings from a 13th century manuscript. Because I do not possess the talent for drawing, I have used digital images, printed them on iron-on-transfer-paper, and ironed the enlarged images onto fabric. This process gives me a clear copy of what the artist recorded from this time period, and has provided me with endless hours of pleasure in filling the images with Laidwork. Laidwork is the embroidery stitch used in the Bayeux Tapestry. The images are further attached to a medieval screen, to better display them.

Detail from Las Cantigas de Santa Maria

See Julie's work at her blog:
New Medieval Art

On April 28, 2016, I gave a virtual presentation about this project, at the Inertia Conference at UCLA-Los Angeles. I taught the audience how the idea came to mind, and how Digital Humanities made it all possible. The images come from Las Cantigas de Santa Maria, and the images are from the E Codex, where an image would be embedded within the beginning of every tenth cantiga, or song. I am hopeful that more artisans will consider creating new artistic mediums from images found in ancient or medieval texts. The experience of seeing these drawings in fiber art, in addition to being enlarged enough to see the detail the artists recorded, is compelling. With apps such as Pinterest, there are hundreds if not thousands of digital images from old texts, which can be used as templates to create new art based on historic art.

More from *Las Cantigas de Santa Maria*

Still want more digital humanities?

Poole, A. H. (2017). The conceptual ecology of digital humanities. *Journal of Documentation, 73*(1), 91–122.

Document Academy Annual Meeting

Tim Gorichanaz

Save the date!

The 14th annual meeting of the Document Academy will convene September 29–30 at the University of Indiana in Bloomington. The Document Academy is an interdisciplinary, global research collective that celebrates documentation and documents of all kinds.

This venue is very synergistic with the aims of SIG-AH. Indeed, the Document Academy was founded in 2003 explicitly to bridge the arts and humanities with the technical sciences. It welcomes traditional, experimental and boundary-spanning works from all scholars, artists, professionals, practitioners, etc., who are interested in documents. You can learn more about the Document Academy at http://documentacademy.org.

This year's conference theme will be Documentation: Informatics, Information Science, Library Science, and Museum Studies. These fields of study have grown up from each other, diverged and reconverged over the last century, and we would like to take this chance to reflect on the labels we use for our work, how we work with researchers in other fields, and how all this responds to unfolding developments in society.

The formal Call for Participation will be available in the spring. Full papers will be published open-access in the Proceedings from the Document Academy. You can see the proceedings from last year's meeting, at the University of North Texas, at http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/docam/vol3/iss2/.

Still Want More?

2017 Student Research Awards

SIG AH and SIG VIS are seeking previously unpublished research for a Master's and a PhD Student Research Award. The theme, Open Science in the Humanities, invites participation from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives on the topic. We encourage graduate-level submissions from a broad range of disciplines including the arts and humanities, digital humanities/new media, library and information science, and computer science.

Finalists will be invited to introduce their research presentation at the 2017 Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities (April 18 and 19, 2017) and winners will receive a Student Research Award and cash prize up to $500.

Complete details, including eligibility and submission requirements, can be found on the [2017 Student Research Awards page](#).

New York Met Adds CC0 to over 375,000 digital images

As of February 7th, 2017, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has granted a Creative Commons CC0 license to all its public domain images. The CC0 license allows anyone to freely use, re-use, and remix a work without restriction. The beta of the new CC Search can be used to browse the Met's collection.

[Read more about the Met](#).

The Medieval Kingdom of Sicily Image Database

Explore [this amazing database](#) of historic images depicting the Kingdom of Sicily, c. 1100-1450. This project, run out of Duke University, holds a vast array of paintings, engravings, photographs, and more, from the late-sixteenth through mid-twentieth centuries.