

Digital Humanities Clinics – leading Dutch librarians into DH



IFLA Satellite meeting 2017 – 16 August 2017
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Idea

- Interest in DH in academic libraries in the Netherlands
 - KB, National Library of the Netherlands – Lotte Wilms
 - University Library Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – Michiel Cock
 - Leiden University Libraries – Ben Companjen
- All working on an internal training programme
- Why not join forces?
- Supported by UKB, organisation of academic libraries in NL

Inspiration

- Library Carpentry: <https://librarycarpentry.github.io/>
 - “Library Carpentry introduces you to the fundamentals of computing and provides you with a platform for further self-directed learning.”
- Programming Historian: <http://programminghistorian.org/>
 - “The Programming Historian offers novice-friendly, peer-reviewed tutorials that help humanists learn a wide range of digital tools, techniques, and workflows to facilitate their research.”
- Digital Scholarship Training Programme of the BL:
<http://dh2016.adho.org/abstracts/178>

Ambitions

Create a programme that gives librarians:

- a stepping stone into DH
- from where they can self-educate to support researchers
- and/or (semi-)automate work

Goals

1. Teach academic librarians about the basics of digital humanities
 - Introductory lectures
 - Practical workshops
2. Strengthen relationship between libraries and academic community
3. Build a knowledge network of Dutch librarians working in DH
 - University libraries
 - Archives
 - Museums
 - Research institutes

Where to start?

- What does it mean to be a DH librarian?
 - Desk research
- Brainstorm to get list of topics to teach
 - Concepts (i.e. computational thinking)
 - Software (i.e. MALLET)
 - Methods (i.e. topic modelling)
- Get feedback on list from research community
 - THATCamp Amsterdam

→ Teach methods, not software

Organisation

- Organise topics according to [TaDiRah Taxonomy](#)
- Five topics selected:
 - Capture
 - Creation
 - Enrichment
 - Analysis
 - Text
 - Nontext

Setup

- Five full-day training days
 - Morning: 2 lectures
 - Afternoon: practical workshop
- Lectures for 40-50 people
- Workshops for 20-30 people
- Training days three weeks apart
 - 5 September – 7 November 2017
- Organised in a central location

What do librarians want?

- Get feedback from library community
- Feedback form via Google Docs
 - Short introduction to the programme
 - Per day a choice of 3 workshops
 - General questions
- 40 responses from 14 institutions

Lecturers

- Profile for each lecture
 - “ Is (or was) responsible for a large digitisation project and can share knowledge on processes, copyright, techniques and data formats. Added bonus would be if the person also has experience with digitisation of audio, video and objects”
- Input from CLARIAH (Dutch combination of CLARIN & DARIAH)
- Lecturers who already teach the topic to limit preparation needed
- Experts in their field
- Geographical spread
- Gender balance

Workshops

- Where possible – use existing workshops
 - Library Carpentry
 - Programming historian
- Specific Dutch subjects:
 - Delpher
 - AVResearcher

Full programme - 1

Day 1:

- Digitisation & Databases
- Workshop: SQL for Librarians

Day 2:

- Computational thinking & Code, tool and data criticism
- Workshop: Introduction to programming with Python

Full programme - 2

Day 3:

- Natural language processing and named entity recognition & linked data
- Workshop: Cleaning (NER) data

Day 4:

- Text analysis with historical sources & text analysis with born digital sources
- Workshop: Network analysis

Full programme - 3

Day 5:

- Working with audiovisual material & GIS
- Workshop: Computer vision

Practical side of things

- GitHub Pages
 - General information
 - Teaching materials
 - Building network (Gitter)
- Enrollment via Eventbrite
- Max. 2 people per organisation in workshops
- Day sponsors to cover catering and travel costs & gifts for speakers

Lessons learned

- Decide your scope
- Community involvement is easy!
- Free up time to work
- Keep talking to your community
- Try to be thorough, but do keep the speed
- Don't be too quick
- Don't be afraid to postpone

Future

- Registration open
- Improve while we work – continuous feedback from participants
- If successful, DH Project day after completion of programme
 - Formulate research question
 - Get source material
 - Clean data
 - Analyse data
 - Answer questions
 - Share results

Questions/suggestions?

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