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# DARIAH-BE: Sharing experiences and lessons learned

## Establishing a network of DH Research Centres in Belgium

Digital Humanities is thriving in Belgium. DARIAH-BE's aim is to offer a sustainable portfolio of services enabling digital scholarship in the arts and humanities. To realise this DARIAH partner institutions are encouraged to establish **Digital Humanities Research Centres** which together form a humanities-specific digital ecosystem, offering services both within their own institutions and to other institutions in Belgium and beyond.



### Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities

Founded in **2012**, the **Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities (GhentCDH)** is an interdisciplinary research centre facilitating digitally-enabled research in the Arts and Humanities at Ghent University and beyond.

The GhentCDH offers **advice and guidance** throughout the research project lifecycle where digital tools, methods or collections are used with a specific focus on **collaborative databases, digital text analysis and geospatial analysis**.

For the **research data management and training** we work closely with the **Library Lab of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy Library**.

Website: <http://www.ghentcdh.ugent.be>

### What is DARIAH-BE?

DARIAH-BE is represented by three consortia: the research groups and universities of DARIAH-Flanders (**DARIAH-VL**) and DARIAH-Federation Wallonia-Brussels (**DARIAH-FWB**), together with the Belgian Federal Scientific Institutions, e.g. Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage, Royal Library and States Archives of Belgium (**DARIAH-FED**).

The key objectives of DARIAH-BE are to identify and join-up existing digital humanities activities across Belgium, in order to create a sustainable network of digital humanities researchers that operates within a larger European network. DARIAH-BE will develop and offer a flexible and standards-based service platform consisting of modules and applications for collaborative research, analysis and publishing.

Website: <http://be.dariah.eu/>

### University of Antwerp's Platform for Digital Humanities

The University of Antwerp's **Platform for Digital Humanities (platform{DH})**, founded in **2010**, aims to group together the University's Digital Humanities research by building a community of practitioners and by aggregating and disseminating individual projects that are conducted in the field. At the University, it is responsible for the Digital Humanities **bachelor course**, and for organising both a yearly **Spring (or Summer) Academy** and a **Lecture Series** in DH. The FWO Scientific Research Community **Digital Humanities Flanders (DHu.F)** is also coordinated by the platform.

Website: <http://uahost.uantwerpen.be/platformdh/>

### Top 5 tips

1. The best DH teams are a mix of experts including (digital) humanities researchers, librarians, IT-staff and research coordinators
2. Ensure the high-visibility of the DH Centre's (training) activities, using a wide-range of digital (e.g. websites, Twitter and email lists) and analogue channels (e.g. posters, postcards, stickers)
3. Foster digital humanities community both *within* and *beyond* your institution through joint activities (e.g. project proposals and co-publications)
4. Ensure the strategic positioning of the DH Centre within the institution (e.g. establish a formal Research Group, Task Force, Institute or Centre)
5. Collaborate and interconnect with other DH centres through initiatives such as DARIAH.

### Leuven Centre for Digital Humanities

The yet to be founded **Leuven Centre for Digital Humanities (LCDH)** will serve as a new hub for DH researchers at KU Leuven, alongside the current **Task Force Digital Humanities**.

From 2017 onwards, the LCDH will encourage DH researchers to work more closely together, for example, on collaborative project applications. The LCDH will support the **sharing of knowledge and digital tools** and will work closely with the **ARTES library** co-organising DH workshops, lectures, summers schools and conferences as well as developing a **long-term preservation strategy** for research data from DH projects at KU Leuven.

Website: <https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/digitalhumanities>

### Centre Informatique de Philosophie et Lettres

The **Centre Informatique de Philosophie et Lettres (CIPL, Université de Liège)**, founded in **1983**, has three main missions :

- firstly, providing **technical support** for the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters;
- secondly, developing databases and software for **research purposes**;
- thirdly, **teaching** (introduction to) digital humanities to bachelor and master students in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

Currently the centre is increasing its visibility and is strengthening connections with the **Liège Game Lab (virtual reality)** and the **IFRES (Institut de Formation et de Recherche en Enseignement supérieur)** to explore questions of teaching in the digital age, especially through the development of **MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**.

Website: <http://web.philo.ulg.ac.be/cipl/>

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Sharing digital arts and humanities knowledge

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