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DIGHUMLAB one-day conference

Tuesday 7 November 2017, 11:00 – 18:00

University of Copenhagen, Amager, Building 22, Auditorium 22.0.11

DIGHUMLAB invites to a one-day conference, where we will put the digital research within the humanities and the social sciences into perspective. The conference will feature two keynote speakers, presentations of research results obtained by using the DIGHUMLAB infrastructure, and a poster session with presentations of the present research activities within the infrastructure as well as presentations of new perspectives from the Special Interest Groups initiated by DIGHUMLAB.

Programme

10:30 Registration and Coffee

11:00 Opening by Johnny Laursen, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University

11:10 Keynote: 'Culture Analytics: Challenges for Multi-Scale Study'
by Timothy R. Tangherlini, Professor, UCLA, University of California

Abstract: The emerging field of culture analytics examines cultures and cultural production by aligning data-driven analysis and mathematical models with the qualitative theories of cultural production, dissemination, and interpretation from disciplines across the Humanities. The large-scale digitization of libraries, archives, and museum collections coupled with the capture of born-digital activities of billions of people has produced vast corpora of cultural data that can provide significant insight into the dynamics of cultures through time and across space. Clifford Geertz suggests that, "The culture of a people is an ensemble of texts, themselves ensembles, which the anthropologist strains to read over the shoulders of those to whom they properly belong". We now have the potential to do such reading across scales - from the individual (micro) and group (meso) scales to the planetary (macro) scale. In this presentation, I present a series of projects that we have developed for our work in various domains, including folklore, literature, and social media. The goal of these engagements is to understand how working across scales can provide insight into the complex dynamics of cultural production and circulation.

12:00 Introducing DIGHUMLAB by Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard, Project Manager, DIGHUMLAB

12:15 Presentations: Research resulting from the use of DIGHUMLAB

- Theme 3, VILA: 'Interaction and Design Studies: Infrastructures for Big Video' by Thomas Ryberg, Professor, and Jacob Davidsen, Assistant Professor, Aalborg University
- Theme 3, Mobile Labs: 'Interaction Studies: The Digital Days 2017' by Bill Davey, Associate Professor, UCN Aalborg

12:45 Lunch

13:30 Presentations: Research resulting from the use of DIGHUMLAB

- Theme 1: 'Research Results based on the CLARIN Infrastructure' by Bente Maegaard, Senior Executive Adviser, University of Copenhagen
- Theme 2a: 'Results from exploring the archived web' by Niels Brügger, Professor with Special Responsibilities, Aarhus University
- Theme 2b: 'Rewriting Danish Music History via LARM.fm' by Henrik Smith Sivertsen, Research Librarian, PhD, Royal Danish Library

14:45 Poster Slam

15:00 Coffee

15:15 Demonstrations and posters – from the DIGHUMLAB communities and the SIGs

16:00 Keynote: 'Storing Stuff, Structuring Stories. The power of digital archives in contemporary historiography' by Helle Strandgaard Jensen, Associate Professor, Department of History and Classical Studies, Aarhus University

Abstract: Understanding how archives work has always been key to the historical profession. For centuries, historians have worked on refining their knowledge about archives and developed complex guides about their creation, content, and use. Even the most rebellious post-structural deconstructivists, who vigorously criticize the priorities of traditional archives, see knowledge about their structures as central to challenging their power. But what about digital archives? How relevant is knowledge of traditional archives in the digital age? And what use might we make of it in the broader context of digital humanities? In my talk, I explore the power exercised by digital archives in contemporary historiography. I argue that the creation, use, and content of digital archives are profoundly different from the analogue, but the critical skills used to decode the power of analogue archives are as valuable as ever. I pose two questions: Whether the production of digital archives will lead to a re-canonization of historical research, and if specific digital structures suppress particular historiographical traditions. In considering these questions, I

demonstrate how the critical skills that historians have obtained in order to understand the power of analogue archives are vital, if we want to unearth the power that their digital counterparts exert in shaping our understanding of the past, present, and future.

16:50 Closing by Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard, Project Manager, DIGHUMLAB

17:00 Informal networking over a glass of wine

DIGHUMLAB is a digital ecosystem supporting research and competence building within the humanities and social sciences in Denmark. It offers access to a range of tools and supporting activities organized in communities. DIGHUMLAB is the Danish representative in the two European ERICs: CLARIN and DARIAH. Presently the communities represented in DIGHUMLAB are: CLARIN-DK, NetLab, LARM, VILA and Mobile Labs.

Bio of keynote speakers:

Timothy R. Tangherlini is Professor at UCLA, University of California. He holds a joint appointment in the Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures and the Scandinavian Section. A folklorist and ethnographer by training, he is the author of *Danish Folktales, Legends and Other Stories*, and has also published widely in academic journals, including *The Journal of American Folklore*, *Western Folklore*, *Journal of Folklore Research*, *Folklore*, *Scandinavian Studies*, *Danske Studier*, *PlosOne*, *Computer and Communications of the Association for Computing Machines*. He has produced three documentary films and acted as consultant on documentaries and films for Disney Animation, National Geographic Television, National Geographic Specials and PBS. He recently directed a semester long program on Culture Analytics at NSF's Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics. His current work focuses on computational approaches to problems in the study of literature and culture. He is the president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and a Fellow of the American Folklore Society. His research has been funded by the NEH, the NSF, the NIH, the Mellon Foundation, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Korea Foundation, the American Scandinavian Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and Google.

Helle Strandgaard Jensen is Associate Professor in contemporary cultural history at Aarhus University. Her research focuses on contemporary media and childhood history in Scandinavia, Western Europe, and the US after 1945. She combines historical methods with theoretical approaches from cultural studies and media

studies. One part of her research investigates how uses of digital media – in particular digital archives, sources, and research tools – influence the discipline of history. The other is concerned with media productions as historical objects. Jensen received her PhD from the European University Institute in 2013. She has previously been employed as assistant professor in film and media studies at University of Copenhagen and held a number of visiting fellowships in the US and UK. She is the author of *Superman to Social Realism: Children’s media and Scandinavian childhood* (2017) as well as many articles and book chapters on childhood history, children’s media culture, and digital archives’ impact on historiography.

