



Roundtable Discussion

Curricular development to support and nurture scholars in the digital humanities

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Welcome!



Objectives

- Purpose: Explore the topic of curriculum development in digital humanities (DH) for scholars in a roundtable discussion
- Goal: Exchange ideas and perspectives, promote collaborative problem-solving and share knowledge among participants
- Desired outcomes: Input for design of digital humanities courses for NWU scholars and students

Format of roundtable discussion

Emphasis on *dialogue* and *inclusion* - no head of the table!

- Participation: Everyone has a voice
- Mutual Understanding: Aim is to confront issues rather than people
- Inclusive Solutions: Seek outcomes that integrate multiple needs
- Focused Topic: Discussions on our topic to foster in-depth exploration



Ground Rules

- Time for discussion: 40 minutes
- Notekeeper: Volunteer?
- Please set your phone to silent and leave it in your pocket/bag
- Any additions?



Introductions and relation to DH

- **What is your primary subject of teaching and research?**
- **And how do you see DH (or more generally digital skills and methods) in relation to that subject?**

Curriculum content

- **What knowledge / methods / abilities are most critical to support a digital approach in teaching in your experience?**
- **Can you name a few examples?**

Teaching (with) digital skills

- **What are fun or easy ways to integrate digital tools and knowledge into your teaching?**

Support for scholars

- **What do you as a scholar need to work more digitally?**

DH now and in the future

- **How do you see DH being used currently in your field and/or in teaching?**
- **And how would you like to see it used in the future?**

DH now and in the future

- **Why should we care about digital skills and digital humanities?**

Summary of key points

- **What is one insight you are leaving with that you did not have before?**

And now? Next steps

- Me: Ideas and outcomes will be shared with relevant stakeholders
- NWU DH centre: Development of short DH courses to support scholars
- (All of) You: Engage with DH and stay in touch with new connections
- Want to get involved with DH @ NWU? Contact Janelize Morelli
<Janelize.Morelli@nwu.ac.za>

Thank you for your participation!



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- **Develop Questions:** Create a list of open-ended, thought-provoking questions to guide the discussion and ensure the topic is explored thoroughly
- Core Curriculum Components
- Pedagogical Approaches
- Supporting Scholars

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Core Curriculum Components

- **Computational Methods:**
 - Teach practical skills in data analysis, visualization, machine learning, database management, and programming languages like Python or R to support digital research.
- **Digital Storytelling & Representation:**
 - Focus on creating and interpreting digital artifacts, including web-based exhibits, interactive narratives, and multimedia projects.
- **Critical Digital Literacy:**
 - Develop the ability to critically analyze the digital landscape, including issues of data privacy, algorithmic bias, intellectual property, and the ethics of digital scholarship.
- **Digital Project Management:**
 - Provide training in planning, executing, and managing digital projects from conception to completion, emphasizing sustainability and long-term preservation.
- **Humanities Theory in Digital Contexts:**
 - Connect traditional humanistic inquiry with digital methods, exploring how digital tools transform research questions, methodologies, and forms of knowledge.

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Pedagogical Approaches

- **Project-Based Learning:**
 - Emphasize hands-on experience through collaborative digital projects that allow scholars/students to apply new skills in authentic research contexts.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:**
 - Design learning experiences that foster collaboration between humanists and computer scientists, creating opportunities for cross-disciplinary skill development.
- **Mentorship & Community Building:**
 - Establish mentorship programs and create communities where scholars can share knowledge, receive feedback, and learn from experienced practitioners.
- **Engagement with Digital Tools & Platforms:**
 - Utilize a range of digital tools and platforms for research, creation, and community building to provide practical exposure.

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Supporting Scholars

- **Career Development:**
 - Integrate training for diverse career paths, including academic positions, research roles in industry, and non-profit sectors.
- **Ethical Considerations:**
 - Embed discussions of digital ethics, data governance, and responsible digital creation throughout the curriculum.
- **Community and Network Building:**
 - Encourage participation in digital communities, conferences, and open-source projects to expand scholars' networks and learning opportunities.