

European survey on scholarly practices and digital needs in the arts and humanities



Survey highlights

Digital Methods and Practices Observatory Working Group (DiMPO)
DARIAH-EU European Research Infrastructure Consortium

October 2016

<http://bit.ly/scholarlypractices>

2,177 respondents across Europe, using digital resources, methods and tools

10 languages

6 national profiles

Austria

Greece

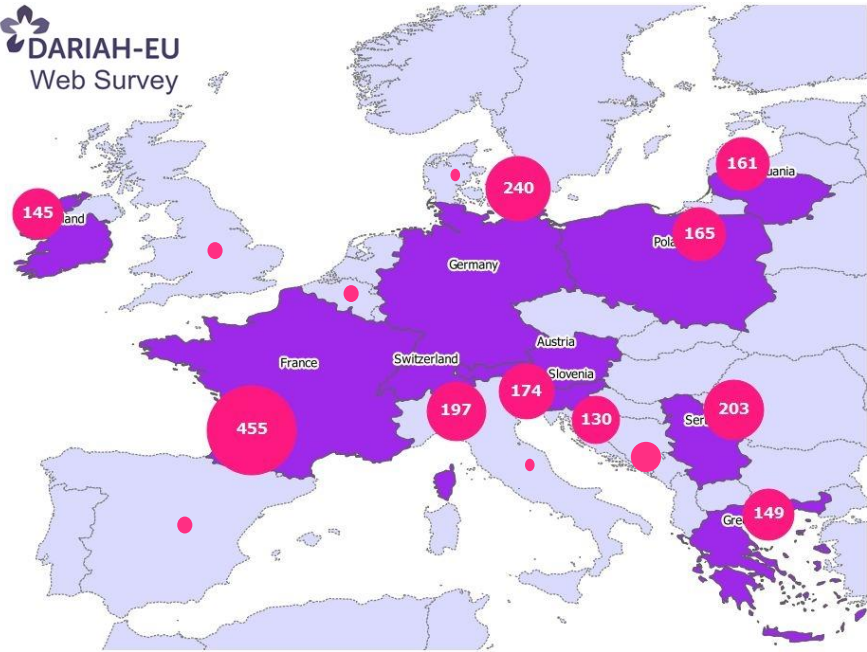
Lithuania

Poland

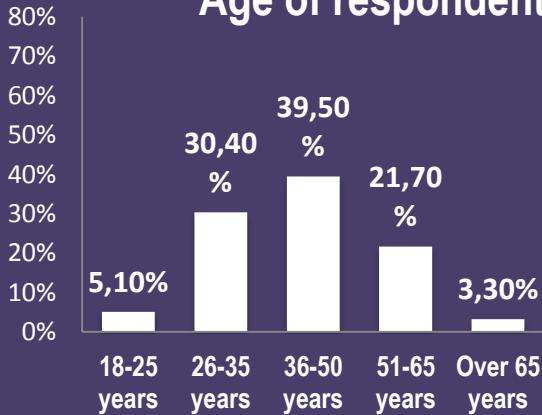
Serbia

Switzerland

DARIAH-EU
Web Survey



Age of respondents



Age of respondents. N=2169

Years in research

49,9% - more than 10 years

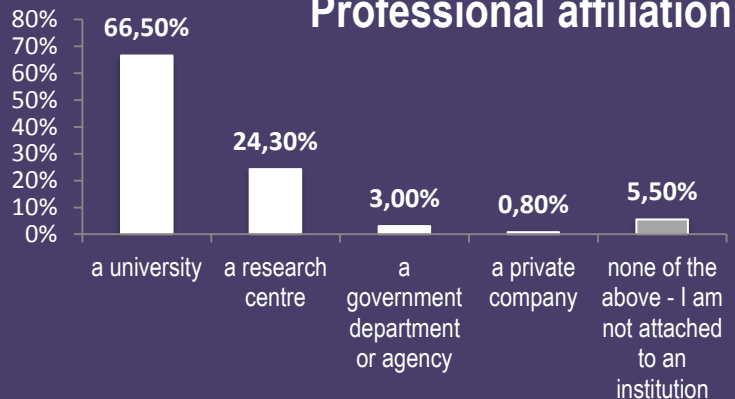
29% - 3-10 years

16,2% - 1-3 years

4,6% - less than 1 year

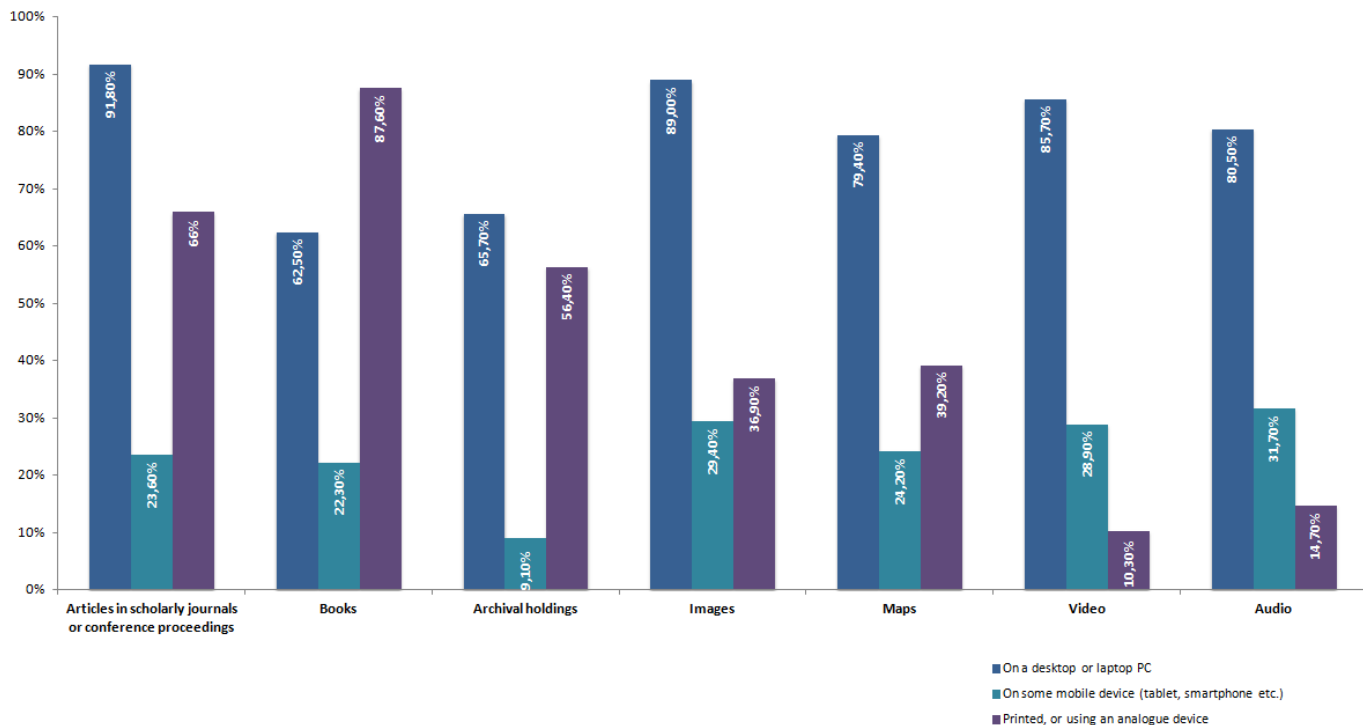


Professional affiliation



Professional affiliation. N=2018

Digital humanists access research materials both on digital devices and in analogue form



Use of desktop/laptop PC, mobile devices, and print or analogue devices to consult research material. N= 2177

Most respondents consult research resources **on a desktop or laptop PC**, more often than in printed or analogue format

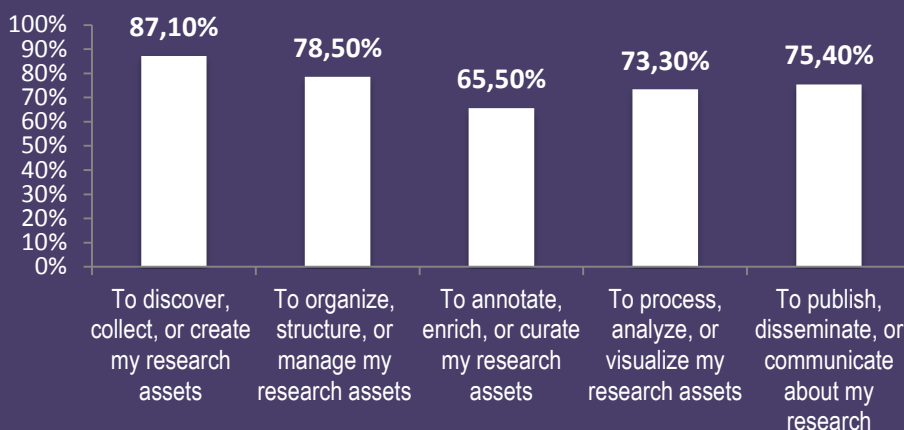
...with the exception of **books and archival items**



More than two out of five digital humanists use a mobile device to consult most kinds of research resources

Except for books, digital humanists access research resources more often in digital than in analogue form. Ranked in order of frequency, digital devices such as PCs and laptops are most often used to access scholarly articles, images, video, audio, maps, and less often archival holdings and books. But nine out of ten digital humanists read books in print (compared to three out of five online), while more than half also access articles and archival holdings in analogue form. In tandem, three out of five respondents use a mobile device, such as a tablet, to consult images, video and audio resources while two out of five for research articles, books or maps.

Digital humanists use digital methods or tools across the research lifecycle



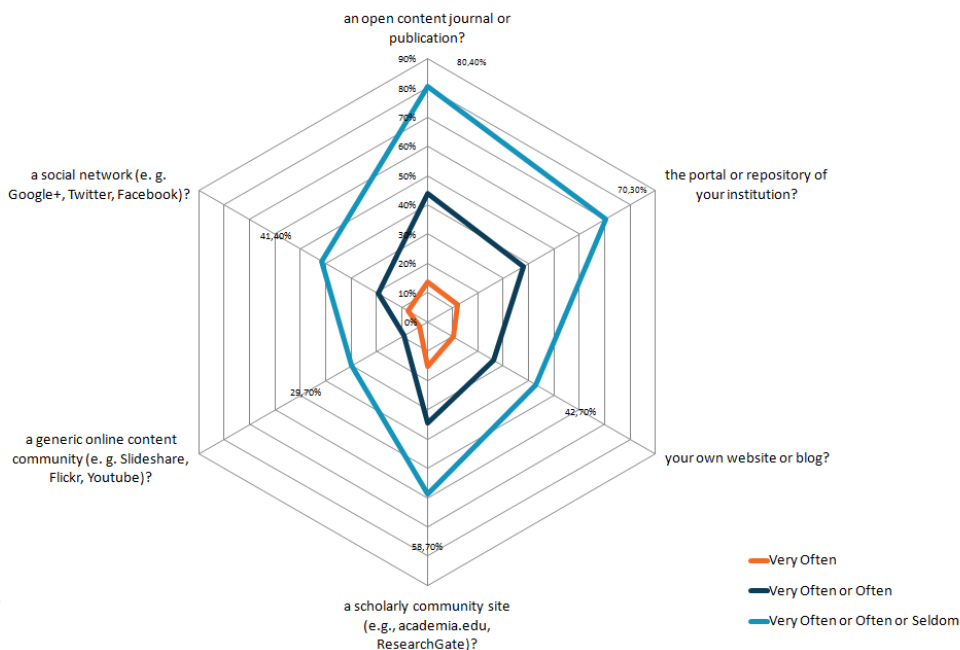
Purpose of use of digital methods or tools. N=2176

Respondents reported using digital methods or tools to support all phases of the research lifecycle, from discovery to publication. However, while most respondents use them to discover, collect or create research assets, a smaller percentage reports using them for other purposes. Only about two out of three respondents reported use of digital methods or tools to annotate, enrich, or curate research assets.

Almost half of digital humanists use regularly a 'tetrad' of digital scholarly dissemination channels

Between 10-15% of respondents reported very frequent use of **open access journals** or publications, **institutional portals and repositories**, **personal blogs or websites**, and **scholarly communities** such as Academia and ResearchGate, to disseminate their work. A larger percentage, between 35-45%, use this 'tetrad' of dissemination channels regularly. On the other hand, eight out of ten state that they have used open content journals or publication, albeit seldom.

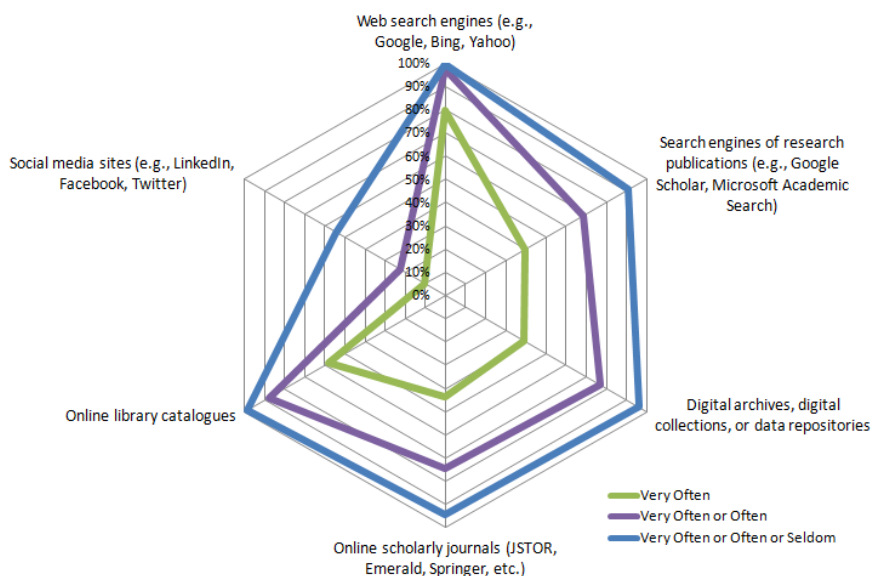
In addition, two out of ten respondents say they use regularly social media networks to disseminate their research. Less than one out of ten state that they use regularly generic online content services, such as Slideshare, Flickr or Youtube.



Means of dissemination of scholarly work. N=2132

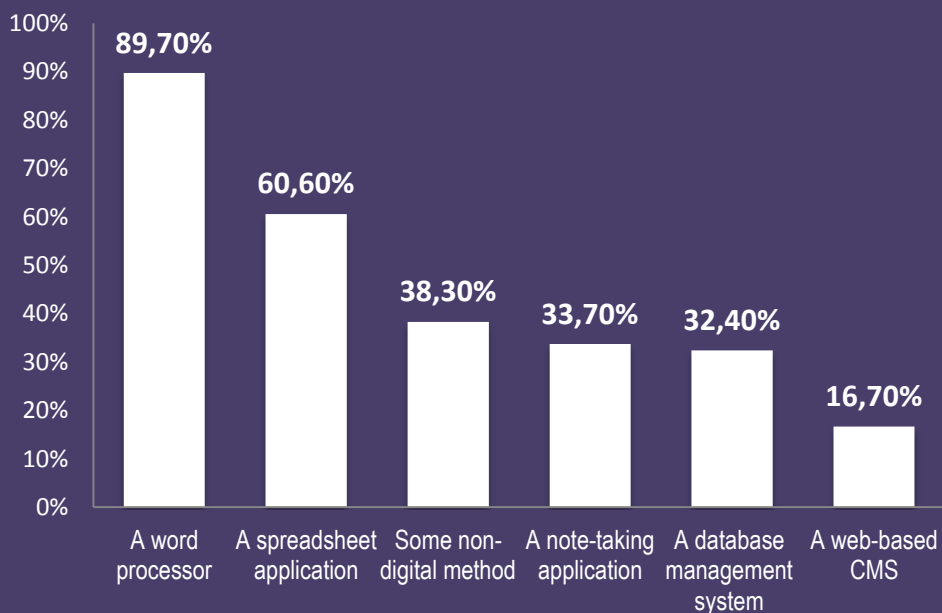
Online library catalogues, digital collections and data repositories, and online journals are frequently consulted

When working online, almost all respondents use web search very frequently to find research assets. Nine out of ten reported frequent use of online library catalogues, and slightly less of digital archives, collections or repositories, and online journals. Only seven out of ten use academic search engines (such as Google Scholar) regularly. More than two out of five respondents say they use all these methods very frequently. On the other hand, frequent use of social media networks for resource discovery is reported by only one out of seven respondents.



Frequency of use of services. N= 1452

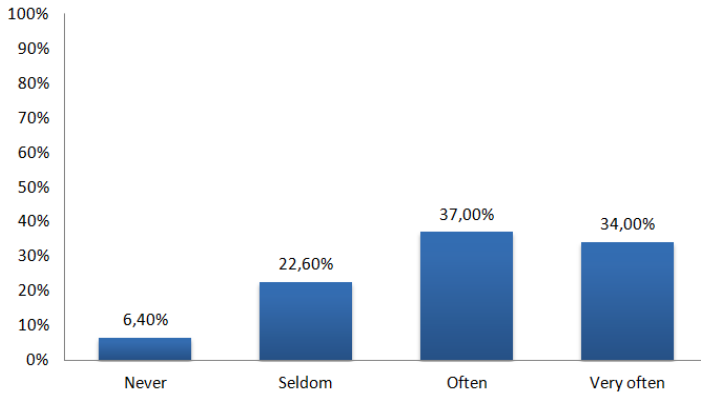
Word processors and spreadsheets are the most common applications used to store and manage research assets



For storage and management of research assets, nine out of ten respondents reported using a word processor. Three out of five respondents stated they use spreadsheets, while about one third said they use database management systems, or note-taking and bibliographic citation management applications. Only one out of seven presently use web-based content management systems (CMS) to store and manage research assets.

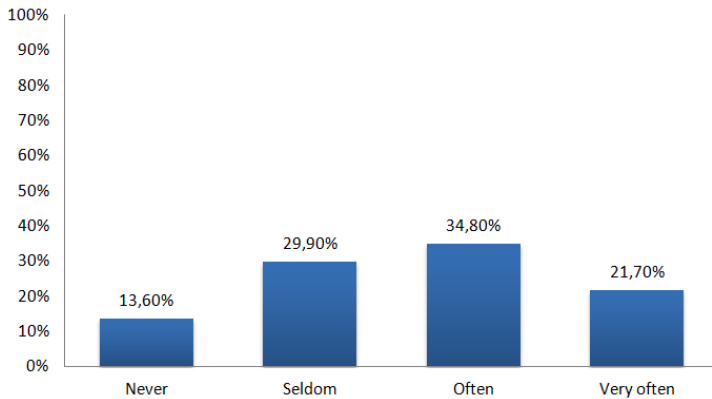
Use of applications to store and manage research assets. N= 2176

I collaborate with others on a research project



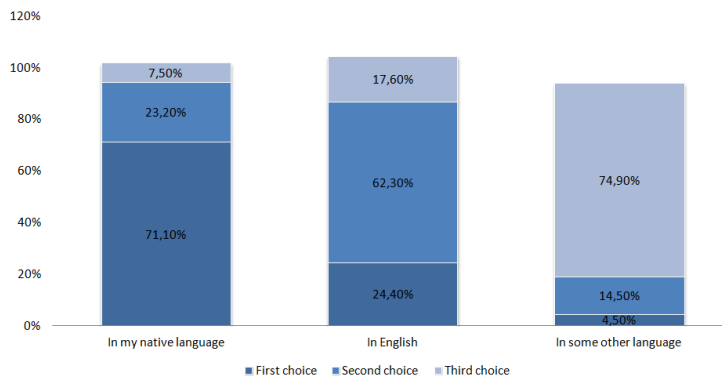
Frequency of collaborating with others on a research project. N= 2135

I access primary sources outside my country of residence



Frequency of accessing primary sources outside one's country of residence. N= 2136

In which language do you primarily publish?



Publishing language. N= 1773

Digital humanities researchers engage regularly in collaborative research

One out of three respondents indicate that they collaborate very often with others on a research project. Altogether, seven out of ten say that they engage often or very often in research collaboration. Only a very small fraction – less than one out of fifteen – state that they never collaborate in research.

The majority often use primary sources from abroad, but native tongue persists as the primary language of publication

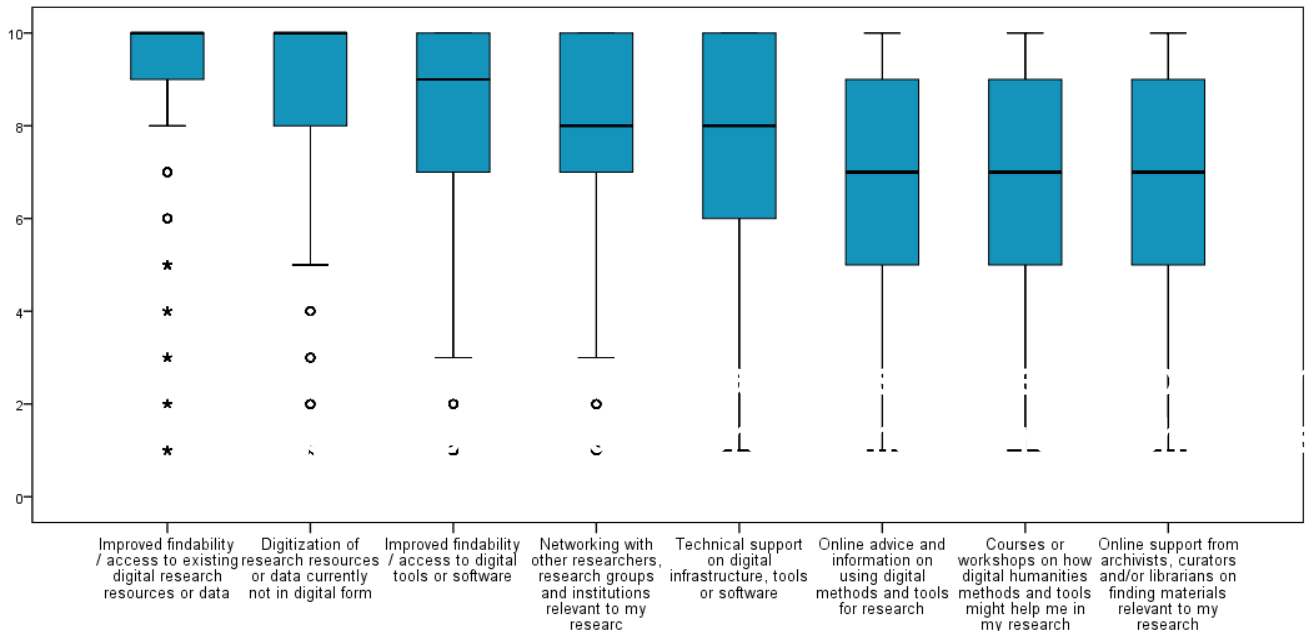
One out of five respondents access primary sources outside of their country of residence very often, and more than half do so often. Only one in seven never uses primary sources from outside their country.

On the other hand, when asked to rank the languages which they use for scholarly publication, seven out of ten digital humanists identify their native language as their primary language of publication, while only one quarter identify English as the primary language. Nevertheless, the great majority – four out of five – do include English as a second publication language. In addition, almost one out of five suggest that they use another language for scholarly publication, as one of their first two choices. A additional three quarters of respondents, bringing the total to nine out of ten, state that they publish in another language beside their own and English as a third choice.

Improved findability of digital resources and digitization of non-digital ones are most highly valued

Asked to rate the importance of different needs in a scale from 1 to 10, three quarters of digital humanists rated **improved findability and access to existing digital research resources** or data as the most important, with a score exceeding 9.5 out of 10. A slightly lower score of 9 was granted to **digitization of research resources or data currently not in digital form** by three out of four respondents. Two other needs, **improved findability and access to digital tools or software**, and **networking with other researchers, research groups and institutions**,

share third place with a score exceeding 7 by more than three out of four respondents. Other functions, such as **technical support** on digital infrastructures, tools or software, **online advice and information on using digital methods** and tools for research, **courses or workshops** on how digital humanities methods and tools provide help in the course of the research, and **online support from archivists, curators and/or librarians** are also valued, but with a lower score.



Importance of digital infrastructure affordances. N= 2077

The full report and publications

A multi-authored report presenting the descriptive findings of the 2015 survey, as well as a journal paper, is compiled by members of the Digital Methods and Practices Working Group (DiMPO). The report, and further publications, present the consolidated and comparative findings of the survey, as well as selective country profiles. In addition, contributors from particular countries author publications on findings related to their country, and also in their national language. Hashtags: #DARIAH #DiMPO #ScholarlyPractices

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Digital Methods and Practices Observatory Working Group (DiMPO)

The **DARIAH Digital Methods and Practices Observatory WG (DiMPO)** aims to develop and provide an evidence-based, up-to-date, and pragmatically useful account of the emerging information practices, needs and attitudes of arts and humanities researchers in the evolving European digital scholarly environment, for the benefit of the digital humanities research community. It seeks to achieve this objective through the inception of a longitudinal mixed methods research and monitoring programme on the information practices and scholarly methods employed in digitally-enabled arts and humanities work across Europe, and through the digital dissemination, validation and enrichment of research outcomes by the scholarly community. For further information or to join please contact the WG chair, Prof. Costis Dallas (c.dallas@dcu.gr).

Scholarly practices survey: scope, objectives and plans

The **European survey on scholarly practices and digital needs in the arts and humanities** is the outcome of collaborative work of European researchers from different countries, working within the DiMPO Working Group. It has been designed as a multiregional longitudinal survey, to be conducted online across European countries and to be repeated every few years. Its aim is to provide an evidence-based outlook of scholarly practices, needs and attitudes of European humanities researchers towards digital resources, methods and tools across space and time. Results of the first run of the survey (completed in March 2015) are presented in a multi-authored report, which includes comparative and consolidated analyses, as well as six country profiles. A new run is planned for 2017-18. For more information, see bit.ly/scholarlypractices.

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