



# Academic Research Survey

**Project Title:** A global review of the conceptual priorities and perspectives behind digital humanities research groups.

## Research Framework

This study is interested in understanding how digital humanities research groups (including laboratories, centres, departments, and clusters) are guided by the many challenges facing modern societies. It does this by utilising three separately communicated research priorities lists, each coming from reputable and relevant organisations, as a scaffold for our own survey's questions (to remove our own bias). These organisations are UKRI (UK Research and Innovation), to deliver a national perspective which focuses on specific digital related issues; the EU's Horizon Europe, to provide a regional perspective with a broader focus; and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, to emphasise international priorities through recognised Global Challenges.

Your digital humanities group was identified as ideally placed to participate in this study following an analysis of the World University Research Rankings (WURR) that identified the highest ranked research universities, from which a list of those high-ranking universities with a notable capacity in the digital humanities was assembled.

By completing and returning this survey, you give consent to the use of data as described in the participant information sheet.

## The Sussex Humanities Lab (SHL)

The Sussex Humanities Laboratory (SHL) is located within the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. The SHL was originally established in 2015 as an infrastructure for strengthening the connections between researchers working on digital technology and computational culture across the humanities, social sciences, and STEM.

The SHL holds a diverse portfolio of digital-technology related research projects, with outputs including publications, performances, artworks, software, tools, codes, methodologies, resources and myriad objects and media. Interdisciplinarity is central to the SHL's research – we believe that the only way to fully understand the complexities of the digital world we inhabit is through disciplines working together to address the challenges and opportunities afforded to us by digital transformation. We collaborate because we want to serve the fundamental roles of humanities research – to explore the human condition and the social and material worlds we make. We draw on our assembled expertise and resources to ensure the arts and humanities remain central to how we understand our changing world.



## Survey Questions

1. These priorities have a digital focus. Specifically, they are the Digital Economy Theme Research Priority Areas identified by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), a part of UKRI.
  - a. Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security
  - b. Beyond a Data Driven Economy
  - c. Sustainable Digital Society
  - d. Equitable Digital Society
  - e. Content Creation and Consumption

Can you please rank any of these five priorities for their past and future importance from the perspective of your own academic organisation's digital humanities research, starting with the most significant first. For 'Past', please **only** list those priorities (if any) that are supported by your organisation.

	1 <b>Most Important</b>	2	3	4	5 <b>Least Important</b>
<b>Past</b>					
<b>Future</b>					



2. These priorities have a more general focus. Specifically, they are the ‘Clusters’ from Pillar 2 of the European Commission’s Horizon Europe program.

- a. Health, Demographic change, and Wellbeing
- b. Culture, Creativity, and an Inclusive society
- c. Civil security for society
- d. Digital, Industry and Space
- e. Climate, Energy and Mobility
- f. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Can you please rank any of these six priorities for their past and future importance from the perspective of your own academic organisation’s digital humanities research, starting with the most significant first? For the ‘past’, please **only** list those priorities (if any) that are supported by your organisation.

	<b>1</b> <b>Most Important</b>	2	3	4	5	<b>6</b> <b>Least Important</b>
<b>Past</b>						
<b>Future</b>						



3. These priorities have a development focus, reflecting recognised global challenges. Specifically, they represent the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

- a) Removing global poverty
- b) Achieving zero hunger
- c) Promoting global health and well-being
- d) Supporting a quality education
- e) Fostering gender equality
- f) Enabling clean water and sanitation
- g) Facilitating affordable and clean energy
- h) Supporting decent work and economic growth
- i) Enhancing industry, innovation, and infrastructure
- j) Reducing Inequality
- k) Creating sustainable cities and communities
- l) Encouraging responsible consumption and production
- m) Supporting action on Climate Change
- n) Focussing on 'Life Below Water'
- o) Focussing on 'Life On Land'
- p) Promoting the values of Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Can you please list up to **Six** priorities in order of past and future importance for your own academic organisation' digital humanities research, starting with the most important first? For 'past', please **only** list those priorities (if any) that are supported by your organisation.

	1 Most Important	2	3	4	5	6 Least Important
Past						
Future						



**4. Which of the following best describes ‘digital humanities’ to you?**

- a. That Digital Humanities is an area of scholarly activity at the intersection of computing and the disciplines of the humanities, including the critical analysis of the intersections between computing and the academe, society, and culture.
- b. That Digital Humanities involves the intensive use of computer software and hardware to retrieve, analyse, and present humanities data at the service of humanities research questions and problems.
- c. That Digital Humanities captures and describes the innovative process (both disruptive and incremental) that surrounds the evolution of all aspects of humanities research, through the application of electronic technologies and processes.

**Only if none of the descriptions satisfy your own understanding of ‘digital humanities’ – what elements would you choose to include, to describe the term ‘digital humanities’?**

Answer:

Thank you for your time and help.

Please return the completed survey to [julian.gregory@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:julian.gregory@sussex.ac.uk) by the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Please can you mark the box if you wish to receive the published results of this survey

Yes/No