

SemanaHD. Bringing together the Latin American digital humanities community

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In the last decade, digital humanities associations have been formed in México (RedHD), Argentina (Asociación Argentina de Humanidades Digitales AAHD), Colombia (Red Colombiana de Humanidades Digitales), and Brasil (Associação Brasileira de Humanidades Digitais ABHD). In 2018, during the celebration of DH2018 in Mexico, there was a meeting of Latin American digital humanists present at the congress that proposed a common work project. The initiative was strengthened at the Argentinian association (AAHD) congress next year in the city of Rosario, Argentina (Afanador_Llach, María José, et al., 2020; Del Rio Riande, Gimena, 2015; Galina Russell et al., 2018).

The project, which contemplated a regional conference and publication, was more a declaration of intention than an actual plan. The construction of a DH community in Latin America faces, among other problems, the fact that gathering in workshops, conferences, or other events, is difficult because of the long distances and the limited amount of financial resources.

This changed during the pandemic. Due to the situation, many institutions in Latin America could access communication infrastructure to offer online courses and normalize participation in online events. This created an opportunity to convene the Latin American digital humanities community.

In 2021, LatamHD members convened a Latin American Meeting on Digital Humanities in July. More than 250 people registered for the event and around 120 people from Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Guatemala, Cuba, Uruguay, Bolivia, the United States, and Canada, among others, connected. In this event, the group resumed the project of conferences and publications, but this time with the vision of a way to make it possible. One of the proposals was to celebrate a virtual Week on Digital Humanities (SemanaHD) <https://semanahd.cuaieed.unam.mx/> taking advantage of the opportunity opened by the pandemic.

The idea of Semana HD emerged out of the desire to know and recognize the people who do Digital Humanities in Latin America and/or by Latin Americans regardless of where they do it, in Spanish or Portuguese. At the same time, the event showcased new trends in the study of humanistic objects with digital methods and tools.

With this in mind, members of the DH associations in Mexico, Argentina, and Colombia developed SemanaHD taking as a model the experience of OpenPublishingFest (Hyde, 2021) whose organization allowed us to adapt their software for an open, online, and decentralized event that sought to bring together the Digital Humanities communities of Latin America, leveraging the infrastructure and our new normal academic life online.

The SemanaHD took place online from June 13 to June 19, 2022. It hosted 26 events that originated in México, Colombia, and Argentina. Topics covered were Digital Pedagogies, TEI, Programming for humanists (Jason, XML, QGIS), and Public humanities, through books, podcasts, courses and projects presentations, workshops, and lectures.

Our poster will present the details of the SemanaHD and its results as a way to connect the Latin America HD Community. We want to highlight that the SemanaHD gave to the local communities the opportunity of connecting with a regional one, strengthening links in the region, and connecting specific communities.

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