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DARIAH-BE: Sharing experiences and lessons learned

Establishing a network of DH Research Centres in Belgium

Digital Humanities is thriving in Belgium. DARIAH-BE's aim is to offer a sustainable portfolio of services enabling digital scholarship in the arts and humanities. To realise this DARIAH partner institutions are encouraged to establish **Digital Humanities Research Centres** which together form a humanities-specific digital ecosystem, offering services both within their own institutions and to other institutions in Belgium and beyond.



Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities

Founded in **2012**, the **Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities (GhentCDH)** is an interdisciplinary research centre facilitating digitally-enabled research in the Arts and Humanities at Ghent University and beyond.

The GhentCDH offers **advice and guidance** throughout the research project lifecycle where digital tools, methods or collections are used with a specific focus on **collaborative databases, digital text analysis and geospatial analysis**.

For the **research data management and training** we work closely with the **Library Lab of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy Library**.

Website: <http://www.ghentcdh.ugent.be>

What is DARIAH-BE?

DARIAH-BE is represented by three consortia: the research groups and universities of DARIAH-Flanders (**DARIAH-VL**) and DARIAH-Federation Wallonia-Brussels (**DARIAH-FWB**), together with the Belgian Federal Scientific Institutions, e.g. Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage, Royal Library and States Archives of Belgium (**DARIAH-FED**).

The key objectives of DARIAH-BE are to identify and join-up existing digital humanities activities across Belgium, in order to create a sustainable network of digital humanities researchers that operates within a larger European network. DARIAH-BE will develop and offer a flexible and standards-based service platform consisting of modules and applications for collaborative research, analysis and publishing.

Website: <http://be.dariah.eu/>

University of Antwerp's Platform for Digital Humanities

The University of Antwerp's **Platform for Digital Humanities (platform{DH})**, founded in **2010**, aims to group together the University's Digital Humanities research by building a community of practitioners and by aggregating and disseminating individual projects that are conducted in the field. At the University, it is responsible for the Digital Humanities **bachelor course**, and for organising both a yearly **Spring (or Summer) Academy** and a **Lecture Series** in DH. The FWO Scientific Research Community **Digital Humanities Flanders (DHu.F)** is also coordinated by the platform.

Website: <http://uahost.uantwerpen.be/platformdh/>

Top 5 tips

1. The best DH teams are a mix of experts including (digital) humanities researchers, librarians, IT-staff and research coordinators
2. Ensure the high-visibility of the DH Centre's (training) activities, using a wide-range of digital (e.g. websites, Twitter and email lists) and analogue channels (e.g. posters, postcards, stickers)
3. Foster digital humanities community both *within* and *beyond* your institution through joint activities (e.g. project proposals and co-publications)
4. Ensure the strategic positioning of the DH Centre within the institution (e.g. establish a formal Research Group, Task Force, Institute or Centre)
5. Collaborate and interconnect with other DH centres through initiatives such as DARIAH.

Leuven Centre for Digital Humanities

The yet to be founded **Leuven Centre for Digital Humanities (LCDH)** will serve as a new hub for DH researchers at KU Leuven, alongside the current **Task Force Digital Humanities**.

From 2017 onwards, the LCDH will encourage DH researchers to work more closely together, for example, on collaborative project applications. The LCDH will support the **sharing of knowledge** and **digital tools** and will work closely with the **ARTES library** co-organising DH workshops, lectures, summers schools and conferences as well as developing a **long-term preservation strategy** for research data from DH projects at KU Leuven.

Website: <https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/digitalhumanities>

Centre Informatique de Philosophie et Lettres

The **Centre Informatique de Philosophie et Lettres (CIPL, Université de Liège)**, founded in **1983**, has three main missions :

- firstly, providing **technical support** for the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters;
- secondly, developing databases and software for **research** purposes;
- thirdly, **teaching** (introduction to) digital humanities to bachelor and master students in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

Currently the centre is increasing its visibility and is strengthening connections with the **Liège Game Lab (virtual reality)** and the **IFRES (Institut de Formation et de Recherche en Enseignement supérieur)** to explore questions of teaching in the digital age, especially through the development of **MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**.

Website: <http://web.philo.ulg.ac.be/cipl/>

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University of Antwerp

KU LEUVEN



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Sharing digital arts and humanities knowledge

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