

## Report ASHO SIG DLS 2020 (20 July 2020)

During the last 12 months the SIG-DLS has been active on various fronts. The SIG has further grown, with nine new members (as of 20 July 2020) and an active mailing list. (Membership development is as follows: 2020 (88 members), 2019 (79), 2018 (65), 2017 (30), see <https://dls.hypotheses.org/about/organisation>)

The recent months have been dedicated to the organization of the **virtual "Tool criticism 3.0" Workshop for the DH2020 Conference**, which is to be held in a hybrid format. The Workshop combines an asynchronous discussion (in the "DH2020" group on the Humanities Commons platform) and a live event (via Zoom) on Monday the 20th of July. Four speakers (Quinn Dombrowski, Thierry Poibeau, Joanna Byszuk, and Avery Blankenship) accepted the invitation and shared their contributions on the subject. They will be seconded by two respondents each (Suzanne Mpouli, Frank Fischer, Christof Schöch, Ted Underwood, and the organizers).

**A general SIG-DLS members' meeting** is planned in conjunction with the virtual DH workshop on 20 July 2020, and this will be the occasion to prepare for a partial renewal of the Steering Committee, by means of elections. At this meeting, we will discuss the **SIG's future activities** in 2021 and beyond. These activities include **ADHO-conference workshops**, development of the **tool inventory**, **further publications**, and possible **active liaisons** with other initiatives.

The success of the DH2019 SIG-DLS workshop in Utrecht encouraged us to write a joint **publication**, together with the invited speakers, with the title 'Anatomy of tools: A closer look at 'textual DH' methodologies' (Herrmann et al 2020, forthcoming), which is to be published in a **Special Issue of DHQ**. The paper contains a discussion of different traditions of DLS (*Textométrie*, *Stylometry*, and *Semantic Text Mining*), relates them to the issue of replicability, and offers a first evaluation of the current state of the art of the Tool Inventory. It introduces the perspective of 'tool defense' – arguing that we need tools and methods as a basic common ground on how to carry out fundamental operations of analysis and interpretation within a community.

Another important result has been the '**Response by the Special Interest Group on Digital Literary Stylistics to Nan Z. Da's Study**' published in the **Journal of Cultural Analytics** (Herrmann et al., 2019) where the steering committee members tried to broaden the horizons of a discussion which seemed at times too North-America-centric.

The group **Plotting Poetry**, founded in 2017 and included within the SIG-DLS, has kept growing and maintained its activities, with now 70 members. The third edition of the Annual Plotting Poetry conference was organised at the ATILF laboratory in Nancy, France, by Véronique Montémont and Anne-Sophie Bories. Its focus was centred on poetics, with keynote lectures given by Anne Bandry-Scubbi (Université de Strasbourg) and Jan-Christoph Meister (Universität Hamburg). A fourth annual conference, planned in September in Prague, is now being challenged by the current global health situation, and the organisers (Robert Kolár, Petr Plechač and Anne-Sophie Bories) shall reach a decision soon on this matter. A first volume of collected articles is currently under review at the Presses Universitaires de Liège, edited by Anne-Sophie Bories, Hugues Marchal and Gérald Purnelle, and a second collective volume, edited by Anne-Sophie Bories, Petr Plecháč and Pablo Ruiz-Fabo is under preparation.

Last but not least, the **publication of blog entries** has continued, publishing updates on the SIG, but also reporting on tools and events of interest, for example, the [Stylometry workshop in Amsterdam 2019](#).

## References

Herrmann, J. Berenike, Anne-Sophie Bories, Francesca Frontini, Simone Rebora, and Jan Rybicki. 2019. 'Response by the Special Interest Group on Digital Literary Stylistics to Nan Z. Da's Study'. Working Paper. Journal of Cultural Analytics.

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Herrmann, J. Berenike, Bories, Anne-Sophie, Frontini, Francesca, Jacquot, Clémence, Pielström, Steffen, Rebora, Simone, Rockwell, Geoffrey, & Stéfan Sinclair: 'Anatomy of tools: A closer look at 'textual DH' methodologies' (submitted). Verhaar, Peter & van der Weel, Adriaan (eds.) 'Tools Criticism'. Special Issue DH Quarterly.