

Report

ADHO SIG DLS 2021

Altogether, due to the Covid-19 pandemics, the past year was a rather quiet one for SIG DLS. We carried out the activities summed up below. We also started planning further activities (see further below).

DH2020 SIG Workshop (July 2020)

Due to the pandemics, the SIG workshop had to move online together with the DH2020 conference. For this reason, we decided to suspend the Call for Papers (published at <https://dls.hypotheses.org/1062>) and re-planned the activities as an online event with both synchronous and asynchronous activities. Four speakers uploaded their video presentations on the [“DH2020” Humanities Commons Group](#) offering the possibility to view and comment on the papers. Seven respondents were subsequently invited to stimulate the discussion for the synchronous part of the event. The discussion took place on 20 July 2020, between 3pm and 6pm CEST on the Zoom platform. A total of 73 participants joined the meeting. The full program is available at <https://dls.hypotheses.org/1110>.

SIG DLS Organization

We further extended outreach and membership (now 150 people subscription on mailing list, 93 members; increase of 5 new members since last report). We carried on the list serv communication (relatively low frequency), maintained our trello board, and conducted a few zoom meetings, the last of which on June 4, 2021, with all current steering committee members.

We also engaged in networking with related organizations and initiatives, such as the COST Action Distant Reading for European Literary History and the ADHO SIG global::outlook (see below).

Plotting Poetry

The group [Plotting Poetry is closely linked to the SIG](#). The SIG's Steering Committee

member Anne-Sophie Bories is a liaison between the SIG and that group. Plotting Poetry has had to postpone its conference on the theme “Tackling the Toolkit”, planned in Prague in September 2020, and is still waiting for a better visibility on the global health situation before reprogramming it. In the meanwhile, the articles for this planned gathering are currently being peer reviewed and compiled into a volume, edited by Petr Plecháč (Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences), Robert Kolár (Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences), Anne-Sophie Bories (University of Basel) and Jakub Říha (Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences). Plotting Poetry has seen its first volume come out, *Plotting Poetry: On Mechanically Enhanced Reading*, edited by Anne-Sophie Bories (University of Basel), Gérald Purnelle (University of Liège) and Hugues Marchal (University of Basel), compiling peer reviewed articles from its initial 2017 conference in Basel, at the Presses Universitaires de Liège. The three Steering Committee members, Anne-Sophie Bories (University of Basel), Petr Plecháč (Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences) and Pablo Ruiz Fabo (University of Strasbourg) are preparing another collective volume, with mostly articles from the conference held in 2019 in Nancy on the theme of *poetics*, expected to be published at De Gruyter.

Although the pandemic has had a clear impact on Plotting Poetry activities, its members are keeping busy and in touch as much as possible. After we get to gather in Prague, a next Plotting Poetry conference is planned in Tartu, co-organised with Mari Sarv (Estonian Literary Museum), and later a return to Basel for a conference co-organised by Nils Couturier and Lara Nugues who have both joined Anne-Sophie Bories’ team at the University of Basel.

Other SIG DLS Activities

- We revised and resubmitted the paper which had resulted from the 2019 SIG workshop for the DHQ Special Issue on Tool Criticism (Herrmann et al., resubmitted).
- The tool inventory activities have been put on hold, as an alignment with other initiatives is judged to be necessary. In particular we refer to the [TAPoR discovery tool](#) which has recently also been integrated in the [SSHOC Marketplace](#). An analysis on how to integrate the Tool inventory with these initiatives should be undertaken.
- SIG DLS blog traffic was low, albeit with a few entries, e.g., [this one](#) (by member

Thorsten Ries, UT Austin). The initiative of actively promoting blog entries by (new) members had been put on hold, but a couple entries were planned or even drafted, which due to the pandemic haven't yet been published.

- A conference session by a temporary SIG on Digital Stylistics had been proposed for PALA2021 by SIG-DLS members Clémence Jacquot, Francesca Frontini and Suzanne Mpouli, and with the endorsement of the SIG-DLS, but had to be called off with the cancellation of PALA SIGs following the "virtualisation" of the conference.

Future

We are currently revisiting the SIG DLS structure and activities in terms of outreach, organization, and focus. The steering committee will be newly composed with the upcoming election that had been postponed because of the pandemic. To facilitate the transition, we have been working on a new SIG DLS "charter". Something that needs to be done is updating the WordPress homepage with a new theme.

Elections are foreseen for the second half of 2021, to be co-located with a workshop on "global digital literary stylistics" (working title), organized possibly in collaboration with ADHO SIG *Global Outlook::Digital Humanities(GO::DH)*. There are also plans of cooperating with the ["CLS INFRA project"](#), funded at European level.

On behalf of the SIG DLS Steering Committee

Berenike Herrmann

June 2021

References

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' (re-submitted). Verhaar, Peter & van der Weel, Adriaan (eds.) 'Tools Criticism'. Special Issue DH Quarterly.