

Programme

Digital Humanities and Infrastructures: Tools, Archives & Theory 18th & 19th September 2024 IIT Indore

18th September 2024, Wednesday

09:00 – 09:30

Registration

09:30 – 09:45

Welcome by Director IIT Indore / IR
Opening remarks by Ms. Vibhuti Sukhramani (Introduction of participants & Photo opportunity)

Time (IST)	Title	Professor and University
09:45 - 10:15	Lecture 1 <i>Digital Humanities in Libraries - opportunities and challenges of an infrastructural transition</i>	Dr. Dennis Mischke Head of Research and Publication Support University Library Ada Lovelace Center for Digital Humanities, Freie Universität Berlin
10:15 - 10:45	Lecture 2 <i>Building sustainable scholarly communities around Arts and Humanities datasets and software</i>	Prof. Pieter Francois Professor in Cultural Evolution University of Oxford, UK
10:45 – 11:00	Q & A Session	
11:00 – 11:15	Tea Break	
11:15 - 11:45	Lecture 3 <i>Locating A New Historiography for India: Digital Archives and Public History</i>	Prof. Dr Maya Dodd Director of the FLAME Centre for Legislative Education and Research Flame University, Pune
11:45 - 12:15	Lecture 4 <i>Transforming How Knowledge is Created and Shared: Open Approaches in the Humanities</i>	Prof. Dr Paul Arthur Director, Global Studies Centre Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia

12:15 - 12:45	Lecture 5 <i>Streamlining Editorial Processes: The Article Management System for the International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>	Johannes Hercher MA, MA-LIS, Research and Publication Support University Library, Freie Universität Berlin
12:45 - 13:00	Q & A Session	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 14:30	Lecture 6 <i>It's All Greek (and Latin) to Me: Multilingual Language Models and the Challenges of Digital Classics</i>	Frederick Riemenschneider PhD scholar in Computational Linguistics at Heidelberg University (hybrid mode - online from Heidelberg)
14:30 - 15:00	Lecture 7 <i>The Regional Turn in Digital Humanities in India: Decolonizing Digital Knowledge Infrastructures</i>	Prof. Dr. Nirmla Menon Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Indore
15:00 - 15:30	Q & A Session / Water Break	

15:30 – 16:30

Round table with PhD students

16:30

Vote of Thanks by Ms. Vibhuti Sukhramani, Head, FUB India & South Asia Office / Dr. Suboor Bakht, Director, Heidelberg University Office for South Asia (HCSA)

16:45 onwards

High tea

19:00 onwards

Networking Dinner (For Directors / Deans / speakers) - Venue tbc

19th September 2024, Thursday

7:00	Drive to the forest area (TBC)
10:15 - 10:30	Welcome address by Prof. Nirmala – introduction of speakers
10:30 – 11:30	Panel discussion: <i>“How do we bring together the theory and praxis of Digital humanities”</i> Venue: Auditorium, IIT Indore Moderation: Prof. Nirmala Menon, IIT Indore <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Dr Bogdan Babych, University of Heidelberg• Prof. Dr Maya Dodd, FLAME University, Pune• Prof. Dr Priyanka Tripathi, IIT Patna• Dr. Dennis Mischke, FUB• Johannes Hercher, FUB
11:45 – 12:00	Formal closing remarks
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	Discussion with the Universities on collaborative grant applications
14:00 – 15:30	Visit to JPN Centre & IIT Indore Campus - Photo Opportunity on campus
19:00 onwards	Networking dinner

TALKS

DIGITAL HUMANITIES and INFRASTRUCTURES: TOOLS, ARCHIVES AND THEORY 18th & 19th September 2024

Lecture	Speaker & University	Talk
1	<p>Dr. Dennis Mischke</p> <p>Head of Research and Publication Support University Library Ada Lovelace Center for Digital Humanities, Freie Universität Berlin</p>	<p>Digital Humanities in Libraries - opportunities and challenges of an infrastructural transition</p> <p>Amid recent trends in the digital transformation of public cultural heritage and humanities research, this talk centers on the complex relationship between libraries and digital humanities. Libraries play a pivotal role in this transformation, serving as key infrastructures and operational hubs for proactive institutional and cultural policy shaping in the digital and data-driven era. The presentation highlights current strategies, practices, and projects of the newly established division of Research and Publication Support of the University Library at Freie Universität Berlin, focusing on its unique mission and functions. Based on a perspective of critical infrastructure studies and fundamental issues related to digitization and datafication within research support services in higher education, special attention is given to data-cultural and data-ethical considerations and the impact of digital infrastructures on cultural diversity and representation in the digital archiving and presentation of research results and research data. The goal is to foster a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and to discuss opportunities associated with integrating digitization, datafication, and artificial intelligence tools in managing and preserving cultural collections.</p>
2	<p>Prof. Dr Pieter Francois</p> <p>Professor in Cultural Evolution University of Oxford, UK</p>	<p>Building sustainable scholarly communities around Arts and Humanities datasets and software</p> <p>Over the past two decades or so funders have invested heavily in the production of digital datasets and software tools in the Arts and Humanities as part of funding streams awarding specific projects. Overall the findability and availability of these datasets and tools diminishes rapidly once the funded lifespan of the projects is finished. The return on investment is thus poor and the chance that these datasets and tools can be leveraged by third party users is relatively low. The AHRC-funded project 'Data/Culture. Building Sustainable Communities around Arts and Humanities datasets and software' explores how building and sustaining scholarly communities can contribute to a solution whereby these past investments remain relevant. This talk expands on the overall need to increase return on investment in digital outputs and showcases how a scholarly community is being build around the Seshat Global History Databank.</p>
3	<p>Prof. Dr Maya Dodd</p> <p>Director of the FLAME Centre for Legislative Education and Research</p>	<p>Locating A New Historiography for India: Digital Archives and Public History</p> <p>Locating new voices across archives in India studies how community knowledge archiving and digital relay is critical to the inclusion of marginal voices in mainstream historical narratives. Now more than ever, this is a genuine possibility in 21st century India-where</p>

	FLAME University, Pune	diversity and digitality collide—that a new conception of digital cultures can emerge to produce untold stories. Since the rise of digital affordances, we can do history differently by using and locating these voices across digital archives. Especially pertinent since the rise of decolonising modes of knowledge production, it is key that we locate and amplify sources for a new historiography.
4	<p>Prof. Dr Paul Arthur</p> <p>Director, Global Studies Centre Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia</p>	<p>Transforming How Knowledge is Created and Shared: Open Approaches in the Humanities</p> <p>With rapidly changing information and communications technology, openness is transforming how knowledge is created and shared in all disciplines including the humanities. The unrestricted global circulation of new discoveries represents one of the most valuable opportunities for our digital future. The conventional model of scholarly communication reinforced the authority of printed documents, with a well-established publishing paradigm that validated new knowledge, controlling and managing its flow, but also limiting its readership. Open scholarship challenged this model, transforming it from being closed and print-centric to open and network driven. Making research as open and available as feasible, however, demands further major-scale, coordinated change across every part of the system, and many barriers currently exist. In view of the notable emphasis on open scholarship in the sciences to date, moves have been underway to specifically promote openness in the humanities, increasingly referred to as the open humanities, which will be the focus of this paper.</p>
5	<p>Johannes Hercher</p> <p>MA, MA-LIS, Research and Publication Support University Library Freie Universität Berlin</p>	<p><i>Streamlining Editorial Processes: The Article Management System for the International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i></p> <p>The International Encyclopedia of the First World War (WW1) https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net stands as a comprehensive English-language digital reference work, encompassing the expertise of over 1,100 field specialists. This vast repository of knowledge features more than 1,600 peer-reviewed articles, meticulously categorized and extensively cross-linked with over 2,500 locations, 6,000 individuals, and a controlled subject vocabulary. As such, it serves as an invaluable resource for a wide range of research inquiries.</p> <p>However, managing such an extensive collection of articles presents significant challenges, particularly in terms of the editorial process. This includes publishing calls for papers, identifying and reminding authors and reviewers, and tracking the status of both new and updated articles. With minimal staff, supervising the multitude of emails and maintaining lean, traceable processes becomes a formidable task.</p> <p>To address these challenges, we have recently implemented the Article Management System (AMS). This innovative solution significantly enhances our ability to streamline and manage the editorial workflow efficiently. Our presentation aims to share insights into our refined processes and workflows, fostering an environment for the exchange of ideas and potentially identifying new project partners for further development.</p> <p>By discussing the AMS and our experiences, we hope to contribute to the broader academic community's understanding of managing large-scale digital encyclopedias and spark collaborative efforts to advance such systems further.</p>
6	<p>Frederick Riemenschneider</p>	<p>It's All Greek (and Latin) to Me: Multilingual Language Models and the Challenges of Digital Classics</p> <p>Digital Humanities encompasses a wide range of subdisciplines, each with its unique</p>

	<p>PhD scholar in Computational Linguistics at Heidelberg University</p>	<p>challenges and requirements. In this talk, we will explore the extreme conditions often encountered when working with dead languages or closed corpora, where researchers often face both low-resource scenarios and a critical need for accurate results. One of the main challenges in this context is the difficulty of adapting tools and models developed for modern languages to these unique linguistic settings. We will discuss the problems unique to digital humanities and investigate how multilingual language models can be leveraged to overcome some of these challenges, while also acknowledging their limitations. To illustrate these points, I will provide insights into my current research on emotions in Latin and Ancient Greek epics, showcasing the potential applications of these techniques in the field of Classical Philology.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Prof. Dr Nirmala Menon Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Indore</p>	<p>The Regional Turn in Digital Humanities in India: Decolonizing Digital Knowledge Infrastructures</p> <p>This talk will examine the emerging areas of research in Digital Humanities in India by an examination of the term “Digital Humanities” and its uneven and uncertain trajectory in the Indian research ecosystem. As with other systems around the world, DH in India is complex and contextual and each of us involved in the disciplinary practice encounter resistance and skepticism. Resistance to what is perceived as a deliberate distancing from the larger Humanities queries, skepticism about appropriating the rhetoric of STEM disciplines merely as a tool for greater legitimacy and validation. But ofcourse DH is far more than a sum of its criticisms and skepticisms I will address why it is imperative that the digital be harnessed, critiqued, deconstructed and dissected precisely so that the issues that Humanities scholars have been invested in continue to be at the centre of the development, deployment and dissemination of technology. Using the example of Decolonizing Knowledge Systems through Scholarly Publishing. I underscore the need to make knowledge productions multilingual and accessible to students and researchers in different parts of the country and the role of Open Access India in making education access a little less unequal than it is now. I will discuss IIT Indore’s Project KSHIP and some of the continuing challenges in launching the project.</p>
<p>TBC</p>	<p>Prof. Dr Priyanka Tripathi Associate Professor of English, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology Patna</p>	<p>Complexities of Retaining Indigeneity: A Case of Digitization and Mithila Art</p> <p>In the realm of cultural preservation, digitizing traditional art forms offers both significant opportunities and complex challenges. Retaining indigeneity is essential for maintaining traditional art forms' authenticity and cultural integrity. This presentation will be structured into three segments to examine the role of digital archiving in maintaining the authenticity of Mithila art. First, it introduces Mithila art, a folk tradition from the Mithila region of Bihar, India, known for its unique style and rich cultural heritage, which is currently facing the challenge of preserving its traditional essence amidst technological progress. The second segment discusses the advantages of digital archiving, including improved accessibility, long-term preservation, and global outreach with specific reference to Mithila art. It will emphasize how digital technologies, such as high-resolution imaging, comprehensive metadata, and virtual exhibitions, are employed to uphold these artworks' aesthetic and contextual integrity. Finally, the third segment will discuss the field-based observation of my ongoing project on “Digitizing Madhubani: Archiving the Socio-Cultural Practices of Bihar,” addressing critical digital archiving challenges and strategies to retain the indigeneity of Mithila art.</p>