

# Mapping Digital Humanities projects

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Digital Humanities (DH) has grown, and now exhibits many of the characteristics of an emergent field, moving beyond the early stage populated by lonely pioneers and early adopters (Whitley, 1984/2000). The field has its professional organizations, local and international conference series, dedicated journals, specific funding programmes, and an increase in DH minors, master and PhD programmes. DH also regularly features in bibliometric mapping exercises, however formal scholarly communication covers only a part of DH. Digital Humanities expresses features of a virtual community and engages with mundane and specific infrastructures, platforms, tools and software – from Twitter to the ePistolarium, to name two examples. Missing consolidated data about DH activities is one reason, why it is not easy to monitor and map DH. The still growing community DH with new centers, initiatives, projects almost emerging daily, has a substantial need for registries, catalogues, interactive maps to resources, in short for intelligent information management. This paper responds to those needs. It builds on a course registry (<https://dariah.uni-koeln.de/>), initiated among others by some of the authors of this paper, and currently supported by DARIAH and CLARIAH. As a follow up, we present in this paper a project registry. We present the structure of the database, ways of data collection and cleaning, and possible user interfaces. Ordering and classifying projects in DH is another aspect we discuss. We argue that such a database will:

- Support researchers in finding related projects and extent their networks
- Deliver empirical evidence for funding bodies to shape future policies in this area

- Support the 'building on other experiences' in the field of DH and thus contribute to its consolidation. In this paper we present a prototype, and first data collection focusing on The Netherlands. We discuss possible interactive interfaces for browsing and searching. We also discuss issue of sustainability and maintenance. What are short-, mid- and long-term functions of such a project registry? How do we envision domain specific information management to be integrated in generic and general achievements in Research Information Systems (this is where project information belongs to)? What is the relationship between such a registry and systems as NARCIS or VIVOweb? How can we in the design of the database achieve a high degree of potential interoperability?

## References

CLARIAH – Common Lab Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, [www.clariah.nl](http://www.clariah.nl)

Whitley, R.J. (1984/2000) *The Intellectual and Social Organization of the Sciences* (Second Edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.