From ALLC to ADHO to EADH and its AOs

European Digital Humanities on the road

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Elisabeth Burr
INTRODUCTION

- I feel very honoured to have been invited to this important event taking place in this beautiful City of Prague to talk about the European Association for Digital Humanities and its experiences in digital humanities.
- As 20 minutes is a very short time, I will limit my talk to the most important historical events which have brought EADH to where it stands now and which show, in my eyes, also much about the development of Digital Humanities.
- For the actual situation I would like to refer you to EADH’s Website where you find a lot of information.
INTRODUCTION

– My conclusion will be devoted to some principles which according to me should not be forgotten, because they have turned Digital Humanities not only into the thriving, vibrant and diverse field and community it is now, but have given it also a voice on the national, regional and European level when it comes to scholarly recognition and funding.
EADH

- The European Association of Digital Humanities (EADH) brings together and represents the Digital Humanities in Europe across the entire spectrum of disciplines that research, develop, and apply digital humanities methods and technology.
- But where does EADH come from?
WHERE DOES EADH COME FROM?

- The *European Association for Digital Humanities* (EADH) started out as *Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing* (ALLC), which was officially founded in 1973 at King’s College London.

- The founding was preceded by two meetings / conferences:
  - 1970 March: meeting on literary and linguistic computing organized by Roy Wisbey and Michael Farringdon - University of Cambridge (UK)
  - 1972: second conference – University of Edinburgh, Scotland
WHERE DOES EADH COME FROM?

- The purpose was in those days to support the application of computing in the study of language and literature.
- Founding members were among others: Antonio Zampolli and Susan Hockey.
- Antonio Zampolli was later to become the president of ALLC (1983-2003), he was very influential and active on the European level and secured a lot of funding for very important projects from the European Commission.
- Those of you who are interested in language resources should go to the website of ILC and look at the terminated projects starting by the last page.
WHERE DOES THE JOURNAL COME FROM?

  – a Bulletin three times a year
  – a Journal twice a year

– 1986 *Literary & Linguistic Computing* (LLC) was founded by merging bulletin and journal

– From then on individuals became a member of the *Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing* by taking out a subscription of *Literary & Linguistic Computing* (LLC)

– the journal was owned by the ALLC – the revenue it created went to the ALLC
my first exemplar of the journal
LITERARY AND LINGUISTIC COMPUTING

- did not only contain articles in English
- instead there were also contributions in
  - English
  - French
  - Italian
  - German
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AN EXAMPLE

Reports from Colloquia at Tübingen


To begin was mitgeteilt, daß TUISTEP inzwischen auch in einer PC-Version (noch ohne die SAIZ-Programme zur Verfügung steht. Es kann auf IBMPC AT und XT und so den kompakten PCs) mit 668 K Speicherkapazität und 2 Freigänge eingerichtet werden. Dr. Ort betonte sodann kurz den Inhalt der Empfehlungen des Wissenschaftsrates zur Ausstattung der Hochschulen mit Rechenzentralen in den Jahren 1980-1984 und ging besonders auf die darin zum Ausdruck kommende Verneinung des Rechenehezeit für die Geisteswissenschaften ein. Diese Fehlschätzung beruht vorwiegend darauf, daß der Rechenzentrist in diesem Bereich mit "Textverarbeitung" (d.h. einfacher Maschinentypisierung) gleichgesetzt wird, für die einfache PCs vorgesehen sind. Dr. Ort betonte dagegen, daß für wissenschaftliche Textbearbeitung ebenfalls vollwertige Arbeitsplatzrechner notwendig seien und darüber hinaus ein Zugang zu solchen Arbeitsplatzrechnern aus den bisherigen Universitäten ebenfalls wichtig sei wie für die Neuwissenschaftler der Zukunft, die mit Hightechanlagen rechnen werden.


1. Die Bibliographie

Abstract
L. Bihl and K. Eppling, "A bibliography of French translations from German, 1487-1944: An application of the Tübingen bibliographic program."

Based on labours on the holdings of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, Karl Eppling began to collect the material for the bibliography in 1984. Work was in due course transferred to Tübingen University, where it was finally completed in 1988. The complex and the public nature of the project presented a challenge to the Tübingen Bibliography Program, especially since TUISTEP had already been completed. (The program was first presented at the 26th Conference, 20 November (1987).)

The final conclusion of the bibliography is that the Tübingen Bibliography Program is an excellent tool for the pursuit of the research questions. The authors have worked on the bibliography for many years and have produced a comprehensive list of all relevant works. The bibliography is an excellent tool for researchers who are looking for works on a specific topic.

Grounds for single-author data analyses are few. These bibliographies are of great value to researchers in the field of digital humanities, as they provide a comprehensive overview of the literature on a specific topic. The bibliographies are well-organized and easy to use, making them an excellent tool for researchers in the field of digital humanities.
SISTER ASSOCIATION IN THE US

- 1966 Journal *Computers in the Humanities* (CHUM) was founded
- 1975 First annual International Conference on *Computing in the Humanities* (ICCH) took place
- 1978 *Association for Computers and the Humanities* (ACH) – was founded
- *Computers in the Humanities* (CHUM) became its official journal
- 1985-1995 Nancy Ide was ACH President
- She was one of the driving forces for the setup of the TEI (see the meeting at Vassar College in November 1987)
FROM EUROPEAN / US TO BI-CONTINENTAL
JOINT CONFERENCES ALLC AND ACH

- 1988 Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing (ALLC) agreed a protocol with the Association for Computing in the Humanities (ACH) for co-sponsorship of joint international conferences
- joint conferences were to alternate between Europe (ALLC / ACH) and North America (ACH / ALLC)
- 1989 first joint conference - University of Toronto (Canada)
- 2005 last joint conference – University of Victoria, British Columbia (Canada)
JOINT CONFERENCES ALLC AND ACH

- Conference Webpages [http://eadh.org/conferences](http://eadh.org/conferences) (you should take a look)
- my first conference was Siegen 1990
  - I discovered a whole new world
    - an international community
    - much less hierarchical than I had been used to
    - I was a newcomer but not isolated
    - there where many women
  - even the chairs of the ALLC and ACH were women: [Susan Hockey](http://www.susanhockey.com) (1984-1997) and [Nancy Ide](http://www.nancyide.com) (1985-1995)
personal explanation

my background is Romance linguistics

I grew up in West-Germany

one of the first in West-Germany to create a corpus of Italian newspaper language and to analyse it applying computational methods

I was always told by professors

“I have a head, I do not need a computer”

“women who want children should become school teachers”
FROM BI-CONTINENTAL TO GLOBAL
FOUNDATION OF ADHO

- Discussions about an umbrella started at the latest in 2002
- In July 2002 a joint workgroup of the ACH and ALLC, called ADHOC (ADHO committee) was established by a joint association committee meeting
  - and charged with examining possibilities for closer collaboration between the two organisations and within the field of digital humanities more widely
  - the committee was supposed to present recommendations at the annual ACH / ALLC conference at the University of Georgia in May 2003
FOUNDATION OF ADHO

- Members of the ADHO committee were (alphabetical):
  - Elisabeth Burr (ALLC)
  - Julia Flanders (ACH, TEI)
  - Espen Ore (ALLC)
  - Geoffrey Rockwell (ACH, TEI)
  - Harold Short (ALLC, TEI)
  - John Unsworth (ACH, TEI)
- Invited additional members
  - David Green - National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage (NINCH)
  - Richard Finneran - Society for Textual Scholarship (STS)
- the recommendations were presented at ACH / ALLC 2003 Georgia (Athens)
FOUNDATION OF ADHO

- a long and difficult transition phase followed and the name of the umbrella changed various times until it was agreed that it should be called ADHO, i.e. *Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations*

- June 2005 Steering Committee meetings in Victoria
  - ACH and ALLC approved governance and conference protocols
  - ADHO SC MLMC was set up – I directed it until 2014, then Maurizio Lana took over

- in July 2006 the 1st ADHO Conference DH 2006 was celebrated at the Sorbonne in Paris

- **journal** is still owned by ALLC / EADH (very important!), but the revenue it creates is since the revenue of all members of ADHO
From ALLC to ADHO to EADH and its AOs - European Digital Humanities on the road

ADHO COS

- Over the years more and more Associations became constituent associations of ADHO
  - European Association for Digital Humanities (EADH, formerly ALLC)
  - Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH)
  - Canadian Society for Digital Humanities / Société canadienne des humanités numériques (CSDH / SCHN)
  - CenterNet
  - Australasian Association for Digital Humanities (aaDH)
  - Japanese Association for Digital Humanities (JADH)
  - Humanistica. L'association francophone des humanités numériques / digitales (Humanistica)
  - two more have applied last year: Taiwanese DH and Southern Africa DH
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FROM GLOBAL TO REGIONAL / LOCAL
EUROPEAN REGIONALISATION / LOCALISATION OF DH

- Only a few years after ADHO had been founded, a process of regionalisation or localisation started (similar to what was happening in other domains):
  - In 2011 L’Associazione per l’Informatica Umanistica e la Cultura Digitale was founded in Florence
  - In 2012 the international association Humanidades Digitales Hispánicas (HDH) was officially founded in Elche
  - In 2012 at DH 2012 there was the founding Unconference of Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum - Digital Humanities in German Speaking Regions (DHd). It’s official founding happened in 2013
  - In 2014 Digital Humanities Benelux had it’s first conference
  - In 2015 Digital Humaniora i Norden - Digital Humanities in the Nordic countries was formed in Oslo
Over the years the field had undergone important changes.

- 2012 ALLC decided to change its name to *European Association for Digital Humanities* (EADH) in order to represent the significant widening of scope which has occurred over the years: not only text analysis and language corpora, but also history, art history, music, manuscript studies, image processing and electronic editions.

- 2015 also the name of the journal was changed from *Literary & and Linguistic Computing* to *DSH: The Journal of Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*.
DSH: THE JOURNAL OF DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES

- Journal still published by Oxford University Press
- OUP deducts the production costs of the revenue created by the journal
- a significant part of the revenue goes to EADH
EADH - A NEW UMBRELLA

- EADH developed into a new umbrella of AOs
- the first and up to now only one of its kind
  - Italian organization AIUCD - Associazione Informatica Umanistica e Cultura Digitale
  - German language based DHd - Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum
  - Nordic organization DHN - Digital humaniora i Norden
EADH - A NEW UMBRELLA

- 2 European Associations became officially AOs in the last 6 months:
  - end of 2017 **Czech Digital Humanities Initiative** (CZDHI)
  - beginning of 2018 **Russian Association for Digital Humanities**

- 1 Partner Organization
  - Digital Humanities Benelux
EADH - A NEW UMBRELLA

- many benefits for members of AOs
  - to be part of a national scientific organisation which has a voice and represents the scientific, infrastructural and political interests of the DH community
  - to be part of the international scientific Digital Humanities community and network globally
  - members of each national / regional AO are members of EADH and have passive and active voting rights
  - members of EADH are members of ADHO
  - reduced conference fees at all conferences of ADHO COs and EADH AOs
  - eligibility for bursaries, event & project grants, prizes, etc. (see also https://eadh.org/sites/eadh.org/files/eadhaao2-pager.pdf)
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EADH - A NEW UMBRELLA

- Exec Committee of EADH
  - is elected by its membership
  - its composition changed over the last years
    - very diverse
    - many Englishes
    - very different cultural backgrounds
    - a lot of sensitivity and respect is needed
  - it is a real European venture or better adventure
EADH - A NEW UMBRELLA

− EADH AO Forum
  − representation of the AOs
  − Each AO nominates a representative
  − Forum decides on the use of the surplus revenue from the journal
    − at the moment
      − about 50% used to fund activities of common interest – *journal federator* which should make available the table of contents of journals based in different European countries in one place
      − about 50% redistributed to AOs by reducing the quota they owe EADH for the following year (avoidance of bank charges)
EADH AND NEW FORMATS

- EADH is experimenting with new formats
  - 1st EADH day - HDH 2015 – Madrid UNED - 08.10.2015
  - 2nd EADH day – DHd 2016 – Leipzig - 08.03.2016
  - 3rd EADH day - 6th AIUCD Conference – Rome – 25.01.2017
- Experiment was started with the objective to raise awareness for DH research activities beyond the local / regional conference context.
- Its format is designed to facilitate exchange and networking initiatives among European DH research communities and in particular to foster the participation of early career scholars to local DH conferences around Europe.
- EADH day is attached to a local or regional conference
EADH AND NEW FORMATS

- EADH decided to have a congress every three years / in the year when the ADHO conference is held neither in Europe nor in North America to give people, who cannot afford to go to the DH conference, the chance to meet on the international level
- The 1\textsuperscript{st} EADH Congress will be held in Galway, Ireland from 7-9 December 2018
  - Call for reviewers went out the 18\textsuperscript{th} of March 2018
  - The publication of the call for proposals is imminent
SUMMING UP

- Humanities Computing and the Digital Humanities could never have gotten off the ground as they did, locally. There were only very few people and they were scattered across countries and regions

- Humanities Computing and Digital humanists as well as the field as such
  - profited enormously from the making of an international and global community and from the crossing of country and continent boarders
  - from getting to know the culturally and historically based disciplines, questions, methods, and academic structures

- DH was borne globally whereas most (all?) disciplines were born locally / nationally
SUMMING UP

After some time the feeling

- that individual languages and cultures needed more attention
- that global exchange and discourse in English were not doing justice to the Humanities “at home” and were not helping to get the field of the ground were people actually worked and lived

led to an urge

- to bring those scholars together who in one’s own country or region had become interested in the field
- create a local or regional community
- try to change the academic setting which hindered the development of the Digital Humanities
SUMMING UP

– Important outcomes of this process are, according to me:
  – that we can now speak, think and write about the Digital Humanities in many languages,
  – can give the knowledge which we create back to the community in its own language,
  – can talk to our friends, families and peers about Digital Humanities in our common language,
  – By localisation and regionalisation Digital humanities was thus further enriched and diversified
SUMMING UP

- We could have stopped here
- We could just think about careers and about the money we could save by not belonging to a more overarching scholarly structure like EADH
- But this would not seem to be the way many Digital Humanists want to go
- Instead local associations strive to become AOs of EADH
SUMMING UP

For me what is happening with EADH – and this is the only regional or continental example we have today – would seem to show that there is some urge for unity in diversity and a feeling that bringing our culturally and language based questions, methods and knowledge together and confronting ourselves with the differences and communalities, will make us stronger, open up our minds and help us to create a much better and grounded knowledge than we have been able to create before.
SUMMING UP

- Digital Humanities is after all not a mere bundle of technologies, methods and tools, but a new epistemology which implies a different knowledge system with respect to the Humanities and a profound conceptual change when it comes to the practice of knowledge creation.

- I hope that EADH helps to foster the idea:
  - that the local and the global in terms of unity in diversity are inherently linked and can only grow together.
  - that submission and hegemony have nothing to say, if we look at the local, its cultures and languages with the same respect as the one we concede to the more overarching structures.
SUMMING UP

− Last but not least
  − having a European Association of Digital Humanities gives us a voice also on a higher, more political and cultural level
  − EADH is after all one of the founding members of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)
    − EASSH is lobbying for a bigger budget for Social Sciences and Humanities in FP 9 (see position papers)
    − EASSH is lobbying for a strong SSH presence in the design of the European Open Science Cloud
  − If we care for DH it is thus in our own interest to safeguard the unity in diversity we have managed to create perhaps for the first time in history.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Elisabeth Burr
Institut für Romanistik

elisabeth.burr@uni-leipzig.de
http://home.uni-leipzig.de/burr/