

Report on the 12th European Summer University 2022

Elena Lichmanova

European Summer University in Leipzig is in many senses a unique place to study Digital Humanities, not only in terms of the range of workshops it offers and the highest quality of its organisation but first and foremost in terms of an extraordinary atmosphere that it creates among its participants. This is a place where intellectual exchange, networking, and friendships among colleagues are encouraged at every point of one's participation. Rich communal life that is created by means of shared lunches and dinners, welcoming coffee breaks, and abundant cultural programme, enables one to build invaluable long-term professional relations.

I partook in a two-week workshop 'Visual Artificial Intelligence for the Digital Humanities' developed by Fabian Offert. This particular course was especially attractive to me because of my research on illuminated manuscripts: I was intrigued by the potential of Artificial Intelligence to facilitate the work with extensive manuscript databases and also by the possibility of learning a new programming language. During the first week, we were discovering a brief history of AI, its current abilities in the visual realm, and most importantly, mastering the basics of Python. In the second week, Fabian demonstrated truly exciting possibilities that Python can offer, including image clustering, face recognition, and scraping visual datasets from the internet. The second week was more practice-based: I implemented the possibilities of AI image recognition to my own image datasets of illuminated manuscripts. Fabian's patience, his ability to explain difficult things in a simple way (which was especially impressive given that there were students of very different levels – those who are used to work with other programming languages and complete beginners like me), and impeccable structure of workshops made the process of learning pleasurable and very engaging. In a certain sense, Fabian's workshop has become a formative experience for me because I had never worked with AI before. Knowing its boundaries will allow me to have a clearer picture of what I want to do with my own research in the future, and to what extent AI will be involved in it.

Lectures and presentations of other participants' projects furnished plenty of insights. It was incredible to learn about the scale and magnitude of so many international DH research undertakings. I particularly remember the talk by Quinn Dombrowski and Sebastian Majstorovic about their online archival enterprise: Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO). The efficiency and speed of organisation, the involvement of hundreds of people all over the world, and, of course, the worthiness of the cause, are all impressive beyond measure. The lecture by Emmanuel Ngue Um, 'Language Documentation as Social Engagement. Experiences from Africa' revealed the richness of languages in Cameroon and also raised an important issue that documenting does not equal preserving the language – the latter is possible only by means of ensuring the continuity of generations who speak the language. The project presentations by participants were extremely important for my understanding of the power of digitisation in terms of how we preserve and interpret our past. In particular, talks by Maija Spurina on the museum storages in Northeast Europe and by Karolina Kamińska on translation of Claude Lanzmann's movie 'Shoah' about holocaust showed that what is omitted in any given record is no less important than what is kept.

Without the DARIA-EU scholarship my participation in all the above would not have been possible, and I cannot express my gratitude enough. I also greatly appreciated the care,

attention to detail, and individual approach of all involved in the arrangement and coordination of this summer school – it probably was the best organised event in which I have ever taken part in.



Maija Spurina
Latvian Academy of Culture (Latvia)

My experience at the ESU DH 2022 in Leipzig

Two weeks at the European Summer University of Digital Humanities in Leipzig were filled with information, inspiration, and networking up to its brim. Overall, the whole experience can be divided into four parts – a workshop, lectures and project presentations, cultural program, and, last but certainly not least, socialization.

The Workshop

This year I took workshop “Digital Archives: Reading and Manipulating Large-Scale Catalogues, Curating and Creating Small-Scale Archives” lead by Yael Netzer, a DH scholar at Ben Gurion, Haifa and Tel Aviv Universities in Israel. Yael’s background is in computer sciences, but more recently she has been engaged in creation of digital archives of various sizes and is really the best person to learn from in this field. The workshop consisted of 18 sessions or 36 contact hours. We were 8 students in the group, and it was a very international crowd from 7 different countries – Germany, Canada, Cameroon, India, Italy, China, and Latvia. Each of us had a slightly different background and was working or was planning to work on his or her own project. The small size of the group and its diversity, made the experience even more interesting, because we could discuss each of our projects, get Yael’s advice on our own issues and learn from each other.



This is our workshop group with Yael (the second from the left) in a presentation of the workshop results after the first week.

The first week we learned how to acquire, explore, and manipulate large, generally text format, datasets using an open-source tool Open Refine. A lot of digital humanities analysis involves working digital archives. Although it is possible to work with the user interface of each archive, it is often much more convenient to access the data behind the archive. Some archives follow open data policies and allow to download raw metadata in csv, json, or xml

formats. Others provide API access. To know how to download data and how to transform it in various formats, is a truly useful skill. Also, these large datasets are diversely structured, often messy, and hard to oversee. Open Refine is a really useful tool for dealing with this. It allows to combine data from various sources, explore it, extract necessary information, facet it and do many other things. In the first week we explored all these possibilities working with archives from Russia, France, Great Britain, the United States, and Israel and later applying also with our own data. We also learned how to make use of open linked data, enriching our metadata with open data on persons and geographical locations. Towards the end of the first week, I worked with my own data set – metadata on the collection of glass plates negatives of Strenci Photo Studio from the collection of Latvian Museum of Photography.

In the second week of the workshop, we learned how to create and publish our own digital archive using an open-source tool Omeka-S. We collaborated all together to create an archive, to add items from our own collections, to organize them in sets, to select and format necessary metadata, link our data with linked open data and to present this on a website. My future plan is to use this knowledge to create an open digital archive of Strenci Photo Studio glass plates collections, altogether 13 000 items.



This is our workshop group (with some missing) at the end of the second week.

Lectures and Project Presentations

During two weeks of the summer university, we had a privilege to attend six excellent public lectures all of which touched upon safeguarding of cultural heritage and problems associated with it both in digital and physical space. Amalia S. Levi talked about biases and silences in

archives and reminded us that any archive is a political entity created to represent the world in a particular way. Quinn Dombrowski and Sebastian Majstorovic talked about their remarkable initiative SUCHO that is archiving Ukrainian web-pages that are endangered by the Russian war against Ukraine. Emmanuel Ngue Um talked about conservation of languages in Cameroon and raised an important question – do we need to invest in archiving an endangered language or in the community of this language?

I had a privilege to join some of these lecturers and other members of the summer university in a concluding panel, where we discussed the relationship between the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and its digital counterparts.



Emmanuel Ngue Um explaining conception of the past, the present, and the past in some of Cameroonian language at the concluding panel of the ESU DH 2022.

There were also numerous remarkable project presentations by other members of the ESU DH 2022 that uncovered multiple ways one can use DH methods to analyze cultural heritage and numerous tools out there. In one of such sessions, I had an opportunity to present my own analysis of national digitized museum collection databases in Latvia, Finland, and Estonia. The presentation was very well received and I could get a lot of valuable feedback.



My presentation at the ESU DH 2022.

Cultural Programme

We were also given a tour around two museums - Zeitgeschichtliches Forum and Egyptian museum - , and the German National Library.

Here are some visual insights in treasures and impressions from these experiences.



The treasures of the Egyptian museum and our very helpful and knowledgeable tour guide.



And some of us under gaze of a fugure from the past at the Zeitgeschichtliches Forum.



Connecting

It is hard to say what is the most valuable part of the ESU DH – the enormous amount of information and know-how one acquires in it or the community one becomes part of. Perhaps, it is fair to say that both are equally important, because people get connected through collaborative training and learning and a lot of knowledge gets passed through informal conversations during numerous coffee-breaks, communal dinners and social activities. The superb management of the ESU DH by Elisabeth Burr and her team ensures that already in a week people feel like they have known each other for ages, and these connections, a value in itself, will certainly result in future collaborations in DH and beyond.

Thanks you Dariah-EU for making this possible!



A typical coffee break.



The whole ESU DH 2022.



Elisabeth Burr and her ESU DH 2022 team.

DARIAH-EU Fellowship Report

-----12TH EUROPEAN SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN
DIGITAL HUMANITIES "CULTURE & TECHNOLOGY"
2th to 12th August 2022 - University of Leipzig

My participation in the Leipzig Summer University and the DARIAH-EU fellowship have been very valuable experiences for me, all of which I am grateful for.



Leipzig Landscape

Over the course of two weeks, I attended a workshop on Visual Artificial Intelligence for the Digital Humanities taught by Professor Fabian Offert as

well as Professor Yael Netzer's Digital Archives: Reading and Manipulating Large-Scale Catalogues, Curating and Creating Small-Scale Archives. The workshop allowed me to gain a lot of practical computer skills and humanities knowledge over the course of half a month.

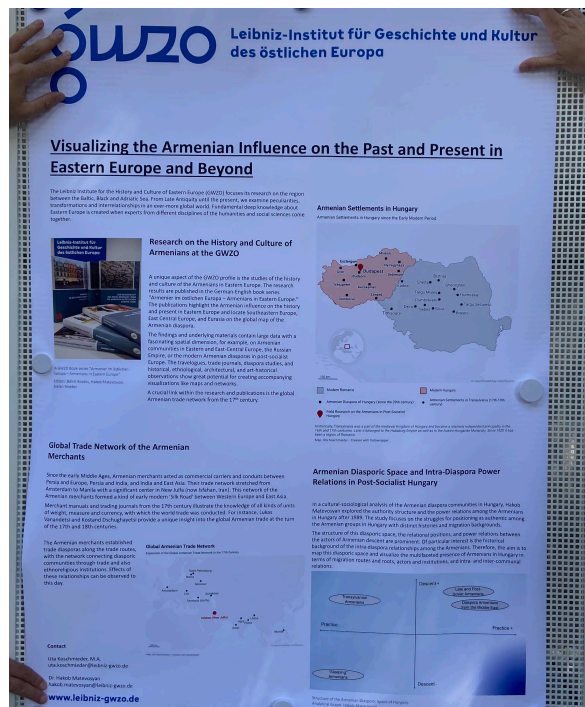
Truthfully, I have always had little confidence in my programming skills and made many mistakes, which eventually led me to lose interest in code and feel very frustrated. Fabian, however, was an excellent instructor, kind and patient, and allowed me as well as my workshop colleagues to improve our programming skills in a relaxed classroom environment and integrate them into our daily research. In my case, I enjoy museum-related topics, so Fabian prepared a module on the Rijksmuseum that allowed us to visualize its exhibit data through programming, and we worked on it step by step until we were able to achieve the results we wanted with Fabian's assistance. Colleagues also interacted cheerfully in the workshop, and we enjoyed presenting our group presentation based on Sharon's dragon research and Python.

As part of Yael's digital archives workshop, I learned how to create a database on the Omeka S platform. Considering that I am currently working on a database building project using Omeka S, it is very encouraging that what I learned can be applied immediately. It is admirable how knowledgeable and willing Yael is to share her knowledge with us.



Workshop Presentation

Apart from our daily classes, we also attended intense lectures almost every day, so that we could learn about other scholars' research areas and some academic frontiers, and I gained so much from them.



Poster Session

In addition, I would like to thank the organizers of the workshop, especially Prof. Elisabeth, for their energy and for allowing us to ignore the red heat warning in Saxony and try not to miss any museum visits and hikes. The organizers arranged several museum tours with docents so that we could gain a greater understanding of the exhibits and history, which was extremely informative! In addition, the organizers suggested interesting places and activities in Leipzig to us outside of the schedule. I appreciate their dedication and am looking forward to seeing you again!



Lovely Organisers



In The Zeitgeschichtliches Forum Leipzig



Hiking after the museum visit

Having made lifelong friends in Leipzig has also been a very valuable experience for me, and I cherish it very much. Through this summer university, scholars from different cultures and research fields from around the world had the opportunity to come together in Leipzig amid the shadow of the Covid-19 epidemic, and fortunately, all of the scholars I encountered were knowledgeable, humble, and fascinating. I really enjoyed working with them. As we went to Mensa almost every day for lunch, and then for regular communal dinners, I spent almost every day laughing endlessly as our strange yet endearing senses of humor collided, creating a subculture and collective memory unique to us. My fellow participant, Barbara, a post-punk music lover with whom I share endless interests and passions, says it's a mutually supportive digital human community, and yes, I feel a sense of belonging that I've never experienced before. I was relieved and touched when Karolina appeared on the street to meet the young scholar Jonathan and me after getting lost in the Leipzig forest late at night due to a cell phone navigation error. This scene reminded me of the Polish film - *Aniol in Krakow*. The Bauhaus and Dresden were introduced and guided to me by Karoline, and we learned endless facts about endangered wildlife which inspired me to create a database about them using Python. It was a pleasure to eat Vietnamese Pho with Sharon, to say goodbye to Anna with a beer in the park, to switch languages with Damir and Maciej, to explore Leipzig Zoo with Maria, to get a bird's eye view of Leipzig with Sarina, Karo and Tenille, and to watch a soccer match at Red Bull Leipzig's stadium. All this will make up my fond memories. Despite being apart for a while, we still

maintain friendship and contact, and I've asked them a lot of questions about digital humanities. My database enthusiast friend Jonathan, along with Karo, helped me out with related queries and inspired me yesterday.



Leipzig by Night

After Giada snapped the last picture of me in front of the historical Bibliotheca Albertina, I knew the summer was coming to an end. Although we were all very sad to know that this would be the last Leipzig Summer University, we were also grateful for the digital technology that allowed us to transcend time and space and keep the friendships we had developed.

Chen Xiaoxuan (Chen Si)

KU Leuven

ESU 2022 – DARIAH-EU report

Maciej Kurzynski

The 12th European Summer University in Digital Humanities “Culture & Technology” (ESU), organized by the University of Leipzig, was held from 2nd to 12th of August, 2022. During the two weeks of workshops, lectures, project presentations, and poster sessions, the participants had an opportunity to explore multiple research areas related to digital humanities and humanistic computing. From the XML-TEI document encoding and digital archives, through stylometry and distant reading, to procedural creativity and visual artificial intelligence, the Summer University offered a feast of digital know-how catering to a great variety of DH enthusiasts.

One of the defining features of the Summer University in Leipzig was the multicultural background of its participants. Junior and senior scholars from across Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East, and North and South America exchanged ideas and learned from each other, thus decentering the mainstream digital humanities discourse – traditionally focused on the English language data – and drawing attention to the questions of multilingual DH. It was fascinating to hear so many different languages being spoken just meters away from each other in the hallways of the Bibliotheca Albertina, where afternoon lectures would be given every other day. In this regard, I was particularly impressed by the talk given by dr. Emmanuel Ngue Um (Université de Yaoundé I, Cameroun), entitled “Language Documentation as Social Engagement. Experiences from Africa,” which raised eye-opening questions about language preservation in Cameroon. Dr. Ngue Um emphasized the importance of language ecology *in situ*, as opposed to abstract linguistic documentation and deterritorialized archivist practice.

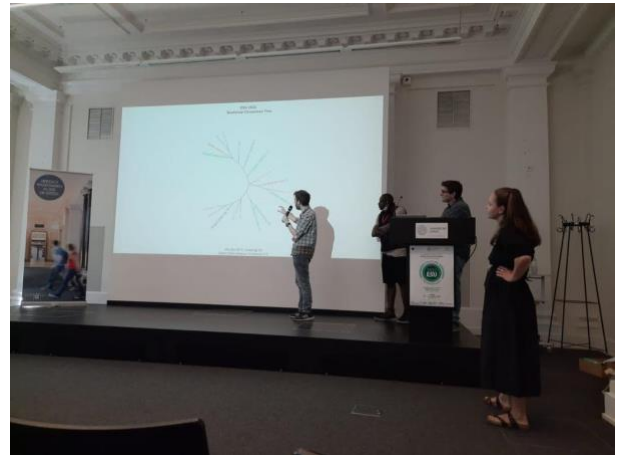


During the two weeks of ESU 2022, there were numerous opportunities to get to know each other: in addition to the everyday workshops which constituted the core of the Summer University’s schedule, ESU organized multiple trips to cultural places of interest in Leipzig (my favorite ones included the Egyptian Museum and the Zeitgeschichtliches Forum), as well as discussion panels, group activities, daily walks to the *mensa* (student dining hall), and the unforgettable dinners open to all of the participants. What else is there to hope for after a long day spent in the summer heat if not an equally heated discussion about stylometry and word vectors in the evening?

While the participants enjoyed the stunning Leipzig architecture, the Russian invasion of Ukraine continued

unabated. The overarching theme of the Summer University was cultural heritage and violence of the archives. Numerous speakers stressed the ethical side of digital humanities – how the new digital tools can be used to let those who have been silenced speak out, and how massive data archives can help us preserve the traces of the past. In her talk „Mindful DH: The Generative Power of Archival Silences,” Amalia S. Levi (HeritEdge Connection) appealed to DH scholars not to reproduce the biases and gaps already present in the archives.

I am very glad to have participated in the Stylometry workshop taught by Maciej Eder (Polish Academy of Sciences / Pedagogical University, Cracow, Poland) and Jeremi Ochab (Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland). I learned plenty about the R package *Stylo* and how to use it effectively to determine the authorship of a particular text in a corpus. The workshop also helped me better understand the differences between algorithms used to visualize high-dimensional spaces, such as MDS (multidimensional scaling) or PCA (principal component analysis), and sensitized me to the pitfalls of human reasoning which often sees meaning and causal connections where there are none. Every session was filled with inspiring discussions and potential new project ideas. I would like to thank Professor Elisabeth Burr and her wonderful team for organizing the Summer University, and I hope to see everyone again in the future.





Report on the 2022 European Summer University “Culture & Technology” in Digital Humanities at the University of Leipzig

Julien Beckaert | University of Lille

As a winner of the DARIA-EU fellowship for the European Summer University in Digital Humanities, this review is an opportunity to share and promote the technical and cultural knowledge I acquired there, as well as ESU’s objectives and values. It is also a way to pay tribute to the sponsors, organisers and workshop instructors. Their devotion and engagement made these two weeks an enthralling experience.

I am a French PhD student in Eighteenth-Century British History and Literature at the University of Lille’s CECILLE research unit. My path through Digital Humanities started at the EnExDi Summer School in Digital Humanities of the University of Poitiers and University Léonard de Vinci organised in May 2022. There, I discovered a wide range of computational methods and perspectives I was eager to implement on my research project. The Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) especially suited the methodological needs of my doctoral thesis on British radical miscellanies *Pig’s Meat*, *Politics for the People* and *The Argus*. EnExDi organisers, especially Dr Giovanni Pietro Vitali, encouraged me to apply to the European Summer University in Digital Humanities, so I could put my freshly acquired skills to use.

The 12th European Summer University in Digital Humanities was held from the 2nd to the 12th of August and offered an impressive list of 10 workshops covering a variety of DH topics at both basic and advanced levels. As all workshops ran in parallel through the 10 days, participants had to select one workshop per week — though one could get a short introduction



of the other workshops' content during the teaser sessions. I attended workshop 1 "XML-TEI document encoding, structuring, rendering and transformation" animated by Dr. Alejandro Bia from the University Miguel Hernández, Spain. The course content covered a range of theoretical and technical processes involved in text-marking. It consisted of a total of 18 sessions or 36 teaching hours, which was a relevant rhythm to accumulate practical knowledge. Questions such as the following ones were addressed through numerous exercises :

- How to select the relevant elements to encode a literary text depending on its form (a novel, a play, a poem, etc.)?
- Why is interchangeability at the root of the TEI?
- Which software shall be used according to the research project's scope, number of participants and complexity?
- What kind of outputs could be obtained from a well-formed and valid XML document?

This training course also revealed how the process of adding one's interpretation to a text through the use of meta-data raises both research and technical issues, which should not be taken separately. "Digital Humanities" is not an hyphenated expression. As such, it does not describe a partitioned practice in which the research engineer is separated from the actual research process. This claim points to a much broader question (which expands the scope of the XML/TEI to encompass every other workshop at ESU) that is, the epistemological significance of computational research.



As Prof. Elisabeth Burr said at the ESU closing conference, scholars in humanities do have brains but need a computer anyway to solve some complex problems. However, this computational practice bears biases and false assumptions that researchers should be aware of. One of them is the misleading idea that huge data sets would provide an accurate and exhaustive representation of reality. Fortunately, one ESU participant would only have to cross the street between the GWZ, where workshops took place, and the century-old Bibliotheca Albertina to examine these complex issues. Six lectures were delivered during the two weeks. They focused on different cultural and geographical areas, such as the digital legacy of the Truth Commission in Colombia, the Ukrainian cultural heritage, or language documentation in Cameroon.

In her lecture entitled “Mindful DH: The Generative Power of Archival Silences”, Amalia S. Levi (HeritEdge Connection) stressed that her archival practice epitomised the fact that data sets are not raw information. They are deeply contextualised information, culturally and purposefully constructed. She asserted that documents were not discovered in archives but were instead meant to be found. Her notion of “Archival Silences” condemned the Western policy of cultural hegemony, especially regarding colonial collections, which have so far undermined pluralism and marginalised voiceless minorities. Stressing her firm commitment for archival decolonisation, she urged DH projects to break free from the “sins of analogue collections”. These talks created a multicultural and truly insightful environment. It fostered teamwork and innovation but also emphasised the constant need for a meta-discourse, which would (re)interrogate our understanding of DH’s systemic implications. It also highlighted the discipline’s overt connection to ethics, politics and ecology.



The schedule also afforded time for each participant to present their own research. This allowed us to better understand the variety of research fields which used DH tools. A content management platform like Omeka proved to be equally useful to art historians and scholars in religious, social or legal studies. The same goes for tools, such as literary mapping, stylometry, network analysis or topic modelling. Various activities, such as communal dinners, visits to museums (Archeological Museum and Printing Arts Museum), or even an excursion to the Lake of Cospuden, furthered inspiring conversations between participants. Eventually, the workshop results sessions facilitated the exchange between different teams, projects, and individuals.

ESU 2022 event was a wealth of experience and knowledge sharing. It undoubtedly met my expectations: I returned home with a clearer mind regarding Digital Humanities as a field, but also as a coherent and structured method to encode my primary sources. I still want to learn more and will definitely attend other Digital Humanities events over the coming years.

Julien Beckaert

Report of the European Summer University in Digital Humanities at the University of Leipzig

Virgile Mayo | Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France

I am pleased to have participated to the European Summer University (ESU) in Digital Humanities (DH) organized at the University of Leipzig. It has been two intense and demanding weeks of training, but they were worth it. Indeed, the ESU provides great opportunities for acquiring skills in DH and for meeting researchers and scholars in an ideal environment.

I took two courses, each lasting a week and dealing with one of the programming language called R (or R language). R is useful for distant reading – an approach in literary studies which aims at examining a wide body of texts by means of a computer. These courses were even more rewarding than I anticipated. I not only learned how to take advantage of this programming language for my researches: lesson by lesson new questions and new ways of dealing with my documentation emerged.

Several lectures are also proposed during the ESU. Personally, it allows me to discover benefits of the DH I didn't know and to better understand the issues of these tools and methodologies. The digitization of our cultural heritage certainly contributes to its preservation and democratization. However, it raises questions regarding the storage and the management of mass data. It also involves a range of economic, environmental and epistemological issues.

In addition, the ESU gives the participants the possibility to integrate a network of digital humanists – a community which has widened over the years, since the first edition of the ESU in 2009. This summer university is undoubtedly more than two weeks of lessons and discussions. For my part, I met brilliant researchers and doctoral students with whom I will keep in touch. Moreover, there are people of all walks of life in the ESU: the participants have different backgrounds (in literature, linguistics, art, history, cultural studies) and come from all around the world (actually from every continent). Such a social diversity is very enriching and stimulating. For instance, I personally met a professor from a Cameroonian university with whom I will probably collaborate in the future.

The organization of the event was perfect. During these two weeks, we have access to the room, hardware and facilities of the University of Leipzig. One who wants to study can even go to the academic library. And the staff had also scheduled diners and cultural trips which came out to be nice relaxing and convivial moments.

For me, finally, the outcome of the ESU was a growing interest in DH. These two weeks are very beneficial for a first-year doctoral student. I understood how I could make the most of DH, and from now on, I know better the tools I may use during the next years and the issues related to them. The ESU offered me many prospects too: in addition to the collaboration with the Cameroonian professor I met, I might get teaching hours in my university in France, thanks to this high level training school.

Last but not least, I want to thank the DARIAH-EU. Without the fellowship I won, I could not have come to the ESU. Indeed, the DARIAH-EU fellowship covered the participation fees, but I still had to pay for the accommodation by myself, because I didn't get any financial support from my University.

I hope the sponsors such as the DARIAH-EU will keep support this wonderful summer university in Leipzig. Actually, I heard that the ESU was in danger because of financial hardship. I wish the next editions will take place so that I can continue my own training there from year to year, as the previous participants could do.

Report of the 12th European Summer University 2022

Augustine Emeka

Introduction: I am Ugwumgbo, Augustine Emeka. I am from Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria. Here is my summer school report. This year's summer school started on 2nd August and ended on 12th August 2022. The academic gathering witnessed the gathering of intellectuals from all walks of life, disciplines and intellectuals. Almost the whole continents of the were represented, though Europe and America having the greatest representatives. As usual knowledge was shared. Contacts were made. And skills were acquired.

Appreciation: I count myself privileged not only to have been one of the participants of the 12th European Summer University in Digital Humanities "Culture & Technology", but also one of the lucky winners of the DARIAH-EU scholarship. It was a dream I never imagined will come to reality. Hence, I express my immense heartfelt gratitude to the organisers of ESU DH and DARIAH-EU scholarship. I cannot but thank in no mean measure Prof. Elizabeth Bur for her professional and motherly role in organizing the summer school.

The Hitches: It is a pity I had the challenge of not joining the summer school on time. This was as a result of visa processes challenge. However, I thank God that I finally made it to the program.

The program and activities within the summer school: The program was intensive. The academic encounter witnessed the acquisition of different digital humanities' skills. The program was structured into 2 hands-on sessions, 2 teaser sessions, 6 lectures, 4 project presentation sessions, 1 round table discussion, 1 poster session, two workshop results presentations, visits to museums, memorable places and libraries. The workshops include:

1. XML-TEI document encoding, structuring, rendering and transformation
2. Hands-on Humanities Data workshop

3. Stylometry
4. Text processing for linguists and literary scholars with R
5. Distant Reading in R. from text analysis to mapping
6. Procedural creativity and digital Humanities scholarship etc.

The program I attended was Stylometry. The interest of this field was centred on learning digital tools used in authorial attribution and similarities. It can also be used to decipher themes of texts and for contrastive linguistics and literature. We were taught among other things bootstrap consensus tree, multidimensional scaling, network analysis.

The lecturers, Maciej Eder and Jeremi Ochab, did their best to help us gain the best of the lectures.

The gains:

1. The summer school offered me the opportunity to learn new skills (stylometry).
2. It offered me new academic contacts.
3. It exposed me to the western world. Etc.

Remarks: This year's summer school was interesting. The participants were fun to be with.

The lecturers were also good. However, the announcement by the professor in charge about the end of the summer school wasn't palatable to me and other participants. If it is possible, I appeal that the summer school shouldn't be allowed to die.

Bellow are some photos from the workshop.



Figure 1 Ugwumbo, Augustine: Receiving the DARIAH- EU certificate from Prof. Elizabeth Bur.



Figure 2 Stylometry classroom



Figure 3 Enjoying tea break with one of the Professors in attendance.



Figure 4 Tea break with some of the participants



Figure 5 One of the poster presenters



Figure 6 Stylometry group presentation



Figure 7 Nice time with Prof. Emmanuel Ngue, a leading scholar in Digital Humanities in Africa.



Figure 8 One of the Dinners we attended.



Figure 9 My paper presentation.

European Summer University in Digital Humanities “Culture and Technology”
Leipzig University, 2nd- 12th August 2022

Barbara Distefano

Close your eyes and think of an academic reality where the evaluators always find a nice word to respect people’s work; where researchers and students seem more concerned about cooperating than about competing; where no one is afraid of openly sharing innovative research ideas, and where everyone asks for advices in public rather than secretly working on the next application for funding. Now, think of a big gathering of young scholars from all over the world who are not afraid of saying loudly how precarious is the life they are living; and imagine a community of brilliant DH researchers who are honest enough to look at the darkest sides of academia while finishing their plate at the university canteen. You might be inclined to believe that such a space has never and will never exist, but you would be wrong.

It’s hard to find appropriate words to thank DARIAH for giving me the opportunity to see the European Summer University “Culture and Technology” with my own eyes. I am even more grateful because DARIAH already funded my participation in the ESU 2021. Before completing the online edition last year – which was already an extraordinary learning environment – I would have never guessed that a summer school could be so intense and effective; but on the 12th of August 2021 I realised that, despite any remote learning barrier, QGIS was no more a mystery to me, and that in ten days I had done more than what you normally do in an entire university semester. This was already an indication of what a unique training opportunity Professor Elisabeth Burr and her team have managed to build.

Receiving a second scholarship from DARIAH in 2022 made me feel the higher responsibility of being among the lucky ones who would attend the first post-pandemic ESU in the beautiful city of Leipzig. I have always been impressed by the style of the emails that Elisabeth Burr has been sending for months to the ESU participants, but what strikes me the most is the perfect correspondence between what she writes and the person she is in real life: during her opening and closing speeches, I observed that her voice was carrying the same transparency I saw in her emails; her commitment in sharing every detail of the decision-making processes behind the ESU, or the way she publicly awarded and gave equal visibility to every piece of work of every single team member – from negotiations with restaurants to tour organizations and application evaluations –, that’s something rare, that I have personally never seen inside an academic event.

In a world where inequalities cruelly grow, the number of applicants – many of them coming from disadvantaged areas of the planet – who have been supported economically to be in Leipzig tells a lot about the efforts that have been made in ensuring equal opportunities. I was happy that the programme of the ESU was also designed in light of the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine, ensuring two specular lectures on cultural heritage at risk in both countries, and avoiding any discrimination of Russian colleagues. As an Italian who lives in Germany, I couldn’t avoid giving a political interpretation to the fact that half of the participants in the ESU were, in fact, young scholars who live outside Italy.

Yael Netzer’s workshop on Digital Archives was the perfect choice for my current research project, which should consist, among other things, in creating a digital archive. When I applied for this workshop, I didn’t have any large scale catalogue in mind to work on, but the first week – which was focused on reading and manipulating large-scale catalogues – made me discover Open Refine, a powerful tool to clean and organise data, that can be used to perform distant reading and answer many of the research questions I have in mind. I particularly appreciated the way in which Yael Netzer

managed to make us develop practical skills while also getting into theoretical concepts, such as knowledge representation issues, concepts of archives, philosophy of metadata schemes and documents as part of a narrative. After attending her workshop, LOD, ontologies and authority files will definitely sound more familiar.

I will never forget Amalia Levi's lecture *Mindful DH: The Generative Power of Archival Silences*: the way she reflected on how power structures are reproduced inside the digital realm; her invitation to create alternative narratives of the past by developing DH projects that visualise what documents and archives "do not say"; and her concern about what she called «the analogue forest». This lecture was perfectly complementary to the workshop I attended and provided me with a strong critical framework to approach archival science.

However, the ESU offered much more than workshops and lectures: it was really a space for sharing and exchanging research ideas with senior scholars while eating a piece of cake or resting in the garden. Discussing my data with Carol Chiodo and Lauren Tilton, for instance, or asking Jason Boyd what type of textual analysis he would apply to my documents, were informal but incredibly precious mentoring opportunities.

I was lucky enough not to attend the heartbreaking part of the ESU 2022 in presence. I had to watch Elisabeth Burr's closing speech on YouTube, and it's still incredibly hard to cope with the idea that what I attended was the last ESU. What's harder to accept is that, after 12 editions, the reasons why the global academic community will be deprived of such an equal and high quality DH training opportunity are the very same reasons (e.g. precarious contracts, lack of continuity and stability) why research has become an unaffordable cultural work for many young scholars.

There must be a place where all the labour, sacrifices and new ideas go once a good academic project cannot continue. My hope is that the University of Leipzig and German institutions will soon visualise this place, avoiding to waste what Elisabeth Burr's and her team of collaborators have built, enhanced and ensured for 14 years.