

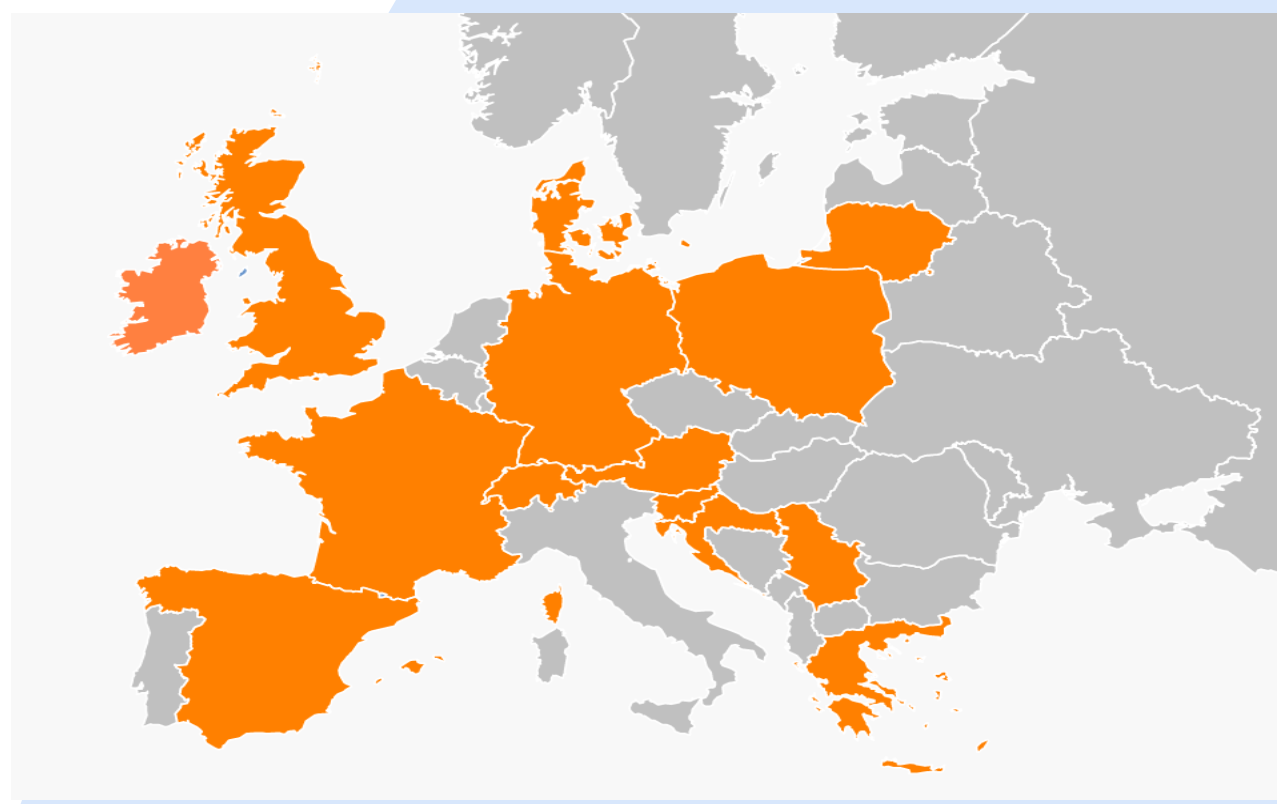
Methodological approaches to studying scholarly knowledge work in the digital environment

DARIAH Digital Methods and Practices Observatory WG (DiMPO)

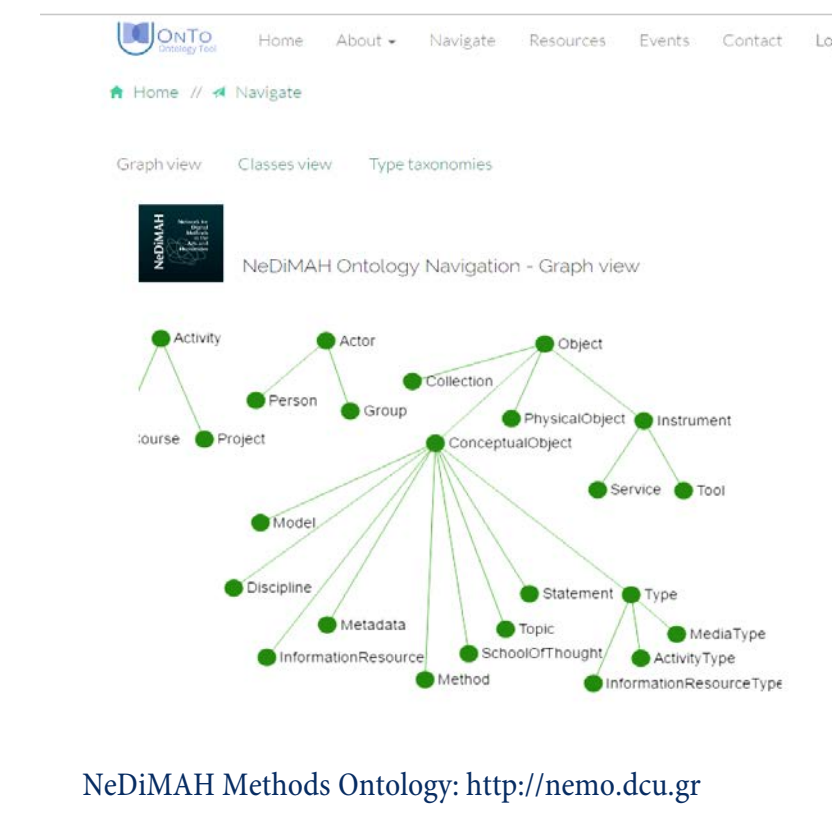


VCC2 - Research and Education
**Digital Methods and Practices
Observatory Working Group**

Membership



The Working Group welcomes members from all European countries. Current members include DARIAH-EU and associated partners from Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.



Mission

The DARIAH-EU **Digital Methods and Practices Observatory WG (DiMPO)** aims to provide evidence-based, timely and useful information and insight on the scholarly practices, needs and attitudes of European humanities researchers working in the digital environment. It was established in 2015 to continue the work of VCC2 *Task 2 - Understanding and expanding scholarly practice* within DARIAH-EU.

Scope of work

Longitudinal mixed methods research and monitoring on the information practices and methods of digitally-enabled scholarship in the human sciences across Europe
Digital dissemination, validation and enrichment of research outcomes by the scholarly community

Scholarly practices bibliography

DiMPO is building an online bibliography of research publications on scholarly practices, and the use of digital methods, services and tools in the arts and humanities. The bibliography, coordinated by University College Cork, is currently under development using Zotero (<http://www.zotero.org>) and hosts more than 300 citations from fields as diverse as theoretical digital humanities, information behaviour research, practice studies, science studies, humanities informatics, epistemology, social anthropology, and sociology of knowledge.

Methodological approach

DiMPO draws from multiple methodological traditions within information research. It adopts a multi-stage, transnational, mixed methods methodology for evidence-based study of scholarly practices and digital needs across time, consisting of four consecutive stages.

Scoping

- Bibliographies
- Literature reviews
- Registries

Understanding

- Case studies
- Qualitative interviewing
- Document analysis

Conceptualizing

- Domain modeling
- Ontologies and schemas
- Knowledge organization

Exploring

- Quantitative & statistics
- Questionnaire surveys
- Activity mapping

Case studies

To elucidate questions of “why” and “how” in scholarly practices and digital needs, DiMPO initiated a multiple case studies project combining naturalistic inquiry with qualitative interviewing and document analysis of representative research projects using digital resources, methods and tools. Benefiting from a DARIAH ERIC grant, the Working Group is currently developing a guide and research protocol based on pilot case studies.

This activity is coordinated by the Digital Curation Unit, IMIS-Athena RC, the Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Centre for Digital Humanities, Trinity College Dublin.

NeDiMAH Methods Ontology

The NeDiMAH Methods Ontology (NeMO) is a comprehensive ontological model of scholarly practice in the arts and humanities, a CIDOC CRM-compliant ontology which explicitly addresses the interplay of factors of agency (actors and goals), process (activities and methods) and resources (information resources, tools, concepts) manifest in the scholarly process.

NeMO incorporates existing taxonomies of scholarly methods and tools, such as TaDIRAH, the arts-humanities.net and Oxford taxonomies of ICT methods, DHCommons, CCC-IULA-UPF and DiRT, through appropriate mappings.

The ontology has been developed by the Digital Curation Unit, IMIS-Athena Research Centre, in collaboration with the Network for Digital Methods in the Arts and Humanities (NeDiMAH).



Publications

Benardou, Agathi, Costis Dallas, Savros Angelis, Nephelie Chatzidiakou, Panos Constantopoulos, Costis Dallas, Lorna M. Hughes, Eleni Papachristopoulou, Eliza Papadaki and Vayianos Pertses. 2015. “Documenting and Reassessing about Research on Ancient Corinthia Using the NeDiMAH Methods Ontology (NeMO).” In *CAA2015 - Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology Conference 2015*. <http://memo.dcu.gr/resources/usecases/UseCaseCAA2015.pdf>.
Hughes, Lorna, Panos Constantopoulos, and Costis Dallas. 2016. “Digital Methods in the Humanities: Understanding and Describing Their Use across the Disciplines.” In *A New Companion to Digital Humanities*, edited by Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, and John M. Unsworth, 150–70. Wiley-Blackwell.
Pertses, Vayianos, and Panos Constantopoulos. 2016. “Scholarly Ontology: Modelling Scholarly Practices.” *International Journal on Digital Libraries*, May, 1–18. doi:10.1007/s00799-016-0169-3.

Contact

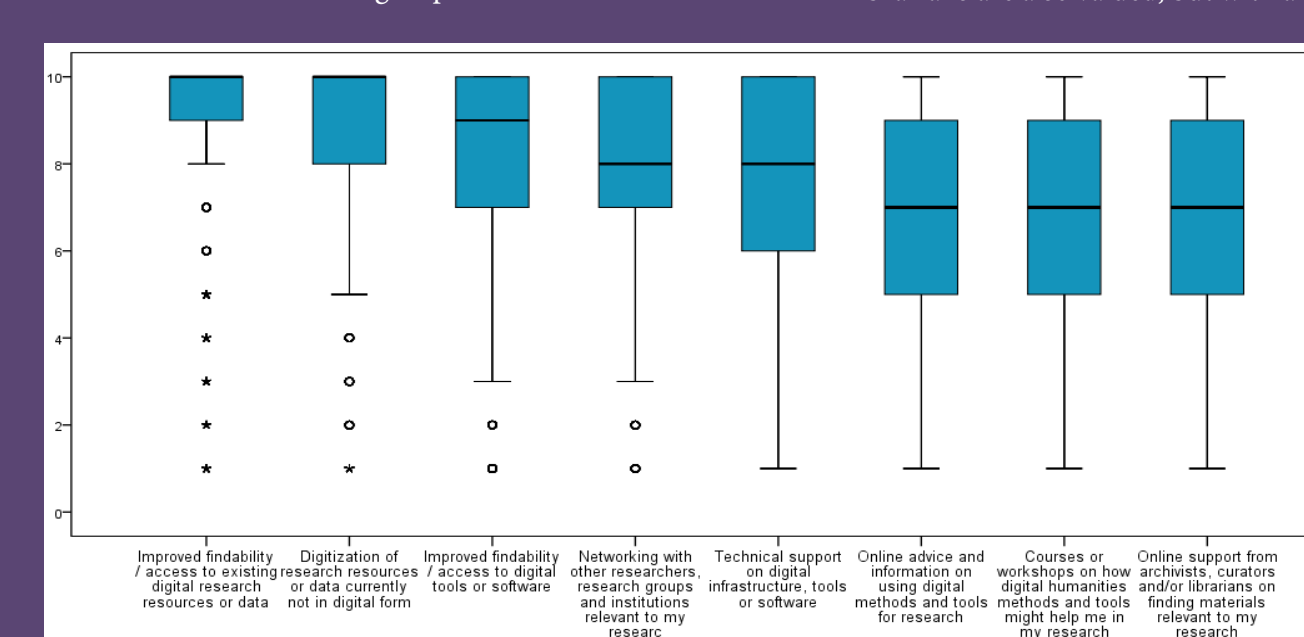
Prof. Costis Dallas, DiMPO Chair
Digital Curation Unit, IMIS-Athena RC
email: c.dallas@dcu.gr

European survey on scholarly practices and digital needs in the human sciences

Excerpts from the Highlights Report

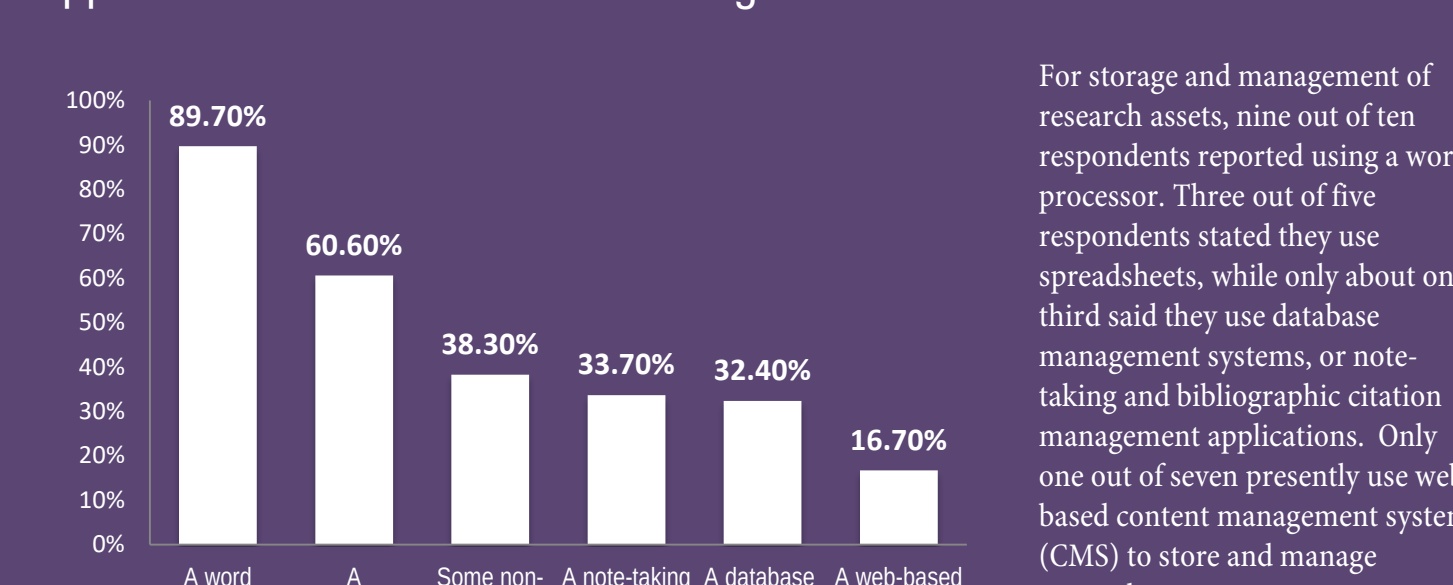
Improved findability of digital resources and digitization of non-digital ones are most highly valued

Asked to rate the importance of different needs in a scale from 1 to 10, three quarters of digital humanists rated improved findability and access to existing digital research resources or data as the most important, with a score exceeding 9.5 out of 10. A slightly lower score of 9 was granted to digitization of research resources or data currently not in digital form by three out of four respondents. Two other needs, improved findability and access to digital tools or software, and networking with other researchers, research groups and institutions, share third place with a score exceeding a score of 7 by more than three out of four respondents. Other functions, such as technical support on digital infrastructures, tools or software, online advice and information on using digital methods and tools for research, courses or workshops on how digital humanities methods and tools provide help in the course of the research, and online support from archivists, curators and/or librarians are also valued, but with a lower score.



Importance of digital infrastructure affordances. N= 2077

Word processors and spreadsheets are (still) the most common applications used to store and manage research assets



Use of applications to store and manage research assets. N= 2176

Source: Dallas, Costis, Nephelie Chatzidiakou, Beat Immenhauser, Ingrida Kelpiene, Maciej Maryl, Gerlinde Schneider, Walter Scholger, et al. 2016. *European Survey on Scholarly Practices and Digital Needs in the Arts and Humanities: Highlights Report*. Athens: DARIAH-EU Digital Methods and Practices Observatory Working Group (DiMPO). doi:10.5281/zenodo.260101.

The *European survey on scholarly practices and digital needs in the human sciences* is the outcome of collaborative work of more than 20 European researchers from 14 different countries, working within DiMPO. It has been designed as a **multiregional longitudinal questionnaire survey**, to be conducted online across European countries and to be repeated every few years.

The first iteration of the survey (completed in March 2015) collected **2,177 responses** by European researchers in the human sciences.

Survey results are presented in:

- ❖ A *Survey Highlights* report, translated in several European languages
- ❖ An edited, multi-authored full report (in English), which includes consolidated analyses, as well as six country profiles (in print)

A second survey iteration is planned for 2019-20.

