

Experiences and perspectives from Spanish DH community: the Digital Humanities Innovation Lab at UNED (LINHD): innovation, research, training and future challenges.

Digital humanities are experiencing a growing interest in Spain, with important results, especially during the last five years. Our presentation makes a brief analysis of the current situation and introduces LINHD, the Digital Innovation Lab at UNED, a pioneer Digital Humanities centre in the Spanish-speaking world, which is structured on four pillars: research, training, dissemination and technological services. Founded in 2014, LINHD was the first centre of its kind, a dedicated laboratory for digital humanities that managed to become self-sustainable and to grow through a new approach that involves academic interdisciplinarity between humanities faculties, our computer science school, the university library, and UNED digital media departments.

LINHD is a hub for innovation, consultancy and training that offers suitable infrastructures and specialised advice for researchers and projects from all the Spanish speaking countries. Its success is based on a new approach to research by making it collaborative, team-centred, interdisciplinary, boundless, and non-hierarchical. Since the present organisation of university and research centres hinders the creation of interdisciplinary and hybrid groups, LINDH offers an alternative that bridges the gap between humanists and technical people. Furthermore, the latest technologies are employed in the development of new research projects in four main areas: text processing, semantic web and linked data, visualisation, databases and knowledge management.

LINHD obtained an initial grant from the university, but now it is completely self-funded. For this reason, fundraising and searching for ground-breaking new research initiatives and projects are its cornerstone. As an example, we have POSTDATA, an ERC Starting Grant project seeking to unify poetical analysis between cultures and existing research databases by using web semantic technologies. Another important e-infrastructure project recently developed is EVILINDH: a virtual research environment, conceived by digital humanists for humanists, designed for collaborative research work on a cloud service. It includes the combination of some open-source tools combined with own developments, such as TEIScribe, a TEI visual tagging tool, which enables unexperienced researchers encode texts without prior knowledge of XML technologies.

LINDH is well connected with the international networks in the field of digital humanities. It is a member of CenterNet, the network of digital humanities centres of ADHO, for which LINHD has organized the two last editions of the DayofDH in 2015 and 2016. It is also one of the three founders of the first Clarin-K Centre of the European CLARIN ERIC, together with other two universities in Spain: UPF and UPV, and it is acting as the Spanish node in DARIAH-EU, leading the national Spanish consortium in the process towards the addition of Spain as a member to the ERIC.

Training is also fundamental in our lab, both for economic reasons and for dissemination purposes. LINHD offers periodical seminars and conferences, but also a yearly Summer School on Digital Humanities and three long teaching programs on Digital Humanities, Digital Scholarly Editing and Stylometry. All of them are taught in Spanish and completely online, so, our target students are distributed around the world and most of them are Spanish speakers.

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