

FSD3362 HAASTATTELUT DIGITAALISEN TUTKIMUKSEN FASILITOINNISTA 2017

FSD3362 FACILITATING DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH 2017

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Lab Visit Questions

Generally, our project is interested in finding the best practices for facilitating digital history research in Finland. The aim is that not everyone should invent the wheel over and over again, and that we would be able to identify the organizational, infrastructure and knowledge/know how -based obstacles for digital research, and find ways to overcome them.

Interviewer:

Name of the lab/center:

Interviewee:

Date & place:

Can we mention the name of the lab in publications or not?:

Can we publish the interview transcription in the project website (you can read the transcription before publishing)?

General

- What is your lab? What are the goals of your lab / center? Why was it established? Who established and when?
- What is the institutional position of your lab / center? Are you under a faculty, library, or an independent unit? How does it affect your work?
- What is the funding base of the establishment (one big funding or several smaller ones)? How does it affect your work?
- Are there any affiliated organizations or close collaboration with some institutions?
- What do you consider your main outputs/publications/contributions so far? What kinds of results are you aiming at in the future?

People

- number of people involved
- who are involved? Who are the people involved, what are their backgrounds, how many there are? What is the gender, ethnical, race variety of the people involved?
- What are the disciplinary backgrounds of your academic staff? Do you have computer scientists? Do you have people with humanities background?
- How are they involved – how many salaried, how many hang arounds, how many students, how many coming from other departments/universities/other organizations/"common people"?

- are there “distant-memberships”? If yes, how are they involved in the activities?
- Do you have permanent administration/supporting staff? If yes, what are their duties, and how many are they?
- Do you have measures for creating accepting atmosphere?
- What kinds of research projects do you have currently (have had and are planning to have)? Who are the people involved in the projects, and what are their backgrounds? What are the expected results of the projects?
- What is your role in this lab?

Collaboration and communication

- What are the daily, weekly, and annual practices of your lab?
- how do you communicate? Regular meetings, irregular meetings, coffee hours, joint lunches, web-based communication? Is there a regular time and place for meetings? Who comes/can come to the meetings?
- What kinds of regular events do you have? Do you have regular seminars, do you invite speakers?
- How knowledge is produced in your lab?
- what do you share? what not? does everybody know about everything or is there a structure behind?
- Have you (or other people involved) encountered gaps in communication? If yes, what kinds of gaps? How did the gaps influence the work? Have you solved the problem, and if yes, how?
- If you don't know how a practical question related to research (for example the best way to store data) can be solved how do you find solution to that? Do you know whom to ask? Do you try to google it? Or do you try to solve the problem by yourself? Have you found good ways for sharing the best practices and silent knowledge of digital research?
- How do you see virtual and physical presence? Are they equally important, or is one or another more important? How do you pursue your virtual and physical presence?
- Do you have measures for facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration and understanding? have you found good ways doing this (also digitally)?
- What kind of education / courses / knowledge sharing do you organize? How often do you have courses, who are the teachers, and what kinds of courses you give? Do you teach humanists programming? Do you teach tech people humanist approaches?
- In what ways do you publish your research results? Is there a need for widening the idea of meriting into meriting by review, sharing data, or a code? If yes, how are you facilitating that?
- Do you support open publishing? Do you share your data/sources? Have you encountered any problems in sharing data or open publishing?

Infrastructure

- What kind of infrastructure do you offer for the members of the community? (computers, programs, data storage capacity, computer programs, ...)
- What are the minimum infrastructure prerequisites for successful projects?
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Physical environment

- do you have your own premises, a physical environment of your own for the digital activities?
- where should you go to meet with the people?
- how is the space arranged? How much “private” and how much “public” space? Are there rooms for groups? Is it easy for the outsiders to come?
- How does the material space of the lab effect the work of the lab?