

DH LU 2013

Reading historical sources in the digital age: 5–6

December 2013, Luxembourg

DHLU 2013 was co-organised by the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (CVCE), together with the Jean Monnet Chair in History of European Integration (University of Luxembourg, FLSHASE) and its research programme 'Digital Humanities Luxembourg' — DIHULUX (research unit Identités-Politiques-Sociétés-Espaces (IPSE)) as well as the University of Luxembourg's Master's in Contemporary European History. Its aim was to bring together likeminded researchers with a vested interest in the topic of "Reading historical sources in the digital age".

The contributions to the symposium in this publication are structured around the following research clusters:

- Distant/close reading — Data retrieval, analysis and visualization
As increasing quantities of historical data are published on the web, the prospect of making simple use of these data — i.e. reading PDFs on screen or printing them out to read on paper — is becoming increasingly less realistic and methodologically sustainable. What options are open to researchers, and what are the concomitant methodological issues? This cluster will cover various themes, including: (big) data, text mining and semantic analysis, quantitative data approaches, network analysis, data visualization (including GIS), and more generally the links between distant and close readings.
- Writing history & Assessing scholarship
Once researchers begin to use digital thematic collections, will it change the way they write history? This cluster includes practical papers (e.g. on how to cite digital resources) as well as more theoretical ones. It embraces issues relating to the validity and quality of data and research outputs based on digital thematic collections, as well as the evaluation of those collections as a new kind of online scholarly publication.

Based on the above clusters, researchers were asked to submit papers in an open call. We challenged them to bridge the gap in Digital Humanities knowledge and share their methodological, scholarly activities and experience of handling digital historical sources. This publication results from a selection of presentations at the symposium. The papers presented therein were fully revised and updated in order to form this volume.

The editorial team would like to thank the members of the program committee as well as all colleagues at the former CVCE, which is now part of the University of Luxembourg, for their support in conducting the symposium and publishing this volume. We would like to acknowledge in particular the work of Frédéric Clavert, who organised the previous DHLU conferences and participated strongly in writing the call for DHLU 2013 as well as Mike Kestemont and Patrick Weber for their expertise in the review and edition of selected papers.

1. Program Committee

- Claire Clivaz (Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Switzerland)
- René Leboutte (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- Claudine Moulin (University of Trier, Germany)
- Serge Noiret (European University Institute, Italy)
- Stéfán Sinclair (McGill University, Canada)
- Marianne Backes (CVCE, Luxembourg)

2. Editorial Committee

- Lars Wieneke (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- Catherine Jones (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- Marten Düring (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- Florentina Armaselu (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- René Leboutte (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)