

# Preface

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## Abstract

This is the preface to the proceedings of the HistoInformatics2021 workshop (the 6th International Workshop on Computational History). This workshop held in conjunction with the JCDL2021 conference. This is the 6th installment of the workshop series devoted to the interaction between Computer Science and History. This interdisciplinary initiative is a response to the growing popularity of Digital Humanities, particularly in historical research, and an increased tendency to apply algorithms and computer techniques for fostering and facilitating new research methods and tools in the Humanities.

## 1. Scope of the Workshop

The HistoInformatics workshop series brings together researchers in the historical disciplines, computer science and associated disciplines as well as the cultural heritage sector. Historians, like other humanists, show keen interests in computational approaches to the study and processing of digitized sources (usually text, images, audio). In computer science, experimental tools and methods stand the challenge to be validated regarding their relevance for real-world questions and applications. The HistoInformatics workshop series is designed to bring researchers in both fields together, to discuss best practices as well as possible future collaborations. Traditionally, historical research is based on the hermeneutic investigation of preserved records and artifacts to provide a reliable account of the past and to discuss different hypotheses. Alongside this hermeneutic approach historians have always been interested to translate primary sources into data and used methods, often borrowed from the social sciences, to analyze them. A new wealth

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of digitized historical documents have however opened up completely new challenges for the computer-assisted analysis of e.g. large text or image corpora.

Historians can greatly benefit from the advances of computer and information sciences which are dedicated to the processing, organization, and analysis of such data. New computational techniques can be applied to help verify and validate historical assumptions. We call this approach HistoInformatics, analogous to Bioinformatics and ChemoInformatics which have respectively proposed new research trends in biology and chemistry. The main topics of the workshop are (1) support for historical research and analysis in general through the application of computer science theories or technologies, (2) analysis and re-use of historical texts, (3) visualizations of historical data, (4) provision of access to historical knowledge.

## **2. Organization**

We thank all Program Committee members for their time and effort in ensuring the high quality of the HistoInformatics 2021 program.

## **3. Organizers**

Yasunobu Sumikawa (Takushoku University, Japan)

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Antoine Doucet (University of La Rochelle, France)

Eva Pfanzelter (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Mohammed Hasanuzzaman (Munster Technological University, Ireland)

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Ian Milligan (University of Waterloo, Canada)

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