Studies in the Digital Humanities

The digital humanities explore enduring questions about human culture by using digital tools creatively and critically to gather, mine, organize, visualize and disseminate information. The minor in Digital Humanities encompasses all areas of the arts and humanities and enables projects such as the extraction of large-scale historical census data, research in computer linguistics, computer-assisted language learning and the mapping of sound and image patterns in contemporary video or theatrical performances. One of the fundamental premises of Digital Humanities is the interdependence of culture and technology. By using and developing digital tools to gather and analyze information, we will deepen our knowledge and understanding of human culture and of technologies. This program is offered in French and English.

DHSITE – Digital Humanities Summer Institute: Technologies East (www.dhsite.org) is a bilingual event held at the University of Ottawa every May that aims to introduce new technologies to its participants, including the use of digital technology in teaching and research. Since the summer school’s launch in 2017, topics have included digitization, dissemination and archiving of data across multiple disciplines and multiple approaches.

DHSITE is both a summer school, conference and meeting place for practitioners, academics, students and independent researchers – that is, all who work with cutting-edge technologies and their applications, or who aspire to do so. DHSITE is also a place of intellectual and cultural convergence: Francophone and Anglophone specialists in Digital Humanities from Quebec as well as from East or Central Canada will meet on this occasion. DHSITE has adopted an inter-institutional approach involving industry and education partners.

Programming and Special Events

In collaboration with the University of Ottawa Library, the Digital Humanities organizes a bi-weekly series of "Digital Humanities Toolbox" workshops. These workshops are designed to introduce researchers and students to new tools and techniques of digital research.

We also organize a Digital Humanities Lecture Series on the theme of the theoretical and methodological issues of research in the Digital Humanities. Since our launch in 2017, we have welcomed internationally renowned researchers to share their cutting-edge work in the field.
The Faculty of Arts is recognized for its research in the Digital Humanities. The Faculty is proud to have among its members Professor Constance Crompton, Canada Research Chair in Digital Humanities, Professor Marie-Josée Hamel, Chair of the OLBI in New Technologies and Language Learning (computer-assisted learning), and Professor Chad Gaffield, holder of the University Research Chair in Digital Research. Dr. Gaffield is also the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution Award from the Canadian Society for the Digital Humanities. Dean of the Faculty, Kevin Kee, is recognized as a leader in the field and previously held the Canada Research Chair in Digital Humanities.

The University of Ottawa is home to many Digital Humanities research projects, including this small but representative sample:

**Research Spaces**
- Humanities Data Lab
- Piano Pedagogy Lab
- CreatorSpace
- Atelier CoFab
- LabO

**Faculty Research**
- **Gilles Comeau** (Music) : uses digital tools to analyse the health of musicians and the quality of their performance
- **Sylvie Grosjean** (Communication) : design of a mobile application for health professionals
- **Lucie Hotte** (Français) : analysis of a Franco-Canadian literary corpus through visualization tools
- **Nicole St-Onge** (History) : uses digital tools to visualize the development of a society based on the fur trade (17th and 18th centuries)
- **Constance Crompton** (Communication) : preservation and use of digital data to analyse the history of the gay and lesbian movement in Canada
- **Jada Watson** (Music) : uses digital tools to study inclusion and diversity in popular music cultures

**Student research**
- Use of primary sources of materials from museums and archives in the National Capital Region to develop virtual exhibitions
- Development of query functions to use public data in the creation of interactive maps
- Use digital tools to extract tweets and create sophisticated visualizations of language and social networks over time
- Using software to work with MIDI, audio, virtual instruments, and effects for composing electronic music

Questions? Contact Jada Watson dhnarts@uOttawa.ca