

Preface

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many speakers and a big audience to the IFLA satellite meeting “Digital Humanities – Opportunities and Risks. Connecting Libraries and Research” - <https://dh-libraries.sciencesconf.org/> It was wonderful to have so many digital humanists and colleagues from all over the world in Berlin to discuss the issues and topics of Digital Humanities and their impact on the institutions of cultural heritage. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) – represented by the IFLA Standing Committee “Academic and Research Libraries – the Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche/Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER), the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities in Europe (DARIAH) and the Deutsche Initiative für Netzwerk-Information/German Initiative for Network Information (DINI) have hosted this conference in cooperation with the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and the library of the Humboldt University of Berlin.

The planning and the preparations of the satellite meeting have been started in April 2016. By a joined program committee and by a number of international and local supporters the aim has been pursued to host the satellite meeting in Berlin over more than one year. I thank all colleagues for their efforts, their endeavours, their patience and their great support. And I thank all our sponsors for their generous support of our conference. Without your sponsorships the satellite meeting could not take place in this extent. Thank you very much to Brill, Casalini Libri, DARIAH, DINI, Faculty of 1000, Frontiers, Gale, LIBER and Knowledge Unlatched

Why are Digital Humanities so important today, that we undertake such a conference? Why are Digital Humanities so important for our culture, our

research and our societies? We are living in a world, which is heavily influenced by the so called hard science like chemistry, engineering, informatics, medicine, physics etc. There are no doubts, that these disciplines are necessary to solve the world's biggest challenges and problems of environment, health, nurture and welfare. Academic Libraries support these research activities by licensing data bases, E-books and E-journals on the one hand and by their efforts concerning open science, open access and open data on the other hand.

Open science concerns the humanities as well as the social sciences and the huge masses of cultural heritage items including all the cultural heritage institutions themselves. In a world of an increasing disorientation and uncertainty of facts, cultural identities and "true and untrue" libraries, archives and museums are in the situation to foster and to support an open culture of education and research. Digital humanities' mission is aiming corresponding goals. Human beings need an identity and a self-understanding beyond all scientific knowledge and all technical facilities. Human beings need access to their cultural heritage and their traditions to understand the world of today and the world of the future. The many materials of our traditions have to be shared with the public and the many communities by appropriate technical means. This is a crucial part of our mission and of our responsibility as digital scholars and as members of cultural institutions.

During the two and a half days of the satellite meeting we have had the opportunity to learn more about these and other topics thanks to the speakers, their talks and the intensive discussions. We had really interesting sessions with the fruitful results, that cooperation and collaboration are the key issues of all our activities and that we have to create and to establish standards for the necessary interoperability and re-usability of the data and data sets as the

fundament of our research. Therefore we are very happy to share these contributions by this open access published collection now.

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