

# Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage in AI and IT-enabled environments

Ciara Breathnach and Tiziana Margaria

University of Limerick, IE  
HRI, Lero and CRT-AI  
Ciara.Breathnach@ul.ie,  
Tiziana.Margaria@ul.ie

## Summary

We are in the middle of an AI and IT revolution and at a point of digital cultural heritage data saturation, but humanities' scholarship is struggling to keep pace.

In this Track we discuss the challenges faced by both computing and historical sciences to outline a roadmap to address some of the most pressing issues of data access, preservation, conservation, harmonisation across national datasets, and governance on one side, and the opportunities and threats brought by AI and machine learning to the advancement of rigorous data analytics.

We concentrate primarily on written/printed documents rather than on pictures and images.

We stress the importance of collaboration across the discipline boundaries and their cultures to ensure that mutual respect and equal partnerships are fostered from the outset so that in turn better practices can ensue.

In this track we welcome contributions that address these and other related topics:

- Advances brought by modern software development, AI, ML and data analytics to the transcription of documents and sources
- Tools and platforms that address the digital divide between physical, analog or digital sources and the level of curation of datasets needed for modern analytics
- Design for accessibility and interoperability of data sets, including corpora and thesauri
- Tools and techniques for machine-understanding form-based documents, recognition of digits and codes, handwriting, and other semantically structured data
- Knowledge representation for better analysis of semi-structured data from relevant domains (diaries, registers, reports, etc)
- Specific needs arising from the study of minority languages and populations, disadvantaged groups and any other rare or less documented phenomena and groups
- Challenges relative to the conservation, publication, curation, and governance of data as open access artefacts

- Challenges relative to initial and continuing education and curricular or extracurricular professional formation in the digital humanities professions
- Spatial digital humanities
- Digital humanities aspects concerning occupation, medicine and health.

In this Track, we welcome contributions that elucidate the role of AI and Machine Learning to support digital transcription of archival documents, the use of evolving AI techniques to support the detection of loneliness, the application of knowledge graphs to cultural heritage, the use of GIS to follow the transformation of built space and land property and usage over the centuries, the linking of data from different registers and provenance to reconstruct family and community lives and lifestyles, and also the use of digital rhetoric to study the change of communication and oratory across time.