

Report of the Chair of the EADH Executive Committee

Report period: 7/2014 – 6/2015

This report focuses on major activities and developments during the report period, as well as on strategic items that were identified and discussed during the report period and identified for further attention. For detailed information on operative matters such as finances, membership development, awarding of grants etc. kindly refer to the relevant officer reports.

The EADH exec held a very productive mid-term meeting in Madrid on 12 December 2014; our thanks go to our local host Elena González-Blanco. These mid-term face-to-face gatherings have proven to be essential, and to underline their nature as working meetings, the exec decided at its Madrid meeting to introduce a strict expense policy modelled on the relevant UK regulations.

I. Major activities and developments

EADH identity and public relations

- a. After a major attack on ADHO's shared server the EADH website was reconstructed and at the same time updated to a responsive theme, meaning that it is now also available for mobile devices as well. DH news and events on the EADH website are now synchronized with the international DH events calendar maintained by Amanda French.
- d. The renaming of the EADH owned journal LLC into "DSH. Digital Scholarship in the Humanities" went smoothly. To date no loss of individual or institutional subscribers due to the renaming have been reported.
- e. At the mid-term EADH exec meeting in Madrid it was decided to employ on a contract basis three Social Media Correspondents who took up work in May 2015. A separate report on their activities is available.

Associate Organization (AO) sub-structure

- a. The AO mechanism and the association of AIUCD (Italy) and DHd (German speaking countries) has boosted EADH the number of EADH members by almost 300, making it the largest Constituent Organization in ADHO.
- b. The newly formed DH organization DHN – Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries has officially applied to become the third EADH-AO.
- c. Various other DH organizations across Europe have contacted EADH and are presently investigating whether the AO model is of interest to them.

- d. In addition to AOs, we are at current investigating the possibility to introduce the category of “EADH partner organizations” as a less formalized association model that caters for cases where a newly established DH organization without a separate income and finance structure wishes to associate itself with EADH purely on a non-material level. The first organization expressing interest in such a model is the newly established DH Benelux.
- e. The question of representation of AOs on the EADH exec via an Advisory Board or similar mechanism is still under discussion and now receiving special attention by the EADH president Karina Van Dalen-Oskam.

II. Strategic initiatives

Outreach

- EADH will be represented at the forthcoming inaugural meeting of DH Siberia by our exec member Claire Clivaz, 19 to 26 September 2015.
- At the DH 2015 in Sydney, EADH will hold a first “Joint AGM” with its sister organization ACH. To arrange for this we have decided to split our own AGM into two parts (morning meeting/lunch time meeting), of which the first – where we will deal with formal matters relevant to EADH only – will be reserved for EADH members. The intention of the second part is to bring into closer contact our two constituencies, with a particular view to exploring potential differences that may be due to our intellectual and social contexts in Europe and North America. This year our joint meeting will focus on the topic “DH after Snowden: do we need a shared policy on data ethics and privacy?”

Advocacy

- EADH was represented in the EASSH (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities) initiative by Arianna Ciula in a series of follow-up meetings. Elena González-Blanco remains our formal representative and liaison.
- Karina Van Dalen-Oskam will represent EADH at the forthcoming „9th UIA Associations Round Table Europe“ in Brussels, 13 November 2015.

EADH-day at regional conferences

At its mid-term meeting in Madrid, EADH exec discussed the idea of creating a bi-annual EADH conference. However, against the backdrop of the increasing number of competing DH events it was decided that a more light-weight option would be preferable. EADH will now host its first “EADH day” (previously referred to as “international day”) at the forthcoming 2nd Spanish DH Conference: Asociación de Humanidades Digitales Hispánicas, Madrid, 5-7 October 2015.

The intention of the “EADH day” is to offer regional and associate organizations in Europe the opportunity to add to their own conference program a special section or day where scientific and/or strategic topics of European relevance (such as emerging joint ventures in DH research, new joint infrastructure models, HORIZON 2020 funding opportunities etc.) can be addressed. The local organizer of the next German language DHd 2016 in Leipzig 2016 (Elisabeth Burr) has already approached EADH and expressed interest in implementing the EADH-day concept next year as well.

ADHO matters, outlook

The re-alignment of ADHO’s internal organizational structures as well as that of its funding and disbursement policies continue to be one of the most crucial organizational developments to tackle in the immediate future.

ADHO continues to engage and invest into projects resulting in shared resources that are made available across all its organizational units, such as COs, AOs, SIGs, etc. One such development in 2015 was the implementation of the “DH ConValidator”, a web based tool for the conversion of DH conference abstracts into valid TEI-XML. Probably the most formidable current challenge on a purely technical level is the introduction of a shared membership and finance administration system which, from an EADH perspective, will make the interaction between EADH and its AOs much easier and less time consuming.

However, for EADH the most important developments in ADHO concern the ongoing assessment and redefinition of ADHO’s organizational definition and internal structure, and its response to new challenges, such as the rise of global DH organizations that are defined by culture or language, thus resulting in a new type of institutional entity that cuts across previously established distinctions which were in the main defined by region.

Closing remarks

Finally, on behalf of the entire executive committee I would like to record our special thanks to our outgoing EADH and ADHO membership secretary, David Beavan. While the impressive rise in EADH’s membership numbers has certainly been one of the biggest successes in the past year, this has also doubled the burden of David (as well as that of our new treasurer Paul Vetch.) Our thanks also go to Lena Schüch, our outgoing ‘rapid response’ web editor who has looked after the EADH website for the past two years and whose duties will be taken over by our new editor Antonio Rojas Castro as of 1 July 2015.

Personally, I wish to thank all members of the executive committee, our partners in the AOs, in ADHO, and last not least Oxford University Press for their continued support.