



Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing

ALLC : Chair's Report

Report for Committee Meeting and AGM University of Georgia, May 2003

Collaborative frameworks

At the July 2002 AGM and Committee meeting a joint work group with ACH was authorised and established, to explore the possibilities for closer collaboration between the two associations and across the fields of the digital humanities more widely. The work group was set up with the membership: Elisabeth Burr (ALLC); Julia Flanders (ACH & TEI); Espen Ore (ALLC); Geoffrey Rockwell (ACH & TEI); Harold Short - Chair (ALLC & TEI); John Unsworth (ACH & TEI). A good deal of time and effort has been put in by the work group over the past months, and a series of discussion papers has been produced, along with a set of recommendations in principle.

The key recommendations are:

- An umbrella organisation should be established, with ALLC as the 'European chapter', ACH as the 'North American chapter', and with the establishment of other regional chapters to be encouraged. (Prior to a better name being proposed, the umbrella organisation has the acronym ADHO - Association of Digital Humanities Organisations.)
- *Literary and Linguistic Computing* should become the common print journal of ADHO, with journal revenue being shared in proportion to the subscription levels in the regional chapter areas. ACH would break its association with Kluwer in relation to *CHum* (a relationship it sees as fundamentally unsatisfactory).
- Joint effort should go into the development and establishment of a range of electronic publications, in particular an electronic journal. ADHO (i.e. print journal) income would be top-sliced to support these developments (and to continue to support the print journal).
- Direct members of ADHO should be organisations. Individual affiliation would be by membership of an appropriate regional chapter. ADHO members would work to develop common membership benefits.
- Membership or affiliation by organisations other than regional chapters, e.g. TEI Consortium, could take various forms, still to be determined.
- The annual conference would become an ADHO conference, and might be hosted in any regional chapter country. The conference would offer a framework for at least some joint activity, and joint member benefits, with other organisations interested in digital humanities.

If the respective ALLC and ACH executive committees and AGMs at the Georgia conference adopt the 'in principle' recommendations of the work group, the work group will seek authorisation to develop the recommendations into a set of

formal proposals and protocols for approval at the June 2004 meetings in Goteborg, Sweden.

The work group discussion papers, and an Executive Summary containing the recommendations, may be found at:
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Communications

The **journal** continues to flourish, and I should express our appreciation to the Editor and the Reviews Editors on behalf of the Committee and the Association. Membership levels remain a cause of some concern, however. We have had discussions with OUP about how to work together more effectively to ensure current members renew and new subscriptions are attracted. As previously reported, a database of conference attendees is under development, and arrangements have been made with OUP to obtain a regular electronic feed of membership data, so that action can be taken to prompt late or absent subscribers from previous years. It seems that OUP are not keen to introduce direct debit or standing order payment of subscriptions, which has long been an Association objective.

Humanist continues to prosper under the guiding hand of Willard McCarty, and we express our appreciation to him for the many years of dedicated attention he has given to what is seen as a key source of information and ideas and an important forum for discussion in humanities computing.

Conferences

The preparations for the 2003 Conference at the University of Georgia have gone well, and a very successful conference can be anticipated.

Preparations for the June 2004 conference in Göteborg are already well advanced. Laszlo Hunyadi has agreed to chair the international Program Committee.

Discussions are continuing on the **conference protocols**. A small work group was established at the Tübingen meetings, consisting of Harold Short (ALLC) and Julia Flanders (ACH). They are working within the context of previous discussions, and of the ADHO developments, to prepare a revised protocol and associated guidelines.

Association Activities & Initiatives

The **TEI Consortium** is now well established. The level of membership subscriptions continues to be a cause for concern. Greater emphasis is to be given to the need and benefits of projects and departments joining the Consortium.

One of the key opportunities provided by the proposed ADHO framework, from an ALLC perspective, is the focus it gives to long standing Association objectives to promote a multi-lingual multi-cultural agenda. The Committee meeting in Bremen in December 2002 spent considerable time in discussions over how the 2004 conference in Sweden could be used to promote this agenda. It was agreed, inter alia, that the call for papers and the conference web site would appear in a number of languages, and that papers in languages other than English would be accepted. There is nothing more important for the ALLC than pursuing this agenda with commitment and imagination.

Harold
May 2003

Short



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