

EADH Annual General Meeting Minutes, Mexico City 2018

Wednesday, June 27th

1. Attendance

Committee:

- Øyvind Eide (Chair) (ØE)
- Barbara Bordalejo (Secretary) (BB)
- Leif Isaksen (LI)
- Fabio Ciotti (FC)
- Maurizio Lana (ML)
- Charlotte Tupman (Treasurer) (CT)

Apologies:

- Edward Vanhoutte (DSH Editor-in-Chief) (EV)
- Claire Clivaz (CC)
- Aurélien Berra (AB)
- Corina Moldovan (CM)
- Inna Kizhner (IK)
- Elena Spadini (ES)

2. Minutes and matters arising

At 12:46, the Chair opens the meeting, thanks everyone in attendance and the hosts of the conference.

The Chair informs everyone that some of the members of the executive had to attend via Skype to have quorum. The Chair requests comments about the minutes. There are no comments.

Karina Van Dalen-Oskam moves to accept the minutes. Greta Franzini seconds.

All in favour. The minutes of Montreal are accepted.

Chair states that we will try to keep the meeting to an hour, but that this should not stop anyone from asking questions.

3. Reports

a. Chair's report

[Provided by the Chair]

The last year has been a year with many important administrative activities, but we have also been able to focus on some scholarly support work with impact for our members. Thanks to Barbara, Charlotte, and Elisabeth, to the whole Exec, and to the members who have supported us in various ways over the year.

The development of EADH is still strong, and we have a lot to build on in the work done by our predecessors. The membership basis is solid; the journal is in good shape, the interest from new organisations under development continues to be strong.

After being joined by two new associate organisations we now have such a relationship with five organisations:

- Italian Associazione per l'Informatica Umanistica e la Cultura Digitale
- German language based Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum
- Digital Humaniora i Norden.
- The Czech Association For Digital Humanities.
- The Russian Association for Digital Humanities.

We also cooperate with other organisations and networks and hope to extend this list in the future.

We operate an AO forum coordinated by the EADH president to further better communication between the Exec and the AOs, and also to make policy decisions on behalf of the AOs. EADH invests resources in this work; one specific project is mentioned below under publications.

EADH governance: given the changed situation we will start a discussion about whether the current Constitution. This will be discussed in the Exec and with the AOs, but we will also invite everybody to contact us with ideas and suggestions.

We will, of course, come back to the membership if and when this leads to concrete plans, to fulfil the legal process.

Last year we issued a call for small grants and travel bursaries. We awarded £ 7,640 from our reserves in this strategic investment in DH across Europe and beyond to 13 different visits and small projects. The recipients came from different career stages from pre-doctoral to senior and had their affiliation to six different countries: Italy, France, Russia, Germany, USA, and Ireland. Some of these projects are still ongoing. Nevertheless, we plan to issue other calls later this year, including travel bursaries for the EADH conference.

The 'European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities' (EASSH) brings together scientific networks, associations, disciplines and universities. The primary purpose of EASSH is to promote research on social sciences and humanities as a resource for Europe and the world. EADH is a founding member of EASSH. We are represented in EASSH by our president, who took part in the General Meeting of EASSH in November 2017 in Brussels.

At the next General Assembly, in November 2018, the Governing Board will be renewed. Claire Clivaz will be EADH's candidate for this election.

Thanks to Elisabeth for her work on this, and to Claire for her willingness to stand as a candidate for this important role – EASSH is one of the main channels we can use to influence, for instance, research funding at a European level.

ADHO Governmental reform has been described thoroughly at previous meetings. The goal is a leaner organisation, with a distinction between strategic and operational levels, and where the finances are easier to understand.

An Implementation Committee was set up, whose work is documented and commented on at the website: change.adho.org

We have set up a discussion forum for the EADH Exec together with the governing bodies of the AOs to discuss this further as the process develops at ADHO level. More will follow once decisions are made at the ADHO level.

EADH conference in December – more later.

AGM: will be in Utrecht at the DH conference in 2019, but will strongly consider to attach it to future EADH conferences.

Throughout the year I have been engaged in discussions with many people on many different topics, and I am always happy to receive comments to our work and suggestions for improvements and future development.

I have also been invited to various events, although it is not always clear how much this is connected to my role as EADH Chair. I would like to highlight two: The University of Lagos in Nigeria for the first DH conference in Western Africa, and to Krasnoyarsk to take part in the conference Digital Humanities Russia 2017 and the meeting in which The Russian Association for Digital Humanities was officially established.

Lastly, I want to thank the members for the trust they show me by giving me the role of chair, and I hope I will be able to steer the organisation safely through the last year of my period.

b. Secretary's report

The association continues its outreach activities, and we will have our first EADH conference in Galway this year. With these and similar initiatives, the association seeks to impulse Digital Humanities work and encourage innovative research. Continue to support the participation of young scholars as this will benefit not only the successful individuals but also the overall community.

There have been some changes in the executive in the past year, but we will have some more to come. First I would like to thank Maurizio Lana, who has served for six years as one of the members of the executive. Secondly, our new membership liaison is Elena Spadini, who could not be here. We are grateful for her service.

We would also like to thank all of those who, in various obvious and not so obvious ways, have volunteered and served. The workload of the officers and members of the executive continues to be manageable.

If you want to get more directly involved in our activities, please reach out to any of the members of the executive committee. There are many ways in which you can contribute.

c. Treasurer's report

The Chair invites the Treasurer's report.

CT offers a brief overview of the expenses. In 2017 we spend a bit less than expected. This is because several of the small grants and bursaries have not yet been paid because they are ongoing projects.

The budget is self-explanatory. We have tried to make a dent in the surplus that we have currently.

The expenses were discussed as part of the executive meeting. We have a figure for underwriting the Galway conference. We are not sure that this is going to be needed, but we budgeted for it.

Our reserves are about 34000 pounds.

The Chair reminds us that the figures are not all of our expenses. A lot of EADH's expenses are done through ADHO. Part of our budget is what ADHO is spending. If we had to run listserves and other infrastructure, this would be less cost-effective than doing it through ADHO.

CT we are reaching a point that allows us to spend all of our income. Eventually, we will get to the point at which we will need to increase our revenue if we want to continue with our activities as they become more costly.

The Treasurer invites questions and comments.

Chair explains that the written report will still take some time due to the transition phase.

Mike Kestemont ask how much is our budget for the conference.

CT informs him that it is 5000 pounds.

SperbergMcQueen in years past it was reported that the charity was not happy with the surplus.

CT it has been strongly suggested that we don't have a surplus.

Chair states that this is also an opportunity to make investments.

Chair thanks CT for taking on the role of treasurer and for all her work.

d. Membership report

The membership report is not yet online. Elena Spadini is our new membership secretary. We want to thank her for her work on this matter, and to the previous membership secretary Fabio Ciotti for his support in the transfer phase.

993 is the total number of members.

This is an increase in direct members and also through the associations. The only year in which we had more members was 2016.

Sperberg McQueen asks whether we know the geographical distribution of the members.

The Chair explains that our members come from everywhere, including North America, the Middle East, Asia, etc.

The Chair invites the president to say some words.

e. President's report

EB explains that she is looking after the forum, EASSH, ADHO steering committee. She was also invited to the conference in Prague to participate in the conference organized by the Academy.

3. Elections

The Chair thanks all candidates and those who voted in the elections. He also thanks the Nominating committee.

ML There were three candidates

Silvie Cinkova

Mikko Tolonen

Joris Van Zundert

All candidates are new to the Exec, which shows that we are open to new people.

The process of election is never simple.

Chair thanks ML, all those willing to serve, and the nominating committee.

4. Publications

Chair explains that neither OUP representatives are here nor the editor of the journal.

This means that the report will be brief.

Some issues have been highlighted by EVH.

Mike Kestemont suggests that we should have a strategy for publication. You can only publish if you have reviewed.

The Chair explains that the journal requests possible reviewers for each submitted article. Yesterday, there was another suggestion: to use the submissions to the DH conference as a way to identify people with particular expertise.

Sperberg-McQueen do you mean submissions or presentations?

The Chair clarifies he means what can be read in the book of abstracts and thanks for the correction. The Chair asks whether there are any further questions in the journal.

There are no more questions.

The Chair mentions the federation service, whose aim it is to strengthen the cooperation among Europe. This will generate metadata about articles across languages within Europe. We will inform members as soon as the service is available.

Radim Hladik informs us that the Czech association is working on a list of journals that are responsible and not predatory.

Christof Once the service is running we will have a list that will show the journals that are not predatory.

The Chair states that there are many places to find such information, but it is also important to identify journals that have a DH interest but don't identify as DH.

5. Conferences

The Chair mentions the DH conferences. Fabio Ciotti and Elena Pierazzo are PC Chairs and we should be grateful to them.

The three candidates for DH 2021 were Daegu, Abu Dhabi and Tokyo. The winning bid will be announced on Friday.

Besides this, we are having the first EADH conference in 2018. The Chair presents possible venues and local scenes of Galway.

There is an international programme committee.

Once the conference is over, we will decide whether we want to have another conference in 2020. We are not doing one in 2019 because the DH conference will be in Utrecht.

6. Any other Business

The Chair asks the assembly whether there is any other business to attend.

Mike Kestemont suggests that the Global North could make a contribution so less privileged countries might be able to afford things that are not necessarily available. One suggestion would be to request from ADHO a pool of money that might help less privileged organizations to buy software licenses or fund teaching. This could be a valuable contribution.

The Chair thanks for this proposal and vows to explore the possibilities. Traditionally, this has been done through bursaries, but perhaps we should consider other option. LI explains that it is not possible to do this unless you are a CO, but we should consider to expand the ability to obtain grants. Round licensing is a way that we could contribute, but we must not be seen as supporting commercial enterprises.

Mike Kestemont suggests that perhaps we can put pressure on developments to offer special prices for certain countries.

The Chair clarifies that people working and living in A and B countries receive a lower or free subscription for DHS and thus EADH membership. This gives access to all benefits including bursaries.

Christoph Schoch thinks that the TEI community has too close a relationship to Oxygen. There are alternatives that are free. We should also think about making the journal Open Access.

The Chair explains that making the journal Open Access will stop the income of ADHO. ML if it is true that ADHO people are users of Oxygen, why not ask ADHO to buy a license for all.

Fotis Jannidis suggests that we should offer Summer Schools where we could teach how to digitize materials. This would build community.

The Chair requests that anyone with further ideas should contact him or members of the executive committee so these can be discussed.

Mike Kestemont proposes a track for such things.

The Chair thanks everyone for their contributions.

Michael Sperberg McQueen requests that EADH takes an issue with the organization of the conferences. Over the last cycles, there has been a pattern: the proposals cannot be submitted in TEI, and because PC Chairs rotates there is no continuous focus on this questions. EADH is well placed to request for this option to be allowed.

The Chair opens the discussion.

Christoph Schoch this is a convalidator question, we should focus on formats that most people want to use to submit. The schema is already there, but we need to integrate this format into the transformation routine. We don't have the personnel to do that.

Tomoji Tabata would be happy to support that.

FC the real problem is that we need to transform it in a way that is readable for the reviewers. This is not feasible for the first stages of evaluation.

The Chair will discuss this further. We must not close the session.

Chair thanks Maurizio for serving in the committee for such a long time. Chair thanks the officers, the executive and the members for their work and support. Chair thanks Antonio Rojas Castro for his work and role within the association. Chair thanks Francesca Giovannetti for her role as communications fellow.

Chair closes the meeting 13:53

LI thanks the Chair for his work.