

European Association of Digital Humanities

Annual Chair's Report 2024-2025

By Øyvind Eide (OE), Interim Chair and Merisa Martinez (MM), Deputy Chair, supplemented with material from the officers and trustees of EADH.

1. Governance

Trustees

At the beginning of August 2024, Fabio Ciotti (FC) stepped down from the leadership of EADH due to an ongoing overload of local work commitments which made it difficult for him to carry out his duties as Chair. When FC stepped down, the three Trustees at the time (Edward Vanhoutte [EIC of DSH], Simona Stoyanova [Treasurer], Zoe Sreti [Secretary]) took over the day-to-day management of EADH, with particular emphasis placed on attending to issues with our bank account, searching for a new Chair, resuming contract negotiations with OUP, communicating with the Executive Committee, and finding solutions for a more robust and secure technical infrastructure for our internal communications and our archive of meeting Minutes and Agendas. The Trustee held weekly meetings, where they discussed ongoing work to carry out these goals. At the end of each week, the Trustees submitted reports to the Executive Committee about their work. These weekly Trustee meetings occurred from August to December 2025.

Officers and roles

Deputy Chair

During a meeting of the Executive Committee on 9 October 2025, we discussed creating the position of Deputy Chair. This was considered as an option to combat future scenarios where the Chair is not able to carry out their EADH duties, and when no President is in office. We decided to create a new role whose position was specifically designed as a back-up to carry out, in part or in full, the duties of Chair, with the same ability to make decisions to execute the mission of EADH, reporting to the Executive Committee and the Membership. Merisa Martinez (MM) volunteered to take on this position, and was officially voted on to become EADH's first Deputy Chair, working together with the Trustees (EV, SS, ZS) in their day-to-day administration of EADH and to serve on the ADHO Constituent Organizations Board (COB). MM began serving as Deputy Chair in October 2024 and on the COB in November 2024.

Interim Chair

During the meeting of the Executive Committee on 9 October 2024, we also discussed the need to appoint an Interim Chair, preferably drawn from previous formations of the Executive Committee, to help us carry out the work of EADH with mentorship from someone who had previously been associated with the Exec. In December 2024, Øyvind Eide was elected interim chair by the Executive Committee.

Treasurer

In December 2024, Anna-Maria Sichani joined the EADH group of officers as the new treasurer. However, the previous treasurer Simona Stoyanova has continued supporting Anna-Maria and EADH as a whole over the months to follow. Together, the two put a significant effort into complex and time consuming organisational issues. See the treasurer's report for further details.

Secretary

In March 2025, Jiří Kocián replaced Zoe Screti as secretary of EADH. He has already established himself as a supportive and professional member of the groups of officers and the Executive Board. We thank Zoe for her significant work for the association over the years.

Communications manager

In February, we started the process to recruit a Communication Manager. In May, Mariangela Distilo took up the job, being responsible for the website and the social media, while also supporting the secretary and the whole Executive Committee with additional tasks, including maintaining the mailing lists. She worked closely with the Elections Committee to support their works towards the successful elections.

2. Activities

Digital Scholarship in the Humanities

When FC stepped down from his position as Chair, the EADH Executive Committee were in discussions with Oxford University Press (OUP) (the publishers of our journal *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*) to renew our contract for the journal. The contract had last been the subject of long-term negotiations in 2005, when former chair Harold Short negotiated a 70/30 profit split between OUP and the then-labelled ALLC journal. We finalized negotiations (with a contract valid through 2026, keeping the 70/30 profit margin) with our (then) OUP contact Katie Pryce. These were finalized in March 2025 and the contract was signed by two of the three Trustees (Zoe Screti and Simona Stoyanova) representing EADH and by Katie Pryce. As of May 2025, our OUP contact has changed to Imogen Sharpe. We will resume long-term contract negotiations in 2026, with a new contract hopefully in place from the beginning of 2027. We held a meeting in June 2025 to discuss further Open Access options for the journal, and better clarification regarding how DSH profits are used to support the activities of ADHO, including the support of technical infrastructure, other Constituent Organizations, and ADHO's other journals. The profits from DSH account for 80% of ADHO's budget, which is clearly a business strategy that comes with considerable financial risks. ADHO COB-EB have made moves to mitigate a probable reduction

Program Committee - DH 2025 (Lisbon, Portugal)

MM began serving on the PC in October 2025 when she took on the role of Deputy Chair, participating in meetings leading up to the conference in July 2025. MM contributed to the PC by reviewing submissions, deciding on keynote speakers, and reporting about the work of the PC at the COB-EB meetings and the EADH Exec.

Main meetings

- February Leadership Meeting - London, UK (February 2025): The officers and the trustees clarified the situation in the organisation, the new interim chair was brought up to speed, and we had discussions with a representative from Oxford University Press about DSH. Based on this, we

planned the midterm meeting to be held in March. We also had a very productive meeting with the UK-Ireland Digital Humanities Association.

- Midterm Meeting - Bruges, Belgium (March 2025): The meeting was used for extensive strategic discussions, feeding into the work towards a strategic plan (see below). We also sorted out a number of important operational issues and planned the elections and the meetings to be held at the DH conference in Lisbon in July.
- Community Meeting - Online (April 2025): This meeting presented the status quo of the organisation to the members and other interested participants and gave us the opportunity to receive important input through comments, questions, and discussions.

Membership Drive

During the months of March and April 2025 we heavily advertised membership in EADH and our Associate Organizations, in a run-up to our elections for the Executive Committee. Our new Communications Manager was central in this process, especially through her competent social media work.

Elections

The elections of four new members of the Executive Committee were successfully conducted, see the separate report on elections. Due to the lack of elections in 2024, also the elections in 2026 will call for four new members, in order to come back to the normal situation with nine members each holding office for three years and with three members elected each year.

3. Strategic planning

What is the purpose of EADH? This has been defined as a central task for the chairs to gather input and foster a discussion based on the wishes from the membership. A number of conversations have been had with representatives of AOs and other organisations and groups, and individual members and other interested colleagues.

This includes the question of representation. Currently, most EADH members are members of Associate Organisations (AOs). Still, only direct members have representational rights. Other representational models are currently discussed. Input from the members will be actively sought, as already happened during the open membership meeting on April 11, 2025. The EADH will seek legal advice to help us clarify how a new constitution can be written to balance the representation across the different stakeholder groups.

The discussions with the membership will continue, both with individuals, groups at all levels, and our associate and partner organisations. The aim is to present the members with a vision and strategic plan for the organisation by the end of 2025, to be discussed with the members and AO and POs up to the AGM 2026.

4. Conclusion

Through the work of the trustees, officers, and the members of the Executive Committee, in cooperation with Associate and Partner Organisations, and with input from individual members and other supporters,

EADH is now a fully functional organisation within the landscape of related organisations and groups. For the next year, this work will be solidified, while the discussions about the future role of the association will be continued. We are looking forward to critical and productive input from everybody interested in DH, in Europe as well as beyond, and to engage in discussions with different groups and individuals.