

## Report of the Chair of the EADH Executive Committee

Report period: 7/2013 – 6/2014

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 officers' reports.

### I. Major activities and developments

#### EADH identity and public relations

- a. EADH is now registered with the UK Charity Commission under its new name "EADH. The European Association for Digital Humanities." The reference to ALLC is no longer valid.
- b. EADH acquired the domain eadh.org and its website is now also accessible under this URL. Previous URLs and domain names have been kept and are forwarded to the new one.
- c. The EADH website and logo were redesigned.
- d. A decision was taken to rename the EADH owned journal "[LLC, The Journal of Digital Scholarship in the Humanities](#)" into "DSH. Digital Scholarship in the Humanities." This change will come into effect in the course of 2015.

#### Associate Organization sub-structure

- a. The definition of the roles and rights of *Associate Organizations* (AOs) as EADH was finalized. Regional initiatives and associations now have the option of becoming an AO of EADH (on application). Regional organizations who obtain this status remain autonomous; however, for a small basic fee their members will enjoy all benefits provided for by EADH and ADHO. A detailed description of the AO model and regulations is available at <http://eadh.org/sites/default/files/EADH-AO-infos-2014.pdf>
- b. Negotiations with two AOs were successfully concluded and formalized in a "Memorandum of Understanding" each. These are
  - AIUCD: *L'Associazione per l'Informatica Umanistica e la Cultura Digitale* (current membership approx. 40 individuals)
  - DHd: *Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum* (current membership approx. 160 individuals)
- c. Discussions and exchanges with other regional and linguistic interest groups were conducted. Among these are

- the French speaking DH community which is about to organize itself officially at the DH 2014 conference under the name of HUMANISTICA (contact persons on the EADH exec: Claire Clivaz, Jan Rybicki)
- the Spanish speaking DH community (contact persons: Elena Gonzalez-Blanco, Paul Spence)
- the Siberian DH community (contact person: Melissa Terras)
- the DH Israel organization (contact person: JCM)

In addition to the above a number of more informal exchanges with similar interest groups took place. Among the ADHO organizations the AO model is at current unique to EADH; it has been met with considerable interest across Europe and beyond. While this is very promising for EADH and has already resulted in a substantial increase in membership and revenue, it also places new demands on EADH in terms of

- the need to create and implement a mechanism (“Advisory Board”) through which AOs can represent their shared organizational interests within EADH exec, and
- the need to represent a uniquely diverse cultural and lingual constituency within ADHO. For this, also see **III ADHO matters**.

## **II. Strategic initiatives**

### **Outreach**

EADH has intensified its outreach activities not only through the AO mechanism, but also through its Small Grants program and other initiatives, such as the representation at the 2013 THAT Camp meeting at St. Malo, at the 2013 meeting of AIUCD and the 2014 meeting of DHd, meetings of the HDH and HUMANISTICA initiatives, semi-official representation at KNL, DFG, BMBF workshops, and similar events.

### **Advocacy**

A particularly important new development is EADH’s involvement and active participation in EU-based advocacy for the Social Sciences and Humanities. EADH was represented at the recent EASSH meeting in Berlin (representative: Elena Gonzalez-Blanco) and is now officially a signatory to a joint letter to the EU commissioner in which a number of organizations request that the SSH be given a more prominent role in the context of the HORIZON 2020 research funding agenda.

### **EADH conferences**

We have begun to investigate the possibility for holding a bi- or tri-annual EADH conference in Europe which could probably be organized jointly with the newly established AOs, for example by adding to their own conference program an “international day”. Initial AO feedback on this idea from DHd and HDH has been very positive, and we will explore this further during the 2014-2015 period.

### **ADHO matters, outlook**

EADH is involved in the current strategic initiative aimed at restructuring ADHO, and at redefining ADHO’s role and relationship with the COs. Against the backdrop of its own development into a regionally, culturally and linguistically more diverse European organization EADH will strive to make sure that it can adequately represent the interests of its constituency on ADHO level. Among other three aspects discussed at the recent ADHO SC strategy meeting in London in February 2014 will demand EADH’s particular attention:

- With the branching out of EADH into AO substructures the need for a more efficient and transparent system for the administration of members has become apparent.
- The membership category of “ADHO joint membership” and its prominent presentation on the OUP membership page will have to be addressed as it is potentially counter acting EADH’s own attempts to become more attractive to regional and cultural DH initiatives across Europe who need to establish a regional&European identity in order to be successful.
- While the current co-operation with OUP continues to be one of the main assets, EADH must itself begin to investigate alternative business models in order to prepare for a potential decrease in LLC/OUP-generated income that may be triggered by a shift toward Open Access policies across Europe.

I wish to thank all members of the executive committee, our partners in ADHO as well as at Oxford University Press for their continued support. We are particularly grateful for the new input that we now receive from our Associate Organizations and look forward to our future cooperation. Finally, on behalf of the executive committee I would like to record our special thanks to the outgoing EADH treasurer Paul Spence.

Jan Christoph Meister  
Chair of the EADH Executive Committee  
2 July 2014