

Proceedings of the

# Workshop on Computational Methods in the Humanities 2018 (COMHUM 2018)

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Université de Lausanne, June 4–5, 2018

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Section des sciences  
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COMHUM  
2018

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## Preface

It is often said that the digital humanities are “situated at the intersection of computer science and the humanities,” but what does this mean? We believe that the point of using computers in the humanities is not just to automatically analyze larger amounts of data or to accelerate research. We therefore prefer to understand digital humanities as (1) the study of means and methods of constructing formal models in the humanities and (2) as the application of these means and methods for the construction of concrete models in particular humanities disciplines.

From this perspective, the central research questions are thus:

1. Which computational methods are most appropriate for dealing with the particular challenges posed by humanities research, e.g., uncertainty, vagueness, incompleteness, but also with different positions (points of view, values, criteria, perspectives, approaches, readings, etc.)?
2. How can such computational methods be productively applied to concrete research questions in the humanities?

The goal of the Workshop on Computational Methods in the Humanities (COMHUM 2018) was to bring together researchers involved with computational approaches in the humanities with the objective of stimulating the research and exchange around innovative, methodologically explicit approaches, to encourage discussion among researchers and developers from different communities, and to help bridging the divide that still exists between the different disciplines involved in this field.

The workshop was organized by members of the Department of Language and Information Sciences (SLI) at the University of Lausanne, with the support of the Faculty of Arts. It underlines the commitment of the department to the computational dimension of the digital humanities, including formal and mathematical methods.

This volume constitutes the proceedings of COMHUM 2018. It contains revised and expanded versions of eight of the papers presented at the workshop. Both the original abstracts and the expanded versions were peer-reviewed. The presentations given at the workshop are available from the workshop Web site at <https://unil.ch/llist/comhum2018/>.

I would like to thank everybody who contributed, in one way or another, to making COMHUM 2018 a success and to the publication of the proceedings.

Lausanne, December 2018

Michael Piotrowski  
(editor)

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