Digital Humanities and the ancient world: the role of digital technologies in preserving, investigating and revitalizing antiquity

Between the 1940s and 1960s, pioneering projects such as Father Busa’s *Index Thomisticus* and David Packard’s *Concordance to Luex* marked the entry of classical studies into the digital age. Back then, and up until a couple of decades ago, digital approaches to the study of antiquity might have been thought to be ancillary; the Perseus Digital Library might have seemed to simply provide existing texts in a more accessible form. By now, however, it has become clear that digital methods are even transforming how we understand antiquity.

As in the field of humanities as a whole, so in the study of antiquity, *innovative digital methods and technologies are constantly emerging to create new modes of researching, reconstructing, preserving, and thus revitalizing the ancient world in its widest sense*. New technologies have already changed our way of studying and analyzing the ancient world, and so all the involved disciplines (history, archaeology) are expanding in the digital world to increase their scientific reach as well as their capability to communicate the results. To ensure full accessibility, and to participate in the effort towards increasing transparency and reproducibility in science, the community is progressively committed to *creating and publishing new resources in accordance with the FAIR principles* (findability, accessibility, interoperability and re-usability).

The school is designed for *MA students*, PhD students and young researchers who wish to acquire digital skills in the study and preservation of antiquity, without necessarily making Digital Humanities for the Ancient World the center of their research career. The choice of courses is designed to stimulate *interdisciplinarity*, ranging from academic disciplines, such as linguistics, ancient epigraphy, history and archeology, to *applications of digital methods outside of the academic world*, such as creating digital collections and exhibitions. By cross-cutting different disciplines, and by combining presentations of *theoretical concepts and practical activities*, the school will describe how ancient data should be collected, edited, processed and linked, in order to produce, enhance and preserve meaningful knowledge about the ancient world.

The summer school will be held in Como, Pliny the Elder’s birthplace, and in 2023, exactly 2,000 after his birth. As is well-known, Pliny’s contribution in studying, writing about and thus preserving the ancient world is invaluable.
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Lake Como School of Advanced Studies - September 11-15, 2003

Directors and Organizing Committee

Directors of the school

Maurizio Harari (University of Pavia, Department of Humanities, Antiquity),
Silvia Luraghi (University of Pavia, Department of Humanities, Linguistics),
Marco Passarotti (Catholic University of Milan, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature)

Local organizing committee

Erica Bilagetti (University of Pavia, Department of Humanities, Linguistics),
Paolo Rondini (University of Pavia, Department of Humanities, Antiquity),
Chiara Zanchi (University of Pavia, Department of Humanities, Linguistics)
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Program

The school comprises four one-day courses. A poster session will be held on Friday morning followed by a closing lecture by Professor Christian Greco.

Each day we will start with breakfast at 10 a.m. Classes start at 10:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. with a lunch break and a coffee break in the afternoon.

Monday, September 11

Dag Haug – University of Oslo
Linguistic annotation: from morphology to pragmatics

Tuesday, September 12

Federica Iurescia and Matteo Pellegrini – Catholic University of Milan
Linguistic Linked Open Data

Wednesday, September 13

Sebastian Heath – New York University
Linked Open Data for the study of ancient world (Pompeii Artistic Landscape Project)

Thursday, September 14

Jonathan Prag – University of Oxford
Dh for ancient epigraphic texts: TEI-XML and Linked Open Data for the encoding of written sources

Friday, September 15

Christian Greco – Museo Egizio di Torino

TBA

Participants may submit a research paper to a poster session. Posters will be displayed on Friday morning, and poster authors are encouraged to introduce their research through a flash talk. Active participation in the summer school including the poster session will be worth 3 ECTS. For PhD schools in History (University of Pavia) and Linguistic Sciences (University of Pavia / University of Bergamo), participation in the Summer School will be recognized as part of the annual teaching activities.

Abstracts for the poster session should be sent to Prof. Chiara Zanchi (chiara.zanchi01@unipv.it) no later than Monday, 4 September 2023.
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Contact us

For enquiries about the venue of the school, travel, accommodation, and registration procedure, please contact Alessandra Cazzaniga (alessandra.cazzaniga@fondazionealessandrovolta.it) at Fondazione Alessandro Volta, Como.