

The Digital Humanities Network of the UABCie: a smart structure of research and social transference for the digital humanities.

Oriol Vicente (Cultural Heritage Research Network), Alicia Fornés (Computer Vision Centre), and Ramón Valdés (Spanish Philology Department) Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain.

The Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) is the first university in Spain in terms of research, education and research transfer and holds the position number 146 in the world ranking by The World University Rankings. Concerning to the arts and humanities area is in the world 62nd position and again the first in Spain. The UAB is a generalist centre where different research Groups and Research Centres in humanities have developed a lot of capacities after some years working in national and international projects, some of them together with technological centres within the university.

Nowadays the increase of the digital technologies has a big impact in all the aspects of our lives, from education to consumption and communication. Evidently the humanities must take into account these technologies and use them for developing their research, using ICT as new tools for knowledge transfer and for research processes. This fact, obvious for some european countries, is something that is still in discussion in some spanish university departments and really not supported by the national research programs. The prove is that today a few research groups and research centres are focussed in the HD area and only few of them are present in international networks and projects.

Given the interest of the research groups of our university in increasing the number of DH projects and their visibility, some researchers have created a network that is supported by the university Research Office and joined to the research cluster on Cultural Heritage that has been recently implemented by the university. **The Digital Humanities Network of the UAB and its Campus of International Excellence** intends to effectively articulate the capabilities of research groups, research centres, scientific and technical services, technology parks and major infrastructures involved in research, education and dissemination activities in the Digital Humanities and its subset, the Digital Heritage. The network increases the competitiveness of its members, joining efforts in terms of visibility, coordination of activities and sharing of resources and information. Furthermore, through the network, a close interaction with regional, national and international policymakers and stakeholders, as well as a strong presence in the Catalonian territory are achieved.

The network gathers more than 20 members. These members cover a wide sector of the humanities and the social sciences such as Art, Philology, Philosophy, History, Archaeology, Musicology, Anthropology, Sociology, Law, Economy and Communication sciences. Alike the strong presence of technical research centres gives solutions to the application of new technologies to the Humanities area such as Computer Vision, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science or Telecommunications.

The collaboration with the public and private sector is also getting stronger. SMEs and private foundations have enrolled in the network, contributing either transfer capabilities or funding to develop new projects. Meanwhile, the public sector, such as municipalities or the Catalan regional government, has become involved in the network as collaborators. This union of efforts is particularly important due to the need of alignment in Digital Humanities and Digital Heritage policies and implementation as well as the effort to look for funding.