

Preface to the proceedings of DHASA 2021

I Preface

The Digital Humanities Association of Southern Africa (DHASA) organized its third conference with the theme “Digitally Human, Artificially Intelligent”. This conference took place virtually (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) from 29 November 2021–3 December 2021.

The field of Digital Humanities is currently still rather underdeveloped in Southern Africa. Hence, this conference had several aims. First, to bring together researchers who are interested in showcasing their research from the broad field of Digital Humanities. By doing so, this conference provided an overview of the current state-of-the-art of Digital Humanities especially in the Southern Africa region.

Second, the conference allowed for information sharing among researchers interested in Digital Humanities as well as network building. By bringing together researchers working on Digital Humanities from Southern Africa or on Southern Africa, we aimed to boost collaboration and research in this field.

Third, affiliated workshops and tutorials provide information for researchers to learn about novel technologies and tools. These related events are aimed at researchers interested in the field of Digital Humanities, to focus on specific aspects of Digital Humanities or to provide practical information for researchers to move into the field or advance their knowledge in the field.

In particular, the 2nd Workshop on Resources for African Indigenous Languages (RAIL) was co-located with the DHASA conference. Additionally, six tutorials were presented: “CATMA 6.0” by Malte Meister and Dominik Gerstorfer, “Hackathon: Glosario (A multilingual glossary package)” by Angelique Trusler, “WikimediaZA edit-a-thon” by Bobby Shabangu, “Digitalization and Visualization (A practical approach

with TEI data)” by Sree Thottempudi, “Text Mining for Newbies” by Stefan Ziehe, and “Expanding the influence of DH throughout the humanities – Introducing Gale Digital Scholar Lab” by Chris Houghton. Finally, a shared task (combined with SACAIR2021): “NLAPOST: Nguni Languages Part of Speech Tagging challenge” was organized.

All submissions to the conference were peer-reviewed, where each submission was reviewed by three reviewers. We aimed for a high acceptance rate to maximize the interaction and information sharing between presenters as well as participants. In the end, we received 20 abstracts (95% acceptance rate), six long submissions (82.2% acceptance rate), and two short submissions (100% acceptance rate). The proceedings adheres to DHET’s 60% rule, authors in the proceedings come from a wide range of institutions.

Sponsors

We very much appreciate the input from three sponsors, who made the conference financially feasible. Their help allowed for a best paper award, “An analysis of readability metrics on English exam texts” J. Sibeko, M. van Zaanen. Also, the sponsors made it possible to have the recordings of the presentation hosted at Videlectures.net: <http://videlectures.net/dhasa2021/>



This work is based on the research supported by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.



2 Program Committee

We would like to thank all members of the program committee. Their careful evaluation of the submissions and the feedback provided to the authors has had a major impact on the quality of the conference and the published articles.

- Anne-Marie Beukes, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- Attie De Lange, North West University, South Africa
- Dirk Goldhahn, University of Leipzig, Germany
- Febe de Wet, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Gerhard van Huyssteen, North West University, South Africa
- Gertrud Faaß, University of Hildesheim, Germany
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- Inge van de Ven, Tilburg University, the Netherlands
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- Justus Roux, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Karen Calteaux, CSIR, South Africa
- Karli Brittz, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Maria Keet, University of Cape Town, South Africa
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- Ray Siemens, University of Victoria, Canada
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- Rory du Plessis, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Sean Kruger, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Sebolelo Mokapela, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- Sonja Bosch, UNISA, South Africa
- Sree Ganesh, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources, South Africa
- Tanja Gaustad, CTeX, South Africa
- Thomas Hervé Mboa Nkoudou, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon
- Tunde Ope-Davies, University of Lagos, Nigeria

Conference Chairs

- Amanda du Preez, University of Pretoria, South Africa
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- Menno van Zaanen, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources, South Africa
- Mmasibidi Setaka, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources, South Africa
- Oghenere Salubi, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- Rooweither Mabuya, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources, South Africa