Preface to the Proceedigns of DHASA2025

Ilana Wilken
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

1 Introduction

The Digital Humanities Association of Southern Africa (DHASA) is pleased to announce its fifth conference, focusing on the theme *The role of humanities in digital humanities and artificial intelligence*.

This conference is hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) at its prestigious International Convention Centre in Pretoria, South Africa, from 10-14 November 2025.

In a region where the field of Digital Humanities is still relatively underdeveloped, this conference aims to address this gap and foster growth and collaboration in the field. The conference offers an opportunity for researchers interested in showcasing their work in the broad field of Digital Humanities to come together. By doing so, the conference provides a comprehensive overview of the current state-of-the-art in Digital Humanities, particularly within the Southern Africa region. As such, the conference consists of submissions related to Digital Humanities research conducted by individuals from Southern Africa or research focused on the geographical area of Southern Africa.

Furthermore, the conference serves as a platform for information sharing and networking among researchers who are passionate about Digital Humanities. By bringing together experts working on Digital Humanities in Southern Africa or focusing on Southern Africa, we aim to promote collaboration and facilitate further research in this dynamic field.

In addition to the main conference, affiliated workshops are organised, providing researchers with valuable insights into novel technologies and tools. These supplementary events are designed for researchers interested in specific aspects of Digital Humanities or seeking practical information to enter or advance their knowledge in the field. In particular, the 6th Workshop on Resources for African Indigenous Languages (RAIL) is co-located with the DHASA conference.

The four half-day workshops that will be hosted are:

- Processing South African language text with Python, by Laurette Marais and Laurette Pretorius

- Overview of Generative AI tools and Utilisation, by Privolin Naidoo

- A Practical Guide to Writing Data Papers in the Humanities, by Johannes Sibeko and Benito Trollip

- Machine Learning for everyone with Orange Data Mining by Alette Schoon

Lastly, the Nthavela Newspaper Corpus will be launched as part of an initiative to establishing new partnerships to preserve and grow the indigenous language media in the digital space.

2 Submissions

All long and short paper submissions to the conference followed an open peer-review process, in which two reviewers reviewed each submission. We received 14 long paper submissions (57% acceptance rate) and two short paper submissions (100% acceptance rate).

3 Best Paper Award

The DHASA 2025 Best Paper Award is awarded to Dr Sanjin Muftic from the University of Cape Town, who authored the paper titled *Setting the Stage: Enabling Spaces for Dialogues with Ibali Digital Collections UCT*.

4 Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by the South African Centre for Digital

Language Resources (SADiLaR) and the North-West University Centre for Digital Humanities (NWU CDH), without which this conference would not have been possible.

5 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.

- Aby Louw, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Augustine Farinola, University of Alberta

- Benito Trollip, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Chialuka Onuoha, University of Nigeria

- Chinedu Ogama, Mygeecs

- Deon du Plessis, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Friedel Wolff, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Gonneke Groenen, North-West University

- Gordon Matthew, North-West University

- Henk Louw, North-West University

- Ilana Wilken, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- James Ayo-Akinola, Michigan Technological University

- Johannes Sibeko, Nelson Mandela University

- John Henry Chukwudi, Universitat Oberta Catalunya

- Josef Langerman, University of Johannesburg

- Juan Steyn, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Justus C Roux, Private

- Karen Calteaux, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Khesani S Madlome, Great Zimbabwe University

- Laurette Marais, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Malefu Mahloane, University of the Free State

- Marissa Griesel, UNISA, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Martin Bekker, University of the Witwatersrand

- Martin Puttkammer, CTexT

- Menno van Zaanen, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Mmasibidi Setaka, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Muzi Matfunjwa, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Nomsa Skosana, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Olarotimi Ogungbemi, University of Texas at San Antonio

- Papi Lemeko, Central University of Technology, Free State

- Pia Bombardella, North-West University

- Privolin Naidoo, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Reggemore Marongedze, Nelson Mandela University and University of Zimbabwe

- Roald Eiselen, CTexT

- Rooweither Mabuya, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Rufus Gouws, Stellenbosch University

- Tanja Gaustad, North-West University

6 Conference Organising Committee

- Ilana Wilken, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Sthembiso Mkhwanazi, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Aby Louw, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Franco Mak, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Franziska Pannach, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

- Johannes Sibeko, Nelson Mandela University

- Juan Steyn, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Laurette Marais, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

- Marissa Griesel, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Menno van Zaanen, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources

- Privolin Naidoo, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research