

# Workshop Title: Digital Humanities - the perspective of Africa

1-5 July 2019 @ Snellius

## Science 1.

### Description and aims

The workshop aimed at the articulation of the specific developments in the field of digital humanities (DH) that are taking shape in Africa and their potential to enhance the global DH agenda. In addition, attention was given to capacity building, the planning of future collaborative initiatives, the establishment of a stronger networked regional community and the increased visibility of the work by African scholars in the DH community at large.

## 2. tangible outcome

Results of the workshop's project-related activities were selected for presentation during a special poster session of the global DH2019 conference which took place in Utrecht, 8-12 July. During the same conference, a group of participants presented short papers in the panel "African languages and digital humanities: challenges and solutions". Other individual and shared projects which were developed during the workshop will be published in the online publication Bridging Humanities (for a preliminary overview see <http://lorentz.bridginghumanities.com/>). A documentary was produced and published immediately after the workshop through this webpage: <http://dhafrica.blog/outcomes>. All future results from the workshop will be listed on this webpage as well.

## 3. scientific breakthrough

For many scholars and researchers it was crucial to meet colleagues from other African countries and learn about the projects / infrastructures / initiatives that are already existing in Africa. For example for researchers interested in language and linguistics the workshop established a good basis for collaborative projects aimed at the development of African language technologies. This was also reflected in some of the posters.

4. "Aha" moments The participants were introduced to the possibilities for scholarly communication via platform Slack. They have started using this platform during the workshop and the conversation has continued since then.

## Organization/Format

### 5. format of the workshop

The overall structure of the programmed with Day 1-2 focussing on lectures and hands-on sessions and Day 3-5 focussing on collaborative projects worked out well. There was ample time for discussion and the opportunity for immediate dissemination during the DH2019 week helped to stay stay focussed on concrete results. 6. other comments The Snellius facility worked as a temporary 'home' to a group of the size of 25-30 people. Really appreciated!

The visa application procedures that most participants had to deal with took much longer than anticipated and only because of some last-minute high-level interventions the majority of the participants received their visa just in time. The standard preparatory schedule adopted by Lorentz for the registration and communication with participants is not long enough, especially if such a big group is dependent on visa.

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