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Title	A quantitative analysis of digital scholarly editions
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Publication date	2022-09-08
Original Citation	Kurzmeier, M., O'Sullivan, J., Murphy, Ó., Pidd, M. and Wessels, B. (2022) 'A Quantitative Analysis of Digital Scholarly Editions', Digital Humanities Congress 2022, Sheffield, UK, 8-10 Sept.
Type of publication	Conference item
Link to publisher's version	https://www.dhi.ac.uk/dhc2022/
Download date	2026-11-03 12:26:10
Item downloaded from	https://hdl.handle.net/10468/13821



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A Quantitative Analysis of Digital Scholarly Editions

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Digital scholarly editions are key resources for arts and humanities research, and predate in various forms the concepts of digital humanities or humanities computing (Sula and Hill 2019). While individual projects are remembered for their contribution to the field, few comprehensive data sources exist to show the development of the field. This paper is both an analysis of the sources from which to write a history of digital scholarly editing, and an overview of the state and development of the field using quantitative methods.

Digital editions are positioned between drawing from archived material, and being an archive themselves (Dillen 2019, 266)**.** In addition to that, digital editions also are web resources in need of archiving, lest they fall subject to link rot and very soon disappear from the web either for the lack of a persistent identifier or lack of maintenance. For digital editions past and present, two main data sources are available. Patrick Sahle lists around 700 editions in a curated catalog (Sahle, n.d.), while the *Catalogue of Digital Editions* features about 320 digital editions in a database (Franzini 2012). Both sources have different criteria for inclusion, overlap in content and differ in granularity, yet these are the sources from which a history of digital scholarly editions will mostly draw. Analysis of these sources will present them in their scope, aim and usability for research, while highlighting underrepresented areas of data collection on digital scholarly editions.

A quantitative analysis of the two sources combined will then provide data-driven insight into the development of digital scholarly editions since the 1970s. The analysis will in a first step focus on the amount of projects and their average duration over time to produce an overview of the field. In a second step, long-term cycles such as the adaptation of TEI-XML and open access standards will be analysed. Preservation and availability of all editions listed in both data sources will show the loss rate affecting digital scholarly editions and lead back to a discussion of the current state and history of the field based on the work currently being undertaken within the C21 Editions project.

Acknowledgements

This research is part of *C21 Editions: Scholarly Editing and Publishing in the Digital Age*, a three-year international collaboration jointly funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AH/W001489/1) and Irish Research Council (IRC/W001489/1).

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Sahle, Patrick. n.d. 'A Catalog of Digital Scholarly Editions - by Title, Complete List, a-z (714 Items)'. https://v3.digitale-edition.de/vlet_a-z.html.

Sula, Chris Alen, and Heather V Hill. 2019. 'The Early History of Digital Humanities: An Analysis of Computers and the Humanities (1966–2004) and Literary and Linguistic Computing (1986–2004)'. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, November, fqz072. https://doi.org/10.1093/llc/fqz072.

Session 2

Thursday 14:00 - 15:30

High Tor 3

Papers:

Implementing Linked Ancient World Data: recommendations from research with users and producers

Mimesis and the importance of female characters A comparative social network analysis of Dutch literary fiction, 1960s vs 2010s

A Quantitative Analysis of Digital Scholarly Editions

Big Language Data Comes with Big Opportunities and Big Challenges: A Learner-Corpus Case Study

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