Call for Papers
Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina (DHC-NC)
2025 Digital Humanities Institute
April 4-5, 2025 | Online via Zoom | all sessions will be Eastern time

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Digital Humanities as a Tool for Resiliency:
Analyzing and Addressing Crises through Innovative Digital Practices

The Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina (DHC-NC) invites submissions for the **2025 Digital Humanities Institute,** sponsored by Christian Brothers University.

We encourage submissions from all scholars, practitioners, educators and students, and we invite contributions from both seasoned researchers and those new to the field.

The institute will be held **virtually on April 4 and 5, 2025.**

The 2025 institute examines the **pivotal intersections of risk, emergency and crisis communication and digital humanities (DH).** The theme covers areas including, but not limited to:

Maps/Mapping and/or GPS/GIS	Disaster Response
Storytelling and/or Digital Archives	Risk Analysis and Communication
Historical and/or Contemporary Data Analysis	Public History and/or Historical Sites/Trails/etc.
Public Health and/or History of Science/Health	Social Justice

Many of these topics have become and stayed more visible in light of recent events such as:
- Hurricane Helene's damage.
- The 2024 elections.
- The geopolitical landscape of the United States.
- Recent and historical pandemics.
- The Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas wars.
- The dismantling of race and ethnic studies.
- Social upheaval in response to police brutality and other types of state violence.

By examining the overlap of crisis communications and digital humanities (which includes, but is not limited to, the study of culture and cultural artifacts), the institute aims to foster discussions that address the pressing challenges of our time through digital humanities scholarship.

Questions to consider

- DH contributes to public health communications: what lessons can be learned from past successes and crises to improve future communications?

- What is the role of storytelling in shaping public perceptions and responses to crises? When research supports storytelling approaches, how can digital tools amplify narratives?

- What role does data analysis play in risk, disaster, and crisis communication? How does data analysis predict and/or mitigate future crises? What ethical questions could or should be considered when using data analysis in crisis communications?

- What are the potential risks and challenges associated with using digital humanities tools in crisis situations? How are these risks addressed to support more effective communication?

- How are mapping technologies (e.g., GPS/GIS) used as tools to improve disaster response and risk assessment? What ethical considerations should be taken into account when employing these tools?

- How can DH methodologies enhance our understanding and effectiveness of risk, disaster and crisis communication?

- How can crisis communication strategies be adapted to address issues of social justice and equity in marginalized communities?

- DH tools can be leveraged to teach students about effective crisis communication and response strategies. How might educators implement this?

- How do ongoing global conflicts impact intersections of crisis communication and digital humanities, and how can we address these situations?

- How can DH methods and/or pedagogies facilitate knowledge production around emergent or longstanding social crises? (e.g. Wikipedia entries, community archives, digital editions)

- How can DH, broadly conceived and applied, increase understanding of rhetorics and practices related to social justice, equity and inclusion.

- How can we evaluate the effectiveness of crisis communication efforts? What metrics or frameworks can be employed to assess their impact?

Special Focus
In response to the widespread damage from Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina, we will hold space during the institute to focus on disaster awareness and preparedness. We will also have space for mental health responses to crises.

We particularly encourage submissions that address these areas. We plan to host training related to these topics during the conference.

Formats
We welcome proposals in a variety of formats, including:
- Presentations (15-minute individual presentations; 60 minutes total given for each panel of up to 3 presentations)

- Lightning Talks (5-minute focused presentations)
- Workshops (interactive 90-minute sessions)
- Creative work demos (including digital storytelling, multimedia projects, etc.; display type and length will depend on the type of media submitted)

We invite submissions from:
- Individuals (we'll group similar topics and form a panel for you)
- Groups (one person will submit for their whole panel)

You may also submit pre-recorded presentations if you are unable to attend live. Pre-recorded presentations will be played during the conference.

Submission Process

Guidelines:
- 250-word limit
- PDF file
- Include:
  - Name(s)
  - Contact information
  - Affiliation(s)/Title(s)
  - Panel type, if applicable
  - Whether you're submitting as a group or not
- [Submit presentation proposals via our Google form](#)

All presenters and guests must register to attend. **Registration via EventBrite is required.** *There are no registration fees, and the conference is open to all who register.*

Timeline
- Abstract submission deadline: January 17, 2025
- Notification of acceptance: By the end of February 2025
- Registration opens: March 1, 2025
- If applicable, pre-recorded presentations due: March 21, 2025
- Program draft released: mid-March 2025
- Conference dates: April 4–5, 2025

For any questions or more information, email us at dhcollabnc@gmail.com.

We look forward to a fantastic conference!

Best regards,
The DHC-NC 2024-2025 Executive Board