

THE OPENMETHODS METABLOG

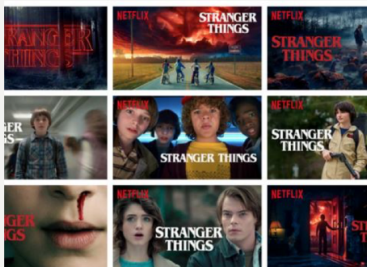
A collaborative platform for
highlighting Open Access content
about Digital Humanities methods
and tools



OPENMETHODS

HIGHLIGHTING DIGITAL HUMANITIES METHODS AND TOOLS

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It's personal, isn't it?
What



Forschungsdaten in
der (digitalen)



CATEGORIES

Select Category



RECENT POSTS

WHAT IS OPENMETHODS?

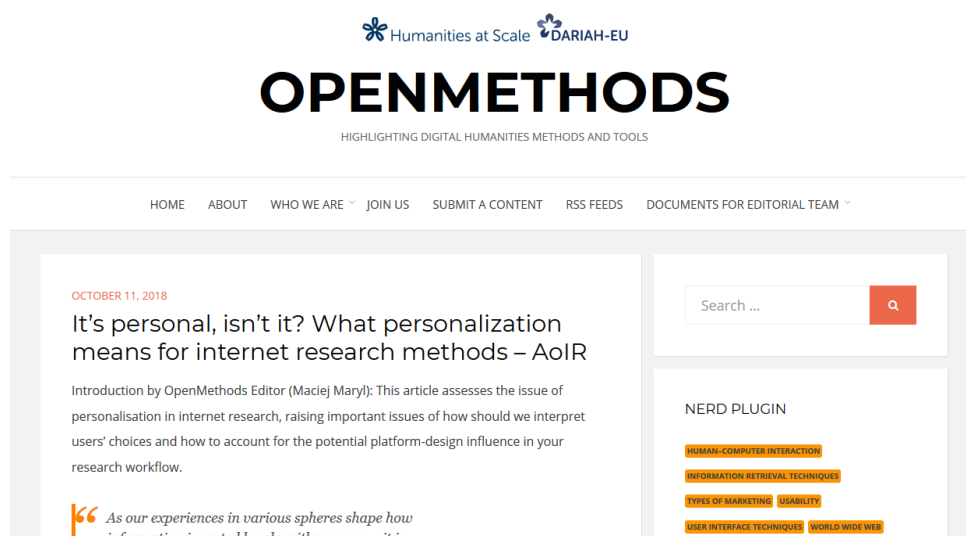


OpenMethods is metablog aimed at republishing and bringing together all formats of Open Access publications (e.g. research articles, preprints, blog posts or videos) in different languages about Digital Humanities methods and tools to spread the knowledge and raise peer recognition for them. Relevant content is selected and curated by an international group of Digital Humanities experts with support of community volunteers who can also nominate content to be republished on the metablog. The platform has been developed in close partnership with and supervision of the DARIAH community since it is an offspring of the DARIAH "Humanities at Scale" project.



OPENMETHODS' ROLE IN SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Navigating through the rich and dynamically evolving Digital Humanities (henceforth DH) landscape can be a time-consuming task and difficult to integrate into researchers' everyday routines. Yet, primary goals of the DH paradigm such as 1. broadening and deepening the adoption and understanding of digital methods and tools amongst humanities scholars and 2. facilitating the culture of reuse of already existing resources requires sufficient tools that make DH resources, methods, and best practices visible and easily discoverable for researchers in all levels of expertise.



WHY METABLOG?



The OpenMethods metablog aims to explore and deliver a solution for this need as it provides a convenient and easy way for DH experts from around the globe to select, propose, curate, and highlight online published content. Suitable online content may be proposed by Community Volunteers. The OpenMethods platform is intentionally interdisciplinary and multilingual to facilitate a timely disclosure and spread of knowledge and to raise peer recognition for the related research results. The group of DH experts, known as the OpenMethods Editorial Team, currently comprises 23 editors from 11 countries.

OpenMethods is inclusive with a variety of content types like blog posts, videos, preprints, podcasts, etc. These are becoming increasingly important aspects of scholarly work as they are not only accelerating discussions within and outside of academia but are also flexible enough to follow the dynamic and multimodal nature of DH methodology discourse.

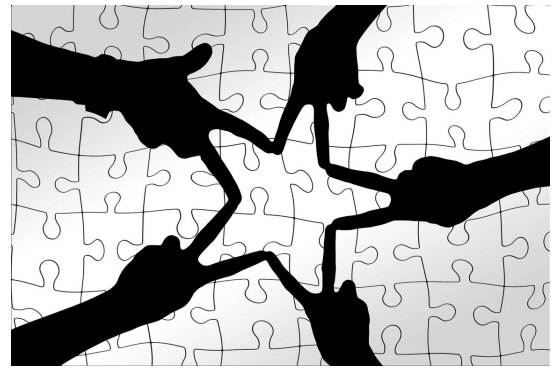
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Nomination of Open Access content to republish is not restricted to suggestions of the Editorial Team but is open to everyone, either anonymously or by name via a browser bookmark or by tagging @openmethods_dh in tweets.

The proposed content is reviewed and discussed by the Editorial Team, which makes the final decision about its republication on the metablog. Focus on tools and methods (i.e. whether the proposed content indeed describes or critically reflects on a specific DH tool or method), the clarity of language and reasoning, general relevance to the DH communities and the reuse potential of the introduced tools and methods are primary selection criteria.

As an enrichment of preselected valuable Open Access publications, successful nominations are categorised with tags based on the Taxonomy of Digital Research Activities in the Humanities (TaDiRAH). As another form of content enrichment, a brief introduction or evaluation in English is added to each post in which one of our Editors briefly explains the relevance of the republished content to their scholarly communities.

COMMUNITIES AROUND OPENMETHODS



Our goal is to reach and engage the widest possible array of DH communities ranging from scholars taking the first steps towards going digital in their research to DH experts who are shaping specific research areas as representatives for particular methods.

Furthermore, DH journal editors are a special and very welcomed target group within the community as the content republished on the platform may help them to get in contact with the authors to turn their blog posts into a fully-fledged research article. One of our key ambitions is to build bridges between the evolving innovative and more informal genres of scholarly communication (like novel content types e.g. blog posts, videos, podcasts or preprints and content evaluation via curation) on the one hand and the more traditional paradigms of journal publishing on the other. In that spirit, we aim to create an intermediary layer of knowledge creation and dissemination between more informal and more formal spheres of scholarly communication as well as showcase working examples for the alignment and coexistence of such models.

PLUGINS AND DEVELOPMENT

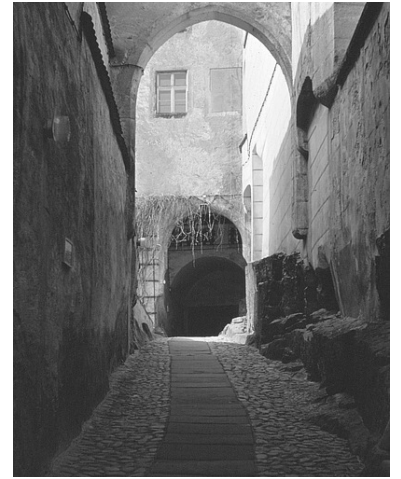


The platform has been developed to be as user-friendly as possible, employing a WordPress instance, one of the simplest CMS (content management system) available. Developments done for this project and plugins we use are all Open Source.

To increase the visibility and discoverability of our posts, we have also created plugins to achieve interoperability with other initiatives like the NERD entity fishing service and the humanities and social sciences research discovery service ISIDORE.

Our workflow is supported by the PressForward plugin. It enables us to create a simple workflow for our experts as almost all steps of their work (content nomination, discussion, evaluation, publishing, keeping track of published content) can be undertaken within this plugin. Since the plugin was a very important part of our architecture we had to make sure it was going to fit every aspect we envisioned while designing the concept of OpenMethods.

GOALS



- Supporting and disseminating emerging open community practices in the use of DH tools and methods and raising competencies in digital tools
- Propagating the culture of reuse by showcasing best practices for the adoption of existing services and their underlying software for different research environments and needs
- Building a network of experts that can serve as a focal point for bringing together and developing new DH communities
- Establishing an expert curation-based model of quality assessment of DH tools, methods and discourse around them
- Increasing both the trust towards and the visibility of Open Access scholarship and open best practices in DH research
- Establishing bidirectional exchange between traditional journal publishing and novel components in scholarly communication such as blogging

- Enhancing the visibility and recognition of languages and cultures other than English and therefore give space for the equal representation of bigger and smaller languages and cultures in the DH discourse.
- Harmonising and connecting the novel components in scholarly communication with the traditional paradigm of journal publishing.

