Digital Humanities
Minor

Universiteit Leiden
The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University
Digital Humanities Minor

The minor in digital humanities gives students the opportunity to explore computational approaches in humanities research critically.

Doing humanities research these days is almost inconceivable without the help of computer programmes. We readily make use of search engines, databases, text editors, and various methods of digital visualization. But usually we are merely skimming the surface of the available technology. The minor in digital humanities provides you with a valuable opportunity to explore the critical application of computational methods in a wide range of humanities and social science subjects, including linguistics, literature, history, the arts, religious studies, and media and area studies. Tailored to appeal to students from all fields of research, the minor aims to complement your BA by providing you with the means to acquire a 21st-century skill set that includes a foundation in programming, text and image analysis as well as techniques of visual representation.

“For a long time digital techniques such as programming and data-visualization have been sequestered within the domain of the hard sciences. Through the digital humanities minor, however, they become accessible and pertinent to students of the humanities for both quantitative and qualitative research.”

Paul Vierthaler, LUCDH
The minor in digital humanities is an initiative of the Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities which brings together students and faculty to rethink the role of the humanities in a digital age. Keep an eye out for the centre’s lunch lectures where DH experts come together to discuss the latest developments in the field.

Curriculum
The minor is designed to be comprehensive in scope. It includes introductory as well as more advanced courses. For example, in “Digital Detectives” you will learn to use computational tools to explore the literary and historical context in which detective fiction developed. A complete list of courses is available on the LUCDH website. The minor uses a teaching format that stimulates practical learning and collaboration. Students will participate in short lectures, hands-on computer lab sessions and online discussions. Personal projects are also an integral part of the minor. You will be encouraged to develop a project that complements your BA as well as your personal interests, with the help of the minor’s experienced staff.

Reflecting on the Digital Humanities
On top of training students in the art of digital humanities research, the minor also offers a space for debate about digitization and the digital. At the core of the program lies an emphasis on digital media and its relationship with society and culture. Topics covered in the core courses include, for example, social media, the knowledge economy, digital art, censorship, video games, and artificial intelligence. You will also be introduced to key moments in the history of computing in order to gain a better understanding of how digital media differ from print media, as well as what consequences their unique character might have for the production and dissemination of knowledge.

“To me, DH is about discovery, creativity, and daring to think big: drawing connections, visualising patterns, and seeing the world differently. Unexpected things are bound to happen.”

Javier Cha, LUCDH
Digital Literacy

There is a growing demand for digital literacy, not just at the university, but in society in general. The minor in digital humanities helps to inspire confidence in both using and creating digital technology. With these skills at hand you can be sure to enter the job market with a competitive advantage, better prepared for the digital challenges that lie in store.

Contact:
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Degree
BA Minor

Duration
1 year (6 courses)
1 semester (3 courses)

Language
English

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