

Minutes of the Final Discussion of “DHEgypt15”

By Monica Berti and Franziska Naether

Hosted by Monica Berti and Franziska Naether with concluding remarks by Gregory R. Crane

Observation: All participants gathered after the workshops to come up with solutions on how to continue further research and collaboration in Egyptology and Papyrology in the Digital Humanities. Or: it is not the question **if** we collaborate and find solutions, but **how**.

Strategy 1: Following the model of the “Classical Wiki” in Papyrology, an “Egyptological Wiki” should be established.

Strategy 2: There should be an email list for “Digital Egyptology”. This conference is a start. [N.B.: This is already happening for specialized issues. Palaeography, Unicode of non-alphabetic script, annotations, etc. have been identified as common interest of several participants.]

Strategy 3: Where do we go from here, when do we meet again? – Many participants voiced the need of further, more specialized workshops. [N.B.: This is already happening – there will be a Unicode Roundtable at the ARCE annual conference in April in Atlanta and Nigel Strudwick from the International Association of Egyptologists (IAE) contacted the participants of DHEgypt15 afterwards to get together for a meeting in 2016/17 about challenges in the digital age.]

Strategy 4: We agree that our two scholarly associations, the AIP (Association International des Papyrologues) and the IAE (International Association of Egyptologists) should provide sessions for DH themes. Many of us attend the international congresses anyway, so why not combining this with our issues?

Strategy 5: Everybody loves Trismegistos and the superb sub-databases with the archives, locations, publications, people – sharing of data is encouraged, get in touch with the team represented in Leipzig by Tom Gheldof.

Strategy 6: Everybody loves the TLA, and by your input it can only get better – Peter Dils asks everyone to contact him with a wishlist and presents the possibility of TLA workshops.

Input from Gregory R. Crane:

Digital Humanities is

- not just creating a database
- it's methodologies
- it's asking extra questions that others don't ask
- it's looking for scholars and the public as an audience, requesting their input via citizen science – this goes beyond open access
- is a way to enable new deeper and broader kinds of cooperation and scholarship

Egyptologist and Papyrologists need to produce and agree on the use of unique and stable identifiers for their objects of study. The the model is the CTS/CITE Architecture, that has been originally developed for the Harvard's Homer Multitext Project and is now used for Greek and Latin Sources.

We need to discuss new methods for evaluating digital data that are now produced beside traditional papers and monographs. This is particularly important for young scholars who need to be encouraged to work with digital tools and whose work has to be properly assessed to enhance their careers.

Egyptology and Papyrology are in a master position for that

- both are by tradition transnational
- connect to other fields such as Near Eastern Studies
- but also help to view the Ancient World in a broader perspective
- should save money by working together
- try to be more represented in CLARIN and DARIAH

Finally, the organizers thanked all the speakers, chairs, discussants, guests, helpers among staff and students for their valuable input and participation in "DHEgypt15".