Digital Humanities at Doctoral School: a community of practices?

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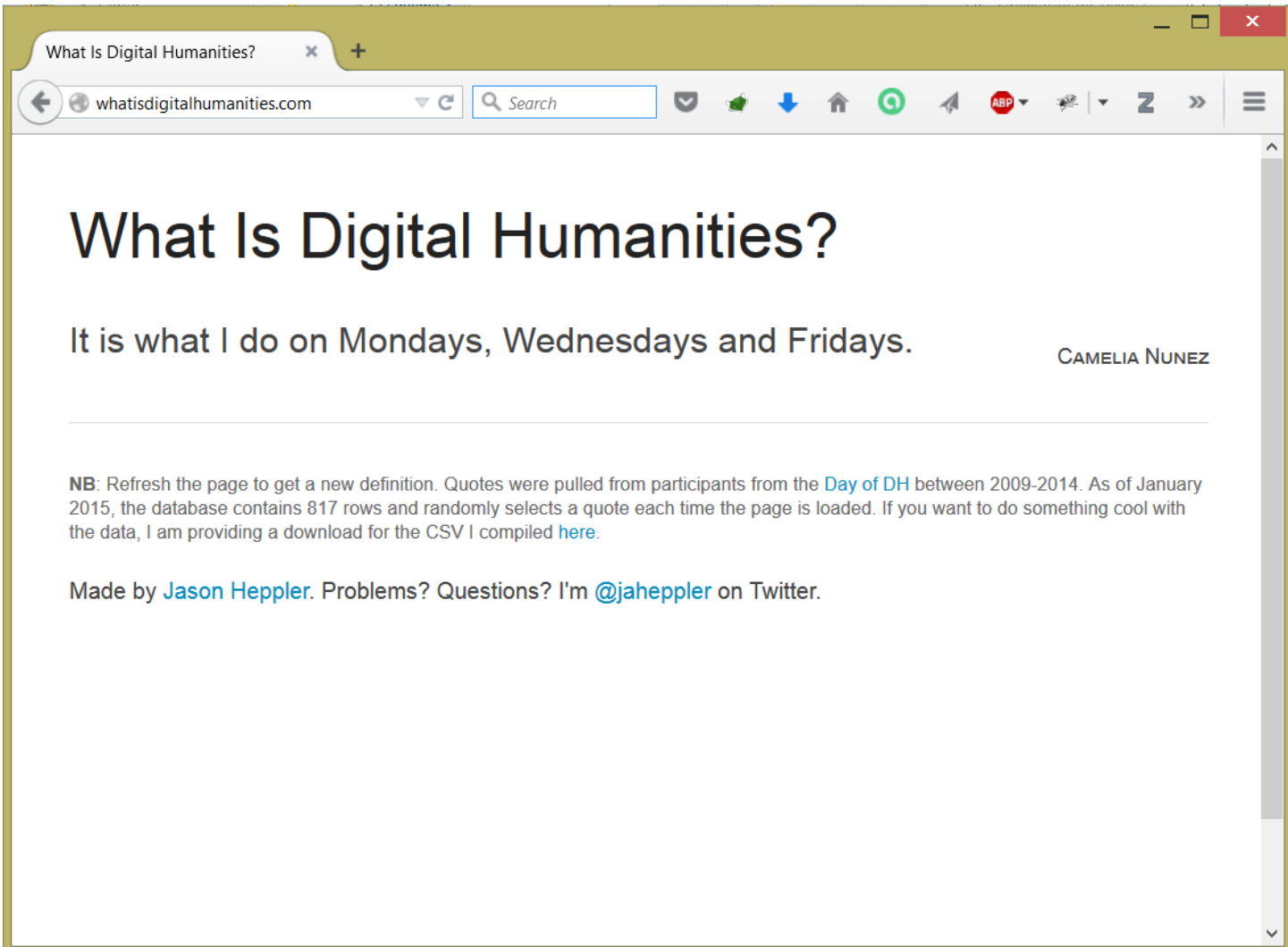10th EUA-CDE Annual Meeting, Tallinn, 2017

Definitions

- First used by John Unsworth, in 2002, but became a fashionable concept with the book *Companion to Digital Humanities*, in 2004.

- Susan Hockey, 2004: "interdisciplinary academic area (…) concerned with the applications of computing to research and teaching within subjects that are loosely defined as «the humanities»".

- Dan Cohen, 2011: "the use of digital media and technology to advance the full range of thought and practice in the humanities, from the creation of scholarly resources, to research on those resources, to the communication of results to colleagues and students".

Definitions

- It continues to be presented and enthusiastically debated in the academic world.

- And the definitions can be a surprise!

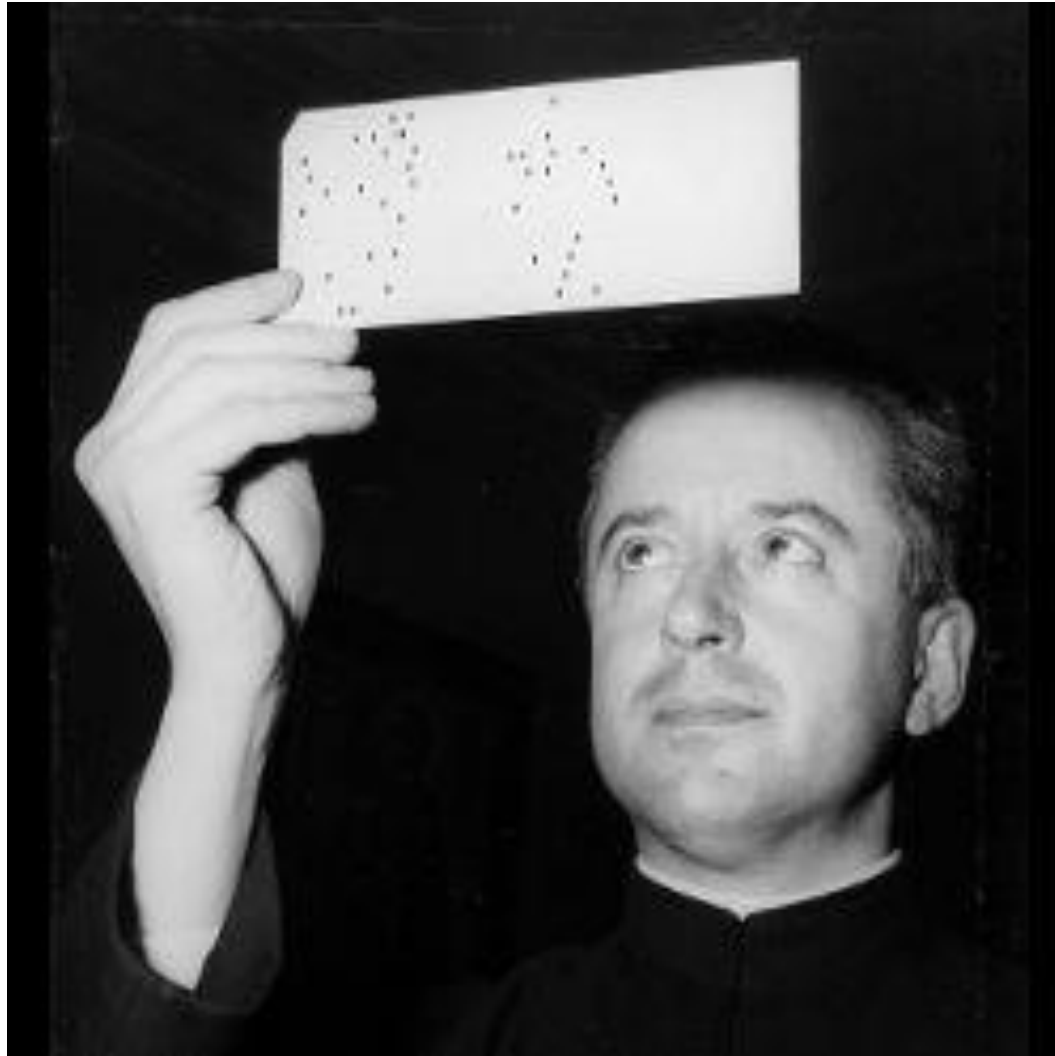# http://whatisdigitalhumanities.com/

Definitions

- It continues to be presented and enthusiastically debated in the academic world.

- And the definitions can be a surprise!

- All this can only mean that it is still a developing area, seeking to assert itself.

- But is it really a discipline or a scientific area? Or is it a community of practice?

Revolution vs. Refusal

- From "Computation in the Humanities" to "Digital Humanities"

- The role of Linguistics as a pioneer in the connection between computing and humanities (Roberto Busa, circa 1949, analysis of the work of St. Thomas Aquinas)

Roberto Busa

Revolution vs. Refusal

- From "Computation in the Humanities" to "Digital Humanities"
- The role of Linguistics as a pioneer in the connection between computing and humanities (Roberto Busa, circa 1949, analysis of the work of St. Thomas Aquinas)
- Between the 1960s and 1990s, the application of computing has expanded far beyond the analysis of corpora
- The great spread of PCs and the advent of the Internet
- The year 2005 as a turning point?: the importance of the Social Web
- Between "revolution" and "refusal": the difficult incorporation of computing in the Humanities

The "community" of Digital Humanities

- The concept of "community of practices" in the definition of the Digital Humanities identity
- A "community of practices" as a way of bringing together researchers from different disciplines, backgrounds, countries or languages
- The use of "community" as a research methodology

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/transcribe-bentham/

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Welcome to Transcribe Bentham

By Tim Causer, on 27 March 2013

Jeremy Bentham

'*Many hands make light work. Many hands together make merry work*', wrote the philosopher and reformer, Jeremy Bentham (1748 – 1832) in 1793. In this spirit, we cordially welcome you to *Transcribe Bentham*, a double award-winning collaborative transcription initiative, which is digitising and making available digital images of Bentham's unpublished manuscripts through a platform known as the 'Transcription Desk'. There, you can access the material and—just as importantly—transcribe the material, to help the work of UCL's Bentham Project, and further improve access to, and searchability of, this enormously important collection of historical and philosophical material.

This is an exciting opportunity to make a genuine difference to research and scholarship by contributing to the production of the new edition of *The Collected Works of Jeremy Bentham*, and to help create for posterity a vast digital repository of Bentham's writings. We warmly invite you to take part in this endeavour: no special skills are required, you do not require approval to participate, and every contribution—no matter how small—is of great value to *Transcribe Bentham*.

Please consult the *Transcribe Bentham* FAQ for more details on taking part.

You can also read more about Jeremy Bentham, his thought and his importance, and consult resources on deciphering historical handwriting.

Find out more about the consortium behind *Transcribe Bentham*, and talks and publications by the project team.

Transcribe Bentham is now part of the EU-funded Recognition and Enrichment of Archival

Transcribe Bentham

Recent Posts
- > Project Update – teaching a computer to READ Bentham
- > Changing up our blog schedule!
- > Transcription Update – 5 to 26 May 2017
- > Progress Update – 6 to 12 May 2017
- > Progress Update – 29 April to 5 May 2017

Archives
- > June 2017
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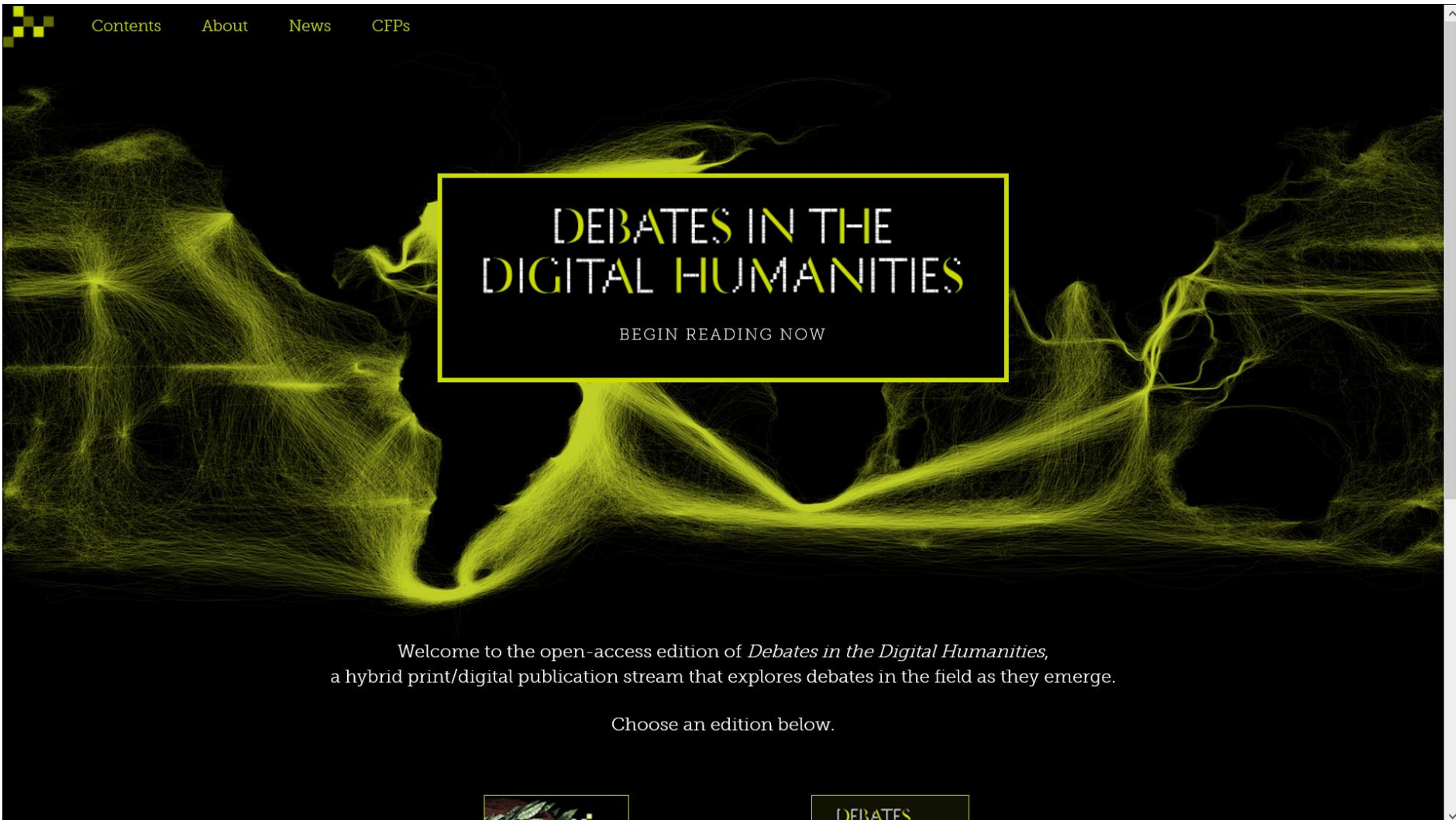- > October 2016

http://www.portugal1914.org/

The "community" of Digital Humanities

- The concept of "community of practices" in the definition of the Digital Humanities identity
- A "community of practices" as a way of bringing together researchers from different disciplines, backgrounds, countries or languages
- The use of "community" as a research methodology
- The idea of "community of practices" as a way of promoting interdisciplinarity in the Humanities
- The "community" as a validation tool for academic work
- The importance of opening the academy to the "community"

Digital Humanities in research and teaching

- Pushing the boundaries of academic publishing

http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/

Digital Humanities in research and teaching

- Pushing the boundaries of academic publishing

- PhD students and young researchers using the "digital community" for sharing knowledge, collecting contributions and networking

http://www.cameronblevins.org/

CAMERON BLEVINS

ABOUT **RESEARCH** TEACHING C.V. POSTS RESOURCES

RESEARCH

CURRENT RESEARCH

Gossamer Network: The U.S. Post and State Power in the American West

My current project is a spatial history of two of the defining projects of the late nineteenth-century United States: state formation and western expansion. Between the 1860s and the 1890s, the western United States underwent one of the most dramatic reorganizations of people, land, capital, and resources in American history. How did this happen so quickly, and across such a large and inhospitable area? Why were so many people willing and able to move to such shockingly remote places? How did the American state consolidate its control over this vast territory? I argue that the sprawling infrastructure of the U.S. Post holds the key to understanding the speed and scale of western expansion.

http://www.franziska.fr/

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RESEARCH   PUBLICATIONS   TEACHING   OTHER INTERESTS

RESEARCH

Past Conference Papers

Upcoming Conference Papers

Research

This is a very short overview of my current research. I hope to include more content soon.

Language questions in the Allied coalition on the Western Front during the First World War

My PhD research investigated the success of the Allied coalition on the Western Front during the First World War from the angle of language interaction. This is the abstract of my thesis in English:

> Previous scholarship on the Allied coalition during the First World war has tended to stress the misunderstandings and distrust between the individuals representing their countries at high command level. There is an unexplained tension between this mésentente and the durable nature of the coalition and eventual victory of the French, British and Americans on the Western Front which leaves the lower echelons underexplored. By dialectically crossing communication practice and military logistics we can write a history which tells us both how these exchanges were possible and to what extent they contributed to the Allies' victory. Official and private archival material enables us both to read traces of language from the perspective of the history of international exchanges and also to understand choices in military logistics from the point of view of interpreting and translation studies. France and Britain had very different military language strategies throughout the 19th century, with the French developing a specialised corps of military interpreters recruited by competitive exams while the British army relied on the one hand on officers qualified in foreign languages and on the other on guides and scouts recruited locally. Secret negotiations between 1905 and 1912 established a strategy consisting of attaching English-speaking French soldiers to British units. From August 1914 these untrained military interpreters were put to the test and had to learn to position themselves among the British officers, French authorities and the local civilian population behind the lines. Battlefield liaison and the handling of the paper bureaucracy of modern warfare were two further important elements in this fragile but successful balancing act which was further
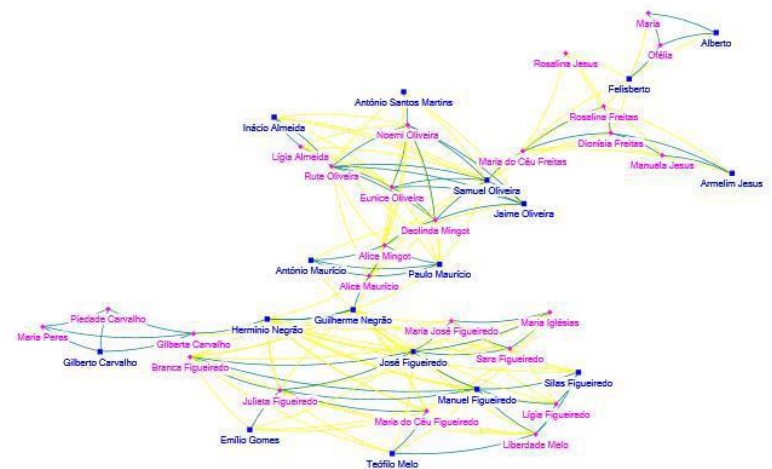
http://fabricadesites.fcsh.unl.pt/mercator-e/

Digital Humanities in research and teaching

- Pushing the boundaries of academic publishing

- PhD students and young researchers using the "digital community" for sharing knowledge, collecting contributions and networking

- But a weaker commitment of the Digital Humanities community regarding teaching and learning

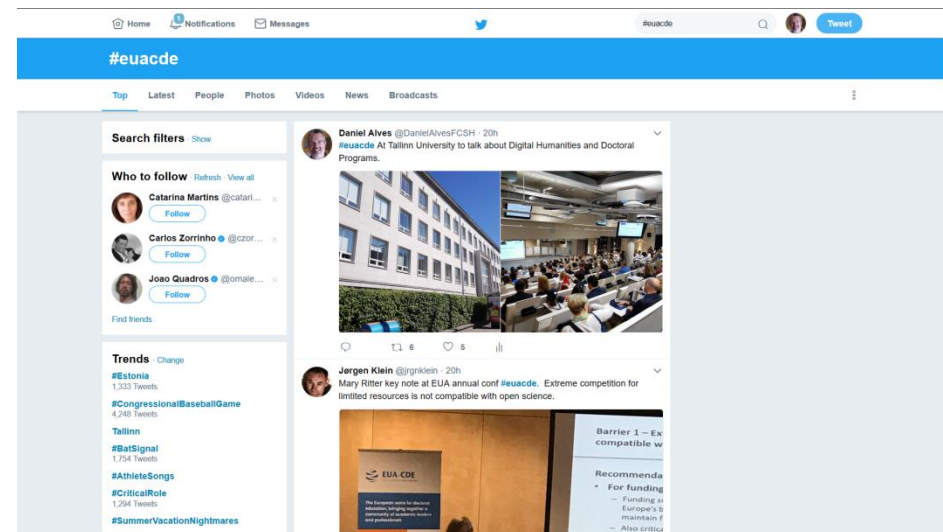- A greater emphasis on academic research and publication

The digital in History at NOVA

- First experience in teaching in the 1980s with little success
- Since 2002 incorporated in the History degree and since 2015 in Archaeology
- But not in the masters degree
- A relevant role in the methodologies of the PhD degree since 2011 and already with some impact

Data management, GIS, Network analysis and Social media

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- The digital world is evolving in a much faster and more dynamic way than the doctorate training cycle
- The digital learning curve and the obsolescence of the technology

The digital at NOVA Doctoral School

- The Digital Humanities are present but in a more diffuse way

- Nova Doctoral School offers transversal courses to all PhD

- Improving digital skills is an important component of many of the courses offered

http://www.unl.pt/en/study/doctoral-school/courses

The digital at NOVA Doctoral School

- The Digital Humanities are present but in a more diffuse way

- Nova Doctoral School offers transversal courses to all PhD

- Improving digital skills is an important component of many of the courses offered

- Allow students to integrate digital tools and methodologies into their studies and research projects

- Digital Humanities appears as a natural component of the curriculum

Thank you!

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