

Tomorrow...A Digital Humanities Destination

By definition, the discipline of Digital Humanities (DH) is an academic field concerned with the application of computational tools and methods to traditional humanities disciplines such as literature, history, and philosophy – *Feedback*

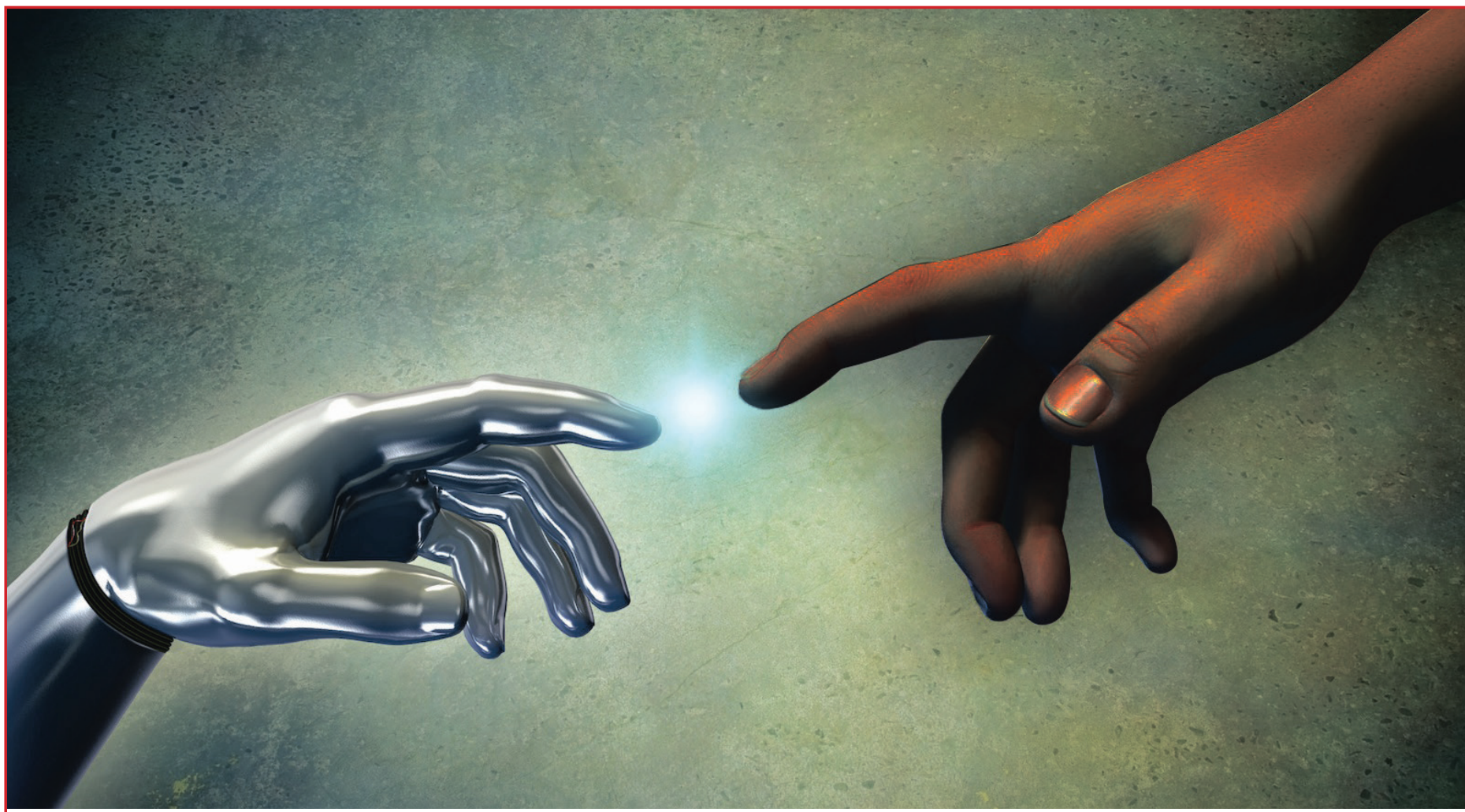
Amidst the minefield of subtly suggested and carefully contemplated alternative definitions, the above was by my measure the simplest for purposes of a light introduction. A first date if you will, and like all great romances it attracts debate, complexities and the promise that no two days will be the same.

Leading thinkers in the field maintain that a set definition would be impossible to articulate as the very nature of the digital humanities is constantly growing and changing, highlighting the risk that specific definitions can quickly become outdated or unnecessarily limit future potential.

Historically, digital humanities developed out of humanities computing, and have become associated with, and inclusive of various other fields the likes of humanistic computing, social computing and media studies.

Given that the digital humanities include active participants with different disciplines, methodological approaches, professional roles, and theoretical inclinations, it is highly unlikely that the powers that be will settle on a tight definition of the field.

Still in its relative infancy and plagued by a rate of evolution that is linked to technological advancement and the eternal quest to improve how we as a species do, understand and interpret everything, DH has long been a key driver to many solutions. Solutions that address a



Technology meets culture

spectrum from perception to socio-economic challenges that impact most of our every day lives.

Unless you decided to go into full hibernation underneath a rock in fear of the world ending in 2012 then you will know that nothing today happens without a distinct and arguably necessary link to a digital platform or device. Aptly put by Lisa Spiro

“digital humanities today is about a scholarship (and a pedagogy) that is publicly visible in ways to which we are generally unaccustomed, a scholarship and pedagogy that are bound up with infrastructure in ways that are deeper and more explicit than we are generally accustomed to,

a scholarship and pedagogy that are collaborative and depend on networks of people and that live an active, 24-7 life online”. The digital migration has been seen by many as a modern day exodus, freeing us from the bondage of time consuming, static and conventional thinking and mediums in an attempt to add value and empower knowledge. In short and in my humble opinion, it is the pulse and heartbeat of the here and now.

That been said, DH and its’ dedicated community of role players are by no means in need of my opinions or praises to validate the vital role the field plays in broader society and academia at large. Represented by two categories in last years

inaugural National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences Book, Creative and Digital Awards- Best DH tool or suite of tools and Best DH project for community engagement - winners Nirma Madhoo - Chipps and Shirley Walters & Astrid Von Kotze received the well deserved recognition for their projects Future Body: Technological Embodiment in Digital Fashion Media and Popular Education respectively.

Madhoo-Chipp’s winning submission was themed Future Body: Technological Embodiment In Digital Fashion Media. Madhoo-Chipps was thrilled at winning the award in the category she was contending

in and feels that the NIHSS should be commended for recognising the Digital Humanities as an area of research in South Africa. “We seldom reflect on the power of imagery in this visual-centric culture. In this vein, we have, through the consumption of fashion imagery, witnessed specific ideals of beauty, narratives, body types, identities, race and gender definitions assume universal cultural dominance in a global landscape with a misrepresented diversity. It is therefore an honour to be shortlisted for the award, especially for work done in the context of fashion imagery as research,” she said proudly.

By: Zunaid Omar



Best Digital Humanities Tool or Suite of Tools:
Nirma Madhoo-Chipps for Future Body: Technological Embodiment in Digital Fashion Media - **Winner**
NIHSS Book, Creative and Digital Collections Awards 2016

LATE-BREAKER CALL: Closing Date 03 February

2nd ANNUAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BOOK, CREATIVE, AND DIGITAL COLLECTION AWARDS

The National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) is proud to announce the Late-Breaker Call for the 2nd Annual NIHSS Book, Creative Collection, and Digital Contribution Awards. These awards honour outstanding, innovative and socially responsive scholarship, creative as well as digital contributions that enhance and advance fields in the humanities and social sciences. The awards shall recognise and celebrate those members of the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) community who are undertaking the necessary work of creating post-apartheid and transformative forms of scholarship, creative production, and digital humanities outputs. The late-breaker call is open for the

Digital Humanities Category Only

DIGITAL HUMANITIES HSS Awards Submission Guidelines

- Best DH visualization or infographic
- Best DH project for community engagement

ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION

HSS Digital Contribution Award submissions are open to:

- University and independent publishers.
- Academics based in South African universities, located in the Humanities and Social Science fields.
- South African based curators and artists of various forms of creative work, based in South African universities and/or independent artists linked to South African universities.
- Submission to more than one category is acceptable.
- Submissions in any of the official South African languages will be considered.
- Application forms can be accessed at: <https://gms.nihss.ac.za> Please note that registration is required before completing the application.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

DIGITAL HUMANITIES CONTRIBUTIONS

- The call is open to Digital Humanities contributions that were launched between January 2014 and December 2015.
- 4 Copies of books and / or CD’s of digital content must be mailed or delivered to NIHSS physical address. Upon submission, these will become the property of the Institute.
- Only contributions which have been created by members of the Humanities and Social Sciences community, used to develop and enhance HSS work, will be considered.
- Publishers and individuals will need to submit the following details online: personal and submission details; motivation and 2 X reviews (peer reviews will also be considered).

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

A panel of judges will adjudicate all submissions. The criteria used will include: advancing and contribution to the Humanities and Social Sciences in South Africa; quality of content; originality, design, and social relevance.

VALUE OF AWARDS

Each award will be valued at R60 000.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS WINNERS

Award winners will be announced at an annual awards ceremony to be announced.

NEW DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 03 February 2016

Application forms can be accessed at: <http://www.nihss.ac.za/content/nihssawards-form>

Hardcopies can be delivered at:

National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) NIHSS Book, Creative and Digital Collection Awards
2nd Floor, 24 St. Andrews Road Parktown
Johannesburg 2193
All queries can be directed to: awards@nihss.ac.za / 011 480 2327.



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