Reconstructing/Deconstructing Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age

Swedish name: *Att rekonstruera/dekonstruera kulturarvet i den digitala tidsåldern*

Higher education credits: 7.5

Level: Postgraduate education

Main field: Humanities

Grading scale: Fail, Pass

Language of instruction: English

Responsible institution: Humlab, Umeå University, in collaboration with the Center for Digital Humanities, Department of ALM (Archive, Library and Information Science, Museum and Cultural Heritage Studies) Uppsala University

Hosting Institution

The course is set up by Humlab Umeå University and the course plan has been established in 2022-06-21.

Content

The use of digital methods, tools and other solutions for archiving, curating and publishing heritage collections has brought about far-reaching changes not only for the heritage sector, but also for users and the public. Digitization processes have resulted in a plethora of resources and activities aimed at facilitating increased access and increased engagement.

This course addresses these developments and the current challenges and implications of digital cultural heritage and the digitization of cultural heritage collections.

The course leads to in-depth knowledge of and experience in using digital methods and tools in relation to cultural heritage collections. Furthermore, the course creates conditions for reflection on a number of aspects related to tangible and intangible cultural heritage in a digital age, such as:

- The digital transformation of cultural heritage institutions with a focus on opportunities, competencies and organizational perspectives;
- Digitization of cultural heritage collections, for example, the conversion of "analog" texts and artefacts into a digital format;
- The digitization of cultural heritage
- Digital cultural heritage

The course will provide theoretical and critical perspectives on the origins, categorization and organization of collections. Questions about sensitive data, the complexity of accessibility and representations will be addressed.

Course participants will be introduced to a number of practices that include methods and tools for the documentation and analysis of digital heritage such as texts, physical artefacts and born-digital objects. The course will thus introduce the students to basic technical skills and include practical activities.

Expected study results

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- Explain central concepts around digitization of cultural heritage collections
- Explain central concepts in data management
- Critically discuss examples of digital digitized and digitalized cultural heritage
- Demonstrate the ability to reason about ethical and methodological challenges in relation to the digitization of cultural heritage collections
- Demonstrate knowledge of participatory methods
- Demonstrate knowledge of machine learning in relation to handwritten material and optical character recognition of text archives
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of SQL programming and photogrammetry

Teaching structure and method

The course will consist of lectures, seminars and workshops.
The course is entirely online.

Examination

Active participation in lectures and seminars. Oral presentations and written submissions.

Prerequisites

Admitted to postgraduate studies in the relevant main field.

Other regulations

Research students can be credited for the course in accordance with the doctoral student's individual study plan, and according to the regulations at the doctoral student's department and university.