Digital Humanities 2014 in Lausanne (CH):
A proposal to host from the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale of Lausanne (EPFL)

Conference venue

Lausanne is located on the shores of Lake Geneva (Lac Léman) in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. The University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) share a vast and green campus by the Lake. They welcome together more than 20'000 students and about 800 professors. Both institutions offer high tech conference facilities.

UNIL and EPFL Campus (Photo UNIL)

The opening of the conference will take place in the world famous Rolex Learning Center, a library and a learning space devoted to the cultivation of knowledge. This radical and highly experimental building was designed by the Japanese architecture bureau SANAA to facilitate new ways of study and interaction.
The rest of the conference will take place in the Unil building Amphimax, a high tech conference center with large lecture hall for plenary lectures and smaller rooms for parallel sessions. Amphimax offers many possibilities for meals, coffee and walking dinner with a view on the lake, and possibility to walk in the park during the breaks.

The conference participants will be hosted in pleasant hotels in the center of the city, connected to UNIL and EPFL in ten minutes by a metro, for example the hotel Elite, with an internal swimming-pool. Every night, an open artistic festival will be available in the historic center of Lausanne during the conference week. A low cost hotel for the students is situated by the lake, within ten minutes walk from the University (about 150 places).
Details of the conference facilities

- Opening session at the Rolex Forum Center (600 seats organized around a circular 70 m² removable stage)
- Other keynotes and closing sessions will be held in the Amphimax 350 (500-800 seats)
- The 4-track parallel sessions will be held in the same building on the first floor with rooms of about 50-100 seats at the Amphimax
- All the rooms are equipped with University Wide WLAN and A/V projection devices.
- A cafeteria and a restaurant is located in the main conference building. Several others at walking distance.
- In case of an important increase of the size of the conference in the next years (more than 800 attendees), EPFL is also ready to offer its brand new congress center - the Swiss Tech Convention Center (see attached support letter)

Suggested Theme: Cultural Empowerment

Over the years, the field of Digital Humanities has been pursuing its goal to integrate computer technologies into the activities of humanities scholars and invent new kinds of scholarship. For Digital Humanities 2014 we would like to suggest a possible theme: cultural empowerment of all citizens, through the digital encounter of historical and sociological sciences. We are looking forward to collaborate with the ADHO steering committee to choose the theme and elaborate the program. Below are some suggestions about «Cultural Empowerment».

We propose to encourage contributions crossing historical approaches, social studies and networks to create new cultural memories and tools. We would like also to promote the creation of interfaces, systems, and devices bringing actual cultural empowerment to citizens and helping them to discover the digital humanities world. We suggest inviting contributions that cross the gaps between the virtual humanities corpora and effective practices, thus making cultural empowerment a reality. The theme would welcome research and demonstrations studying the way digital tools change our reading habits, modify language, shape new communities, select some kind of information, hide others, and ultimately change the way “we may think”.

This proposition is in line with EPFL and UNIL efforts to bridge the gap between scholarship and citizens. This ambition is already realized in the Rolex Learning Center, open to everyone and new infrastructures that will be finalized in the next two years: a Pavilion dedicated to digital arts and another one for the discovery of the Montreux Jazz festival archives.

We have chosen the dates of July 8-13th 2014, because a famous open artistic festival takes place that week in the old city of Lausanne at night: the “Festival de la Cité”. In collaboration with political authorities of Lausanne, we would like to encourage performances in the festival that will combine academic and artistic challenges.

We also suggest to integrate demonstration sessions in the conference program within a special track on the first day of the conference and a dedicated space. These demonstrations could be organized in two different subspaces: one for academic tools and projects and the other for public systems.
Digital Humanities in Lausanne

EPFL and UNIL combine a unique expertise in major fields of the humanities and in ICT. Digital Humanities is a priority program for both institutions, with planned structural effects: creation of several faculty chairs, a common research platform and a new education program. Both institutions are structuring a National Competence Center for Research on this topic: it takes the form of a 12 years research program, with the ambition of becoming one of the major European centers of the field in the next years.

History:

Oct. 2010  First research funds in DH to produce articles and to prospect for research fundings (Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, UNIL).
May 2011  first meetings «Digital Humanities@unil», with an open debate on UNIL-EPFL's future in DH; regular meetings are organized since that time.
July 2011:  An interdisciplinary team start to prepare a NCCR project (potential funding for twelve years). The UNIL is leading house, the EPFL and the University of Bern co-leading houses.
Nov. 2011  First THATCamp of Switzerland at the UNIL, in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Archives and diverse Swiss German organisations.
Jan. 2012  First part of the NCCR Digital Cultures and Humanities is submitted to the Swiss National Funds (Director: Prof. Dominique Vinck, UNIL; co-directors: Claire Clivaz (UNIL), Frédéric Kaplan (EPFL), Sabine Süsstrunk (EPFL), Michael Stolz (UniBern).
May 2012 :  EPFL announces the opening of a DH chair and laboratory ; UNIL announces the preparation of a mirror structure. a first DH chair is scheduled at UNIL in August 2014 (computing oriented; Faculty of Economics)
Jun. 2012  International meeting on «Social digitalization and Digital Societies», UNIL
Dec. 2012  4th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo 2012), EPFL
Jun. 2013  First DH summer school UNIL-EPFL-University of Bern

Local Organizing Committee

Co-chairs: Claire Clivaz (UNIL FTSR) and Frédéric Kaplan (EPFL)
Karl Aberer (EPFL ICT), Jeannette Frey (Dir. of the UNIL Library, BCU), Benoît Garbinato (HEC), Isabelle Kratz (Dir. Rolex Learning Center Library, EPFL), Sabine Süsstrunk (EPFL ICT), François Vallotton (UNIL Arts and Humanities), Boris Vejdovsky (UNIL Arts and Humanities), Dominique Vinck (UNIL SSP).

This conference committee involves professors and scholars from four UNIL Faculties and EPFL. It represents an important historical evolution at our local level: EPFL was integrated for a century in the UNIL (1869-1968). After almost 50 years of independence of the two institutions, the Digital Humanities are starting to rebuild a fast and dynamic bridge between these two major institutions.
National and international roles of the organizing team

Prof. Claire Clivaz has initiated the development of the Digital Humanities at UNIL. She is a specialist of New Testament Greek manuscripts and is working with international digital edition platforms, such as INTF and ITSEE, as well as digital humanities networks, such as INKE and THATCamp. In 2011, she was the organizer of the first DH meeting in Switzerland in August, and of the first THATCamp in Switzerland with Enrico Natale and a Swiss team. She leads with D. Hamidovic SBL/EABS Digital Humanities in Biblical Studies, Early Jewish and Christian Studies network (opening at Amsterdam in July 2012). She is co-director in the NCCR DH project. She co-edited in July 2012 the first DH ebook in Switzerland, Reading Tomorrow. From Ancient Manuscripts to the Digital Era (http://www.ppur.info/lire-demain.html).

Dr Frédéric Kaplan leads the development of the Digital Humanities field at EPFL. He is an internationally recognized human-computer interface and artificial intelligence specialist. In the past years, he has conducted projects with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Bodmer Foundation, the Cartier Foundation, Le Monde, and collaborates with many publishers in Switzerland and France.

Prof. Karl Aberer is the director of the Distributed Information Systems Laboratory and of the Swiss National Centre for Mobile Information and Communication Systems NCCR MICS. He works on foundations, algorithms and infrastructures for distributed information management, including peer-to-peer overlay networks, semantic interoperability, trust management and applications to scientific and sensor data management.

Dr Jeannette Frey is the director of the Bibliothèque Cantonale Universitaire de Lausanne. She is involved in many large scale bibliographic and conservation projects. Before joining the BCU she was responsible for the Swiss federal archives of historical monuments. The BCU was the 5th European library to collaborate with Google to scan 100'000 books.

Prof. Benoît Garbinato directs the P2i platform, an interdisciplinary platform for sharing computational tool for research in the humanities. He gave the impulsion to open the first UNIL DH chair in 2014.

Isabelle Kratz is the new director of the EPFL Library (Rolex Center). She was for nine years the director of Bibliothèque universitaire Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris.

Prof. Sabine Susstrunk is involved in the imaging networks. She was the director of CIE Division 8 until 2011 and is currently conference vice-president of IS&T. She participated in the EU projects PHAROS and K-Space. She has consulted for difficult cultural heritage institutions (Protection of Cultural Property, Federal Office for Civil Protection, the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Wadsworth Atheneum, the Cooper-Hewitt, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the MOMA). She is co-director in the NCCR DH project.

Prof. Francois Valloton is a member of several international networks of cultural history in general and specifically in the history of media. He is an associated member of the Center of Cultural History in Contemporary Sciences, France and participates in the EU project Europeana. He works on TV history valorization projects with Swiss Television.
Dr. Boris Vejdovsky teaches American literature at UNIL. He is a specialist of crosscultural comparative analysis and worked on the literary representation of reading and books.

Prof. Dominique Vinck is a world recognized researcher in the field of sociology of innovation. He is the president of the Society for Anthropology of Knowledge and is very much involved in 4S (Society for Social Studies of Sciences), EASST (European Association for Study of Science and Technology), ESOCITE (Latin-America Network for Study of Science and Technology), and INES (International Network of Engineering Studies). He is the director of the NCCR DH project.

**Institutional Support**

EPFL-UNIL proposal to host DH 2014 is fully supported at the top-level management of both institution including:

- Prof. Patrick Aebischer, president of the EPFL
- Prof. Philippe Moreillon, Vice-rector research of UNIL
- Prof. René Knüsel, Dean of the SSP Faculty (UNIL)

More generally Digital Humanities in Lausanne is supported by key political partners including Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, Swiss minister of Culture.

**Confirmed Institutional Partners**

- infoclio.ch
- Swiss Association of Arts and Humanities
- Swiss Federal Archives

**Abstracts book, Website and Webapp**

EPFL and UNIL host many conferences each year. Both institutions can rely on a experimented back-office for logistic support of the event.

**Abstract book**

We will produce a printed bounded book version of the Book of Abstracts. The abstracts will be formatted using the TEI norm.

**Website / webapp**

The conference website will contain all practical information for the conference. If the ADHO deems it appropriate, we can set up a live worldwide streaming service for the conference enabling no attending people to follow the talks.

We also want to launch a dedicated app or webapp permitting to experiment different layers of digital social interaction during the conferences. A dedicated committee mixing interface designers and digital humanities researchers will be constituted to structure an experimental project, subject to ADHO's approval.
Travel information, Accommodations, Children

Travel information

Lausanne is located 60 km northeast of Geneva, and 225 km southwest of Zurich. The easiest way to reach Lausanne from either the Geneva-Cointrin Airport or the Zurich International Airport is by train, with respective travel times of approximately 40 minutes and 2 hours.

The city center of Lausanne is a short distance from the train station: 2 minutes by metro, 5 minutes by bus or 10-15 minutes (uphill) by foot. All of the hotels recommended below are located either at the train station or in the city center. The main metro stop for the city center is Lausanne-Flon, where the m1 and m2 metro lines intersect. The major bus interchanges are Saint-Francois and Chauderon.

The EPFL-UNIL Campus is located 6 km west of Lausanne, and accessible most easily by metro. The ride on the M1 line from stop Lausanne-Flon to stop EPFL takes 12 minutes (direction: Renens or Renens-Gare).

Tickets for the bus and metro are offered by the hotels during the hosting.

Public transportation in Switzerland is very efficient and accessible. Most employees of the train service will speak some English, and interfaces in the ticket machines are multi-lingual (at a minimum French and English, usually also German and Italian). Visit the SBB CFF FFS website for trip planning (including local transport lines).

Accommodations

Blocks of rooms will be reserved at four hotels in the city of Lausanne. All offer internet access and complimentary cards for public transport (day passes for the bus and metro). The hotels are located either along the M1 metro line (the transit route out to EPFL) or at the train station.

Conference rates will be available for the week of the conference. Prices are listed in Swiss francs (CHF).

Minotel Crystal Location: near M1 metro line, stop Lausanne-Flon 129.00 CHF (single), 157.00 CHF (double), [www.crystal-lausanne.ch](http://www.crystal-lausanne.ch)

Hotel Regina Location: near M1 metro line, stop Lausanne-Flon 130.50 CHF (single) [www.hotel-regina.ch](http://www.hotel-regina.ch)

Hotel Elite, next to Lausanne station (3 minutes by foot), 150 CHF (single) [www.elite-lausanne.ch](http://www.elite-lausanne.ch)

Hotel Lausanne Centre Location: M1 metro line, stop Vigie, 142.00-146.00 CHF (single) [www.ibishotel.com](http://www.ibishotel.com)

Hotel Victoria Location: Train station; M2 metro line, stop Lausanne-Gare 235.00 CHF (single), 280.00 CHF [www.hotelvictoria.ch](http://www.hotelvictoria.ch)
For cheaper prices:

Lausanne Youth Hostel is located near the campus (10 minutes by foot). It can accommodate up to 312 beds (58 rooms for 1 or 2 persons, 51 rooms for 1 to 4 persons) at attractive prices.

http://www.youthhostel.ch/fr/hostels/lausanne

Children Program

Children activities will be organized, subject to pre-registration, from the 7th to the 11th of July, for a price of about 300 euros per child.

Social Events and Excursions

Opening Reception

A walking dinner will be offered to the participants at the end of the opening conference, on Tuesday night at the Rolex Center (EPFL). Artistic digital animations will be presented during the night, in collaboration with eternaltour.

Conference banquet Dinner

The conference banquet will be a cruise on Lake Geneva with a dinner on board. In order to reduce the inscription cost, this event will be sponsored by one of our partners.

Busa Award Dinner

We can assist the ADHO Awards Committee to find a suitable restaurant for the Busa Dinner, and make appropriate reservations, for example by the lake in the center of Lausanne (Au Lac restaurant). The costs will be covered by ADHO.
Excursion

On Saturday, just after the conference we will organize three excursions: one focusing on Swiss Technology, the other on Swiss touristic and cultural heritage and a guide visit of the medieval city of Lausanne.

1. An exclusive visit at CERN in Geneva (birth place of the World Wide Web) and of the LHC (The Large Hadron Collider)

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is a gigantic scientific instrument near Geneva, where it spans the border between Switzerland and France about 100m underground. It is a particle accelerator used by physicists to study the smallest known particles – the fundamental building blocks of all things and the basis of our understanding of the universe at large.

2. A Visit of the Chateau de Gruyères, the Cailler Chocolate Factory and a Swiss Cheese Factory

Gruyères stands in the midst of the Fribourg green pre-Alpine foothills. The castle, one of the most prestigious in Switzerland, towers above the medieval town. The tour of the castle offers a walk through eight centuries of architecture, history and culture. The journey will include also a visit of a famous Swiss Chocolate factory, Cailler, as well as a Swiss Cheese factory, la Maison de la Gruyère. This day is perfect for children and families.
3. Visit of the old city of Lausanne

A free half-day visit will also be organized on Saturday 13th of July, with the visit of the Cathedral and other main historical sites.

Nights in Lausanne

During the proposed dates (8th to 13th of July 2014), our hosts will enjoy the open air artistic «Festival de la Cité» (city festival), taking place every night in the old city of Lausanne. Theater, music, jazz, dances, various artistic performances are offered in the streets of the old city. In collaboration with the authorities of Lausanne, we will offer combination digital-artistic performances in the framework of the festival.

Other Local Attractions

To the east of Lausanne lies the Lavaux wine growing region, with terraced vineyards that are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Architecture in the old town dates back to medieval times, with a 12th century cathedral.
The port of Ouchy offers a promenade along the water and ferry transport to other cities on the lake (e.g. Montreux, Evian).
The Swiss Alps are nearby and clearly visible from the city, with the closest mountain resort areas being in Vaud and Valais (1-2 hours by train).
Further tourism information about Lausanne and the lake of Geneva region may be found at http://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/
Finances

A detailed budget for the conference and another for the social events accompany this proposal. Our target conference fee for ADHO members is $300 US (290 CHF, 240 Euros, 193 GBP, 309 CAD, 300 AUD, 23’968 JPY of June 2012). The target rate for non-members is $450 US (438 CHF). Other projected rates are: $100 US (96 CHF); student non-members $225 US (216 CHF). These figures are based on early registration. A breakeven number would be around 300.

Proposed Dates and schedule: 8-13 July 2014

Sunday, July 6th ADHO Board meeting
Monday, July 7th, ACH and ALLC meetings, pre-conference workshops, foundation of a DH Swiss organization
Tuesday, July 8th, ADHO board meeting, Opening reception at Rolex Learning Center
Wednesday, July 9th, 1st day of the conference, Demo session
Thursday, July 10th, 2nd day of the conference, Banquet / Boat Trip
Friday, July 11th, 3rd day of the conference
Saturday, July 12th, Optional tours
- Exclusive CERN visit (birth place of the world wide web, LHC)
- Visit of the castle of Gruyeres
- Commented visit of Lausanne old city
DH 2004 tentative budget

### INCOME

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| Donation from Infoclio    | 10000|
| Addtion Sponsorship      | 15000|
| Total Net income         | 84000| 113500| 143000| 172500|

| Total participants   | 225 | 350 | 450 | 550 |

### EXPENSES

#### Fixed costs
- Rolex Learning Center Rental: 1000
- Cleaning: 280
- Projector and sound equipment charge: 2000
- Audiovisual support for all sessions: 2000
- Video podcast of all the talks and keynotes: 8000
- Website + Experimental Digital webapp: 12000
- Bags, notebooks, abstract book: 8000
- Brochures, posters and other dissemination material: 4000

| Total fixed costs | 37280 |

#### Variable costs

| Break service all day | 80 | 18000 | 28000 | 36000 | 44000 |
| Opening Reception     | 50 | 11250 | 17500 | 22500 | 27500 |
| Closing reception     | 35 | 7875  | 12250 | 15750 | 19250 |
| Board meeting         | 50 | 1250  | 2500  | 2500  | 2500  |
| Coffee breaks, lunch, snacks | 15 | 3375 | 5250 | 6750 | 8250 |
| Conference bags       | 15 | 3375  | 5250  | 6750  | 8250  |

| Total variable costs  | 41750| 65500| 83500| 101500|
| Contigency (10%)      | 4175 | 6550 | 8350 | 10150 |

| TOTAL EXPENSES       | 83205| 109330| 129130| 148930|

| DIFFERENCE | 795 | 4170 | 13870 | 23570 |

### Boat Banquet

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## Expenses

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### Excursions

#### CERN (58.p)

**Income**
- Inscription: 40
- Number of part: 58
- **Total**: 2320

**Expenses**
- Bus: 1500
- Guide: 300
- **Total**: 1800

**DIFFERENCE**: 520

#### GRUYERE (116 p.)

**Château, Chocolaterie et Maison du Gruyère**

**Income**
- Inscription: 80
- Number of part: 116
- **Total**: 9280

**Expenses**
- Bus (2 x 58 pers.): 3000
- Guide: 340
- Entrance: 2252
- Food: 3480
- **Total**: 9072

**DIFFERENCE**: 208

#### LAUSANNE Tour 3h (200 pers.)

**Income**
- Free

**Expenses**
- 200
To whom it may concern

We strongly support the proposal to host Digital Humanities 2014 at EPFL, in partnership with the Université de Lausanne. Digital humanities is considered a strategic development for EPFL. In the coming months, we plan the creation of a new faculty chair and a dedicated innovative educational program in this domain. We aim to become one of major education and research center in this area, hosting several major programs at the interface with science and technology, in collaboration with other institutions around the world. We thus welcome the opportunity to host the Digital Humanities community in Lausanne in 2014.

We propose to open the conference in the Rolex Learning Center, a library and learning space devoted to the cultivation of knowledge. This radical and highly experimental building was designed by the Japanese architecture bureau SANAA to facilitate new ways of study and interaction.

By the end of 2013, the EPFL will open a brand new full-automated congress center - the Swiss Tech Convention Center. The infrastructure will include ultra-modern equipment and will be flexible and modular. The Swiss Tech Convention Center will attract the most prestigious scientific congresses and conferences from around the world. We suggest that part of the conferences or meetings during Digital Humanities 2014 at EPFL could take place in this unique building.

We strongly believe that our infrastructure is eminently suited to host the Digital Humanities Conference. We are convinced that this international event will foster new collaborations and explore new knowledge frontiers.

We are really looking forward to welcoming Digital Humanities 2014 on our campus!

Sincerely,

Patrick Aebischer
President
Lausanne May 39th 2012

Re. Support to host the 2014 International Digital Humanities Conference on the Lausanne campus

To whom it may concern,

This is to strongly support the organisation of the above-mentioned international conference on the Lausanne University and EPFL (Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne) share campus. This would be an enormous privilege that would crown a than two years very dynamic programme of developing digital humanities between our two higher education institution. The somewhat antinomic reunion of Humanities, at the University, and information technologies, at EPFL, have eventually come to re-establish a natural reciprocity between the mind and the tool. This very dynamic collaboration has launched a number of new research and teaching programs, and is certainly devoted at a fast a fruitful development.

While the University and its EPFL partner strongly support novelty in science and education, the two institutions also reunify a very beautiful campus with remarkable facilities and opportunities for both science and socialization. Moreover, Lausanne is on the shore of the beautiful lake of Geneva, in the middle of the Alps and next to the unique UNESCO-protected vineyard of Lavaux. Therefore, we believe that we would offer a great environment for the conference, and at a quite competitive price.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional question.

Best regards

Philippe Moreillon

Vice-Rector for research and
International affairs
Dominique Vinck &
Claire Clivaz
ISS
Anthropole
1015 Lausanne
Dorigny, le 20 mai 2012

Madame, Monsieur, Chers collègues,


Le comité scientifique actuel est composé de : Karl Aberer (EPFL ICT), Claire Clivaz (FTSR), Jeannette Frey (BCU), Benoît Garbinato (HEC), Frédéric Kaplan (EPFL), Isabelle Kratz (Rolex), Sabine Süssrunk (EPFL ICT), François Vallotton (Lettres), Boris Vejdovsky (Lettres), Dominique Vinck (SSP). Co-chairs: Claire Clivaz et Frédéric Kaplan.

Durant l’année 2011, la Faculté des Sciences sociales et politiques a décidé de mettre une priorité sur les humanités digitales en tant qu’axe de recherche. Elle soutiendra par conséquent l’ensemble des manifestations dans le domaine et accueillera par conséquent avec beaucoup de plaisir.

Par cette lettre, le Décanat des SSP tient à dire son soutien sans réserve à l’organisation de ce colloque pour lequel nous garantirons une couverture du déficit, comme cela se fait habituellement pour ce type de manifestation.

En espérant que les responsables de l’Alliance of Digitals Humanities Organizations attribuera l’organisation du colloque de 2014 à Lausanne, la Faculté des SSP vous remercie d’ores et déjà de votre engagement en faveur du développement de la recherche dans ce domaine.

Dans l’attente de nouvelles à ce propos, je vous présente, Madame, Monsieur et chers collègues, mes meilleurs messages.

René Knüsel
Doyen de la Faculté des SSP
Université de Lausanne

Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques (SSP)
Décanat SSP

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