

A Proposal for a Graduate Humanities Computing Programme at the Faculty of Arts of ELTE University, Budapest

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At the Faculty of Arts of ELTE University, Budapest, the Department of Computing and Library Science has been created this autumn. Plans for professional activities for this department are now being established. This implied a requirement for a graduate training programme in humanities computing within the humanities field that enables future researchers to organize and co-ordinate the activities of research groups in a modern financial and institutional environment (including the application for grants, for example).

Training is planned to be implemented as a BA programme, chosen as a supplementary programme by humanities students. Professional orientation of each student is determined by their main training programme. Another purpose of this programme is the preparation for further humanities computing education in MA programmes. Such an MA programme is presented in Balázs Kis's and Ádám Kis's subsequent paper on Computational Linguistics education.

A humanities computing research assistant (this is the name chosen for the expert completing the BA programme in question) is familiar with the scientific concepts and methodology of their chosen professional field (e.g. English language and literature), is prepared to fulfil research and lecturing tasks. However, their main responsibility is organising and co-ordinating complex research and training activities, utilising their expertise in using appropriate and rather complex computational means. This includes the acquirement and management of financial and informational resources, dissemination of information, overseeing research progress and publications. This expert would participate in establishing complex research plans, taking the possibilities offered by the computational environment into account and making them available throughout the research project.

Those trained as research assistants or lecturers in this programme are able to apply the expertise they acquired at all phases of research work related to their main professional field, and incorporate their special knowledge at a conceptual level, even in cases when they themselves do not actually do the computational tasks.

The humanities computing research assistant is an expert both in the aspects described above, and in one of the following main professional fields: linguistics and foreign languages; literary studies; history; sociology; library science; pedagogy; other social sciences; editorial work and publishing (expected within the field of library sciences).

The programme consists of training in information sciences (this is 60 to 70 percent of the credits) and scientific basics and methodology of other humanities fields, along with management and human resources studies.

Essential preparation work for the training programme described above is also being carried out by László Lóth, acting head of the Institute for Computing and Library Sciences of the ELTE University; and Zoltán Bánréti, assistant director of the Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, whom the authors would like to thank for their ideas, thoughts and support.