

Opening speech

by Anne Husebekk, rector of UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Dear participants at the UiT Digital Humanities Conference!

Welcoming guests to a conference hosted by UiT is one of my favourite things to do as rector! It is a clear and concrete manifestation of one of the most important things that we as academics do; presenting the most recent knowledge in a field of research, and discussing these findings with colleagues from around the world.

Welcoming guests to a conference on the second day of the conference is a bit more unusual... I would definitely have preferred to have been here yesterday, but sometimes duty calls, and chairing a meeting of the board of the university tends to get top priority.

While yesterday was focused primarily on Digital Humanities, today will be mainly about Scholarly Editing.

I am particularly happy (and proud!) that you've had the opportunity to learn more about some of the projects in this field here at UiT:

The Norwegian Historical Data Centre, a national institution hosted by the Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education working to computerize Norwegian censuses from 1865 onwards, as well as parish registers and other sources from the 18th and 19th centuries. In effect this will build a national population registry from 1800 to the present day - a unique tool for further research.

<http://www.rhd.uit.no/nhdc/hpr.html>

Giellatekno, Centre for Saami language technology at the University of Tromsø, where cutting-edge linguistic and computational research on the analysis of Saami and other morphologically-rich languages is combined with the development of practical applications, such as dictionaries or translation software.

Digital Tools in Music Technology Education and The Wittgenstein Archives are two of the other initiatives that will be presented - as will be the CLARIN and DARIAH research infrastructures, both of which UiT participate in.

CLARIN <https://www.clarin.eu/content/clarin-in-a-nutshell>

DARIAH <https://www.dariah.eu/>

Digitalisation is an aspect of research (and education) that will be increasingly important, and I am proud to say that even though Norway is a bit of a "slow starter" in this field, UiT is at the national forefront, and an active partner in international collaboration.

With this, I hope you will all continue the productive discussions that were initiated yesterday, and I wish you a productive second day of the conference!

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