

Humanities Advocacy and Training the Trainer

Establishing a Community of Practice

Dr James L. Smith
Advocacy Coordinator,
Open Library of Humanities



Licensed under a Creative Commons
Attribution 4.0 International License
(CC BY 4.0)

Our overarching goals, starting today...

1. Set a base level of knowledge and mutual understanding around the topic, the actors, and the tools and methods available.
2. Understand the specific challenges to training humanities researchers (and their trainers), as well as the specific issues and problems faced by humanists.
3. Imagine future collaborations, and a recurring programme of events and activities to enable them.
4. Envisage a community of practice specific to the humanities, but linked with the wider extant network of advocates and trainers.

Some stimulus questions...

1. Is it too early for a 'Train the Trainer' approach specific to the humanities? Are we still at a 'training' level ourselves?
2. How does the average level of OA knowledge vary in the different domains: i.e. in the sciences vs the humanities?
3. 'Train the Trainer' assumes a certain level of established/shared knowledge among trainers. Do we need to build up a generally accepted and humanities-specific minimum level of knowledge, or is this a chance for a next step?
4. The goal of this enterprise is to draw on the larger open scholarship training community and its resources, but to shape something tailored to the humanities. What needs to happen in order to do so?

Some points to consider and address

1. Resource scarcity in the humanities
2. A scattered and multilingual publication landscape
3. The relatively immature culture of self-archiving in the humanities
4. The greater diversity of publishing formats in arts and humanities (including but not limited to monographs) that have yet to be fully incorporated into the OA system
5. The disjoint in terminology and epistemic culture between HSS and STEM in the dissemination of research (one size doesn't fit all)

Questions 1-4 identified in DARIAH open science policy recommendations. More details forthcoming in future publication. For more elsewhere, see Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra and Ulrike Wuttke. 'Loners, Pathfinders, or Explorers? How are the Humanities Progressing in Open Science?', 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.25815/x516-wf23>.

Further actions beyond today

1. Establish a firm network of collaborators with existing train the trainer experience at a humanities-specific and wider level (e.g. OLH, EIFL, FOSTER, DARIAH)
2. Establish a network of communication between partners (see the [OLH advocacy Slack channel](#), for example)
3. Plan future events (more webinars, train the trainer events, sessions at conferences etc)
4. Generate ideas for blog posts, resources tailored to the humanities etc to pool knowledge and disseminate

POWER TO
THE LIBRARIAN
POWER TO
THE SCHOLAR
POWER TO
THE HUMANITIES

OH
#EMPOWER