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Annual Report 2024



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Humanities Lab
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AND THEOLOGY



Preface

Welcome to the annual report of Huminfra, a Swedish national research infrastructure supporting digital and experimental research in the Humanities and beyond. Huminfra is a distributed infrastructure which unites 12 nodes across 11 universities and organisations. Huminfra collects and links to information about existing Swedish materials, research tools and expertise via huminfra.se; and it develops national training opportunities in the research techniques available at the nodes to enable new lines of research in the Humanities. Its distributed nature allows Huminfra to pool national resources, and to strengthen collaborations nationally and internationally.

This report provides a brief overview of Huminfra's achievements and progress. In 2024, Huminfra achieved all of its goals for the first funding period 2022-2024. In addition to running a fully functional huminfra.se and hosting numerous training and outreach events, we organised the first Huminfra conference, HiC, complete with proceedings, started work on a Huminfra handbook, and crowned it all with Swedish membership in the Pan-European Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, DARIAH-EU. DARIAH-SE was launched in December 2024. The first funding period thus ended on a high note, and set the stage for new important developments in the new funding period 2025-2028.

We are deeply grateful to all of Huminfra's members, to the collaborating institutions, and to the Swedish Research Council for their support.



Marianne Gullberg, Director of Huminfra

Professor at the Centre for Languages and Literature,
Lund University. Director of Lund University Humanities Lab.

Summary

Huminfra, Sweden's national infrastructure for digital and experimental Humanities, consisting of 12 nodes, successfully met all its goals in 2024—the final year of its first funding period.

First, the Huminfra website, <https://www.huminfra.se/>, which collates and links to Swedish digital and experimental research resources (instruments, tools, expertise, materials, training events) was further developed and maintained. This is the main feature of Huminfra.

Second, the consortium organised numerous training events; a public event on humanistic AI; the Huminfra Conference (HiC); and participated in panels on infrastructure and other public events.

Third, Sweden became a full member of DARIAH-EU and launched the national node DARIAH-SE, hosted by Huminfra, thus integrating Huminfra further internationally.

Communication efforts included the monthly Huminfra Newsletter, the social media accounts, and video materials.

Beyond these milestones, Huminfra has fostered greater national integration and collaboration between nodes and stakeholders. This is revealed in the number of joint multi-node events, research projects, funding applications, conference presentations, publications, and in the establishment of new units at several nodes. Overall, Huminfra has strengthened Swedish research in the Humanities with an impact well beyond its initial deliverables.

Description of operations

Time plan

The goals and deliverables outlined for Huminfra Y3/2024 have been met. The work in the infrastructure is on schedule with key deliverables provided.

Development and operation of the infrastructure

Module 1 Organisation and leadership

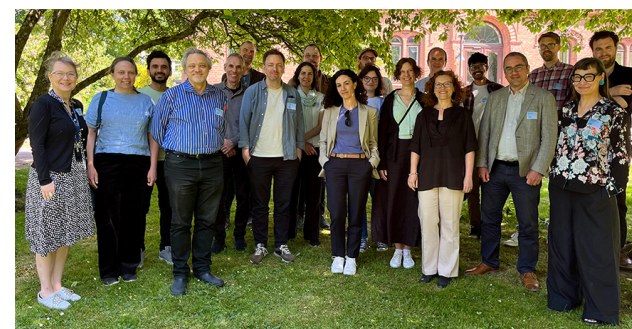
In Y3/2024, Huminfra held virtual and physical (v/p) *meetings* at different organisational levels. Operative management team: 8 v/1 p; Steering committee: 3 v/1 p; Node coordinators: 1 v/1 p; Consortium: 1 p. Physical on-site meetings took place in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Lund, and Växjö.

The members of the international *Scientific Advisory Board* met on-site in Lund in Q2 in connection with the Consortium meeting. In their brief report they reflected on and made helpful suggestions regarding Huminfra tool development, the relationship between experimental and digital humanities, Swedish membership in DARIAH and other international challenges, and on key performance indicators.

Funding for *Huminfra phase 2, 2025–2028*, was granted in September 2023. Y3/2024 Q1 thus involved a revision of activity plans and budget, and Q2–4 preparations for phase 2.

In Y3/2024 Q1–2 the application for *Swedish membership in DARIAH-EU* (the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) was prepared including discussions with the Swedish Research Council (SRC) (the National representing entity in the membership application) and DARIAH-EU management. The application was submitted to DARIAH-EU in Q2. The application was approved and official membership started on July 1, 2024, for a five-year-period (the stipulated membership duration of DARIAH-EU), 2024–2028. Huminfra is the official host of DARIAH-SE. Q3–4 involved work to set up DARIAH-SE which was officially launched in Q4.

A physical workshop with all *Huminfra financial officers* was held in Lund in Q3. The purpose was to unify the financial reporting procedures at all nodes, and to prepare for smooth handling of the final reporting in March 2025.



Representatives from Huminfra's nodes, together with the Scientific Advisory Board, gathered in Lund for the annual consortium meeting on 21–22 May. Two days filled with discussions, brainstorming, and plenty of opportunity to engage with each other's input and reflections.

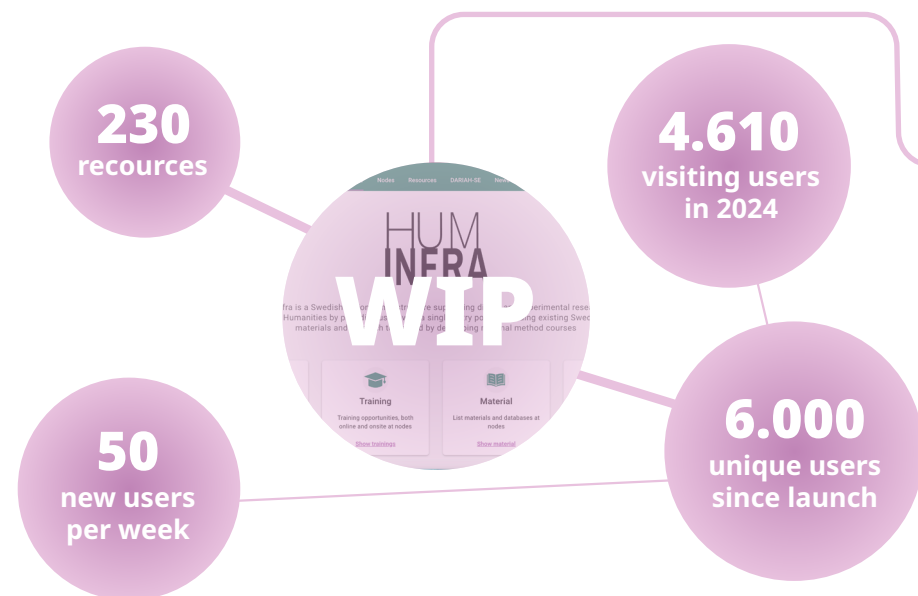


A workshop for Huminfra's financial officers was held in Lund in September.



The DARIAH-SE launch was celebrated at a joyful and inspiring event, hosted by Linnaeus University in Växjö in December.





Module 2 Web-based information platform (WIP)

In Y3/2024 work on the *web-based information platform (WIP)*, www.huminfra.se, involved updating and maintenance, including ensuring accessibility, and developing the search function. New web pages were added for the Huminfra conference HiC, for the Huminfra Handbook, for DARIAH-SE, and a video archive introducing the individual nodes. The expert group working on a *controlled vocabulary* for the platform focused on Training events and resources. This work will continue in phase 2 of Huminfra.

The WIP is used internally to collect information about activities at the nodes (so-called *node reports*) via a standardised web-based form, developed in Y2/2023.

By Dec. 2024, the WIP contained **230 open and available resources** at Huminfra's 12 nodes. More than **6,000 unique users** have visited the platform since it was launched in January 2023. In 2024 4,610 users visited the platform, 2,661 of which were unique (new) users. The number steadily increases with approximately 50 new users per week.

Module 3 Training (and other joint activities)

The training activities are reported under the heading *Training, outreach and user support*.

Beyond the joint training events, other examples of *collaboration* across the nodes includes node-to-node visits for student exchange, planning purposes, and joint applications for research funding. Although not funded, several nodes worked on joint applications on humanistic AI and on the re-use of data (HB, GRIDH, and HB, LnU, UU), highlighting the importance of the network for greater national integration.

Huminfra's first conference, HiC 2024, was held in Gothenburg in Y3/2024 Q1, hosted by Språkbanken Text and GRIDH, both at GU. Members presented **42 peer reviewed contributions**, a selection of which are published in Proceedings (<https://ecp.ep.liu.se/hic>). The LnU node organised a DARIAH Day element with a keynote by the DARIAH-EU President, followed by a panel discussion.

Joint work started on a peer-reviewed *Huminfra handbook* to be published in Q2 2025. Several nodes have contributions in the handbook.

Module 4 Outreach and communication

The outreach work is reported below under the heading *Training, outreach and user support*.

Collaboration with other infrastructures

Huminfra works closely with several other infrastructures. These connections are important to Huminfra's goal to link and render visible relevant resources in one location in order to avoid information loss or duplication.

At the *international level*, Huminfra is indirectly linked to and participates in CLARIN ERIC through the membership in Språkbanken CLARIN (former Swe-CLARIN) by several of the nodes. Individual nodes also have links to relevant international infrastructures (e.g., the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, TORCH, EUROPEANA, the iSchools Organisation, etc.).

At the *national level*, 4 national infrastructures are nodes in Huminfra (the *Swedish National Archives*, the *National Library of Sweden* via KBLab, *Språkbanken Text* and *Språkbanken Tal*), and Huminfra interacts with the *Swedish National Data Service (SND)*. Several nodes are also members of other national infrastructures such as *InfraVis* and *Swedigarch*. Individuals at local nodes also hold positions of trust in other national entities of relevance (e.g. *WASP-HS*, *AI Sweden* and the Swedish National Heritage Board (*Riksantikvarieämbetet*)). Links at the local level of the nodes are too numerous to list.



HiC 2024 offered the conference participants everything from detailed presentations of tools and workflows to conceptual contributions on the place of the humanities in the infrastructural landscape, and overviews of different nodes. The presentations were interspersed with demos which gave participants an opportunity to see and try different tools and methods up close. Part of the programme was dedicated to DARIAH-EU; its Director, Toma Tasovac, gave a keynote on the challenges of building infrastructures for the Humanities, which was followed by a panel discussion.

Data management and supporting e-infrastructure

Since Huminfra does not in itself generate or handle research data, it does not require a Huminfra-specific common computational resource for data storage. Instead, it draws on local resources and computational networks at the nodes or at SUNET or NAISS. Huminfra points researchers to local resources and facilities through the WIP which describes or indicates local instruments, tools, data sets, databases, registers, and archives with search engines (e.g., Swedish National Archives). Since Huminfra does not generate data and data are stored locally, local guidelines at individual nodes for data policy, and data management (plans) also apply. Huminfra encourages and supports open data policies according to the FAIR principles, and open science policies more generally. Importantly, however, data types in the Humanities vary and may include personal or sensitive data requiring layered access. It is therefore important that access decisions are governed by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority. Guidelines concerning ethics and data management are available at SND.

Steering group activities

Huminfra's Steering committee held 4 meetings (3 v/1 p) in Y3/2024. The March meeting focused on the current budget and on revisions to the budget for Huminfra phase 2 (2025–2028); the DARIAH-application; and the annual reporting to the SRC. The April meeting discussed strategic issues for phase 2, and the DARIAH application. The September meeting targeted the plans for DARIAH-SE, and the report from the Scientific Advisory Board. Finally, a physical meeting in Växjö in December focused on strategic issues connected to the final reporting of Huminfra phase 1, 2022–2024, budget and activity plans for phase 2, 2025–2028, and especially the new Tool module.

Operative Management Team



Marianne Gullberg,
Director

Professor at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
Director of Lund University Humanities Lab.



Copp  lie Cocq,
Dep. Director

Professor at Humlab, Ume   University.
Dep. Director of Humlab, Ume   University.



Mats Fridlund

Researcher and Associate Professor at the Department of Literature, History of Ideas and Religion, University of Gothenburg.
Dep. Director of GRIDH, University of Gothenburg.



Koraljka Golub

Professor at the Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnaeus University.
Director of iInstitute, Linnaeus University.

Steering Committee



G  ran Blomqvist,
Chair

Former CEO of Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.
Corresponding member of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.



Kerstin Lid  n

Professor at the Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Stockholm University.



Mikko Tolonen

Professor at the Department of Digital Humanities, University of Helsinki.



Johanna Berg

Project manager, The National Museums of World Culture.



Stefan I. Lindberg

Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.



Margareta Sollenberg

Researcher at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

Scientific Advisory Board



Steven Connor

Professor of English, Director of Research of the Digital Futures Institute, King's College, London.



Peter Leonard

PhD, Assistant University Librarian for Research Data Services at Stanford Libraries, Stanford University.



Marianne Ping Huang

Associate Professor at the School of Communication and Culture, Aarhus University.



Asli   zy  rek

Director of Multimodal Language Department of Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics.
Professor at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior.

Financial performance

Huminfra accrued a financial surplus in Y1 due to delays in recruitment and restricted travel in Y1/2022. This surplus remains constant but has not grown in Y3/2024. The activities for 2024 (joint training workshops, courses, the HiC conference, outreach events, and travel to physical consortium, steering committee and SAB meetings) align the Y3/2024 budget with planned expenditure. In Y3/2024, most nodes have operated at close to full capacity.

Note that no part of the budget is affected by user fees, since Huminfra does not have any. Access to Huminfra's WIP is free. Any costs associated with access to the local resources (instrumental or human) and user support indicated at the WIP are set by the local nodes themselves (cf. SFS 2022:1378). Insofar as local nodes apply user fees, they are handled locally and not within Huminfra itself.

Key performance indicators

In the funding period 2022–2024 Huminfra's key performance indicators are linked to its users, defined as number of unique visits to the WIP, and as number of unique participants at training events organised by Huminfra.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024, the WIP had **2,661 unique visitors** (defined as unique IP addresses). Visitors found the WIP via search engines, social media or other links. But the vast majority typed the Huminfra URL directly into their browser. This suggests that the brand Huminfra.se has become well established.

The number of reported **participants** in Huminfra events in 2024 amounted to **1,869**.

Equality

Huminfra's equality plan is implemented and pursued in daily operations. Gender balance is observed in all units (the Operative management group 3 women/1 man; the Steering committee 3/3; the Scientific Advisory Board 2/2). The consortium has more men than women (5/12 node coordinators are female, a change from Y2/2023 with 4/12). Although this is typical of the tech-driven part of the Humanities, the consortium monitors the situation carefully. Further, gender balance and avoidance of gender stereotyping is observed in data compilations, evaluations, workshops, symposia, conferences, meetings, text, and images. No key performance indicators (KPIs) can be reported for users' gender, since users are defined only as unique IP numbers (as per the consortium agreement).

Risk analysis

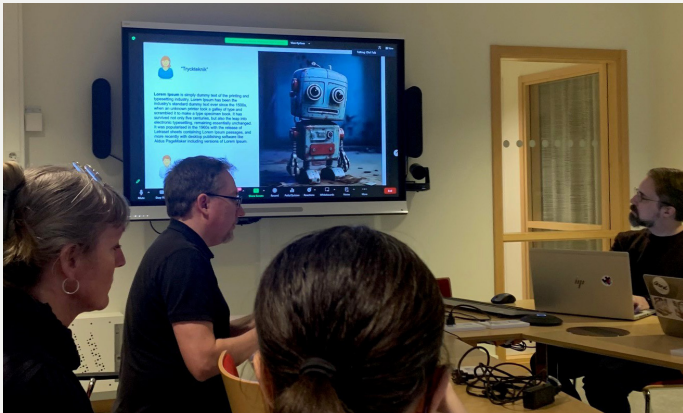
Following the application for funding of Huminfra phase 2, 2025–2028, an updated risk analysis was performed. Three main areas were identified: 1) Recruiting and keeping top talent. Employment conditions have been monitored carefully and HR support engaged at the nodes. 2) Failed internal/external communication with nodes and (new) users, respectively. The communication plan has helped identify strategic and adaptive solutions. Adjustments have been made, for example in the choice of social media platforms, and the implementation of more visual materials on the WIP. 3) Maintenance of cutting-edge hard- and software, and expertise. Operational solutions already available at the nodes mitigate hard- and software risks, and the monitoring of recent method development is part of module activities to prevent knowledge stagnation. We therefore estimate that Huminfra has managed risks successfully in the first funding period 2022–2024.



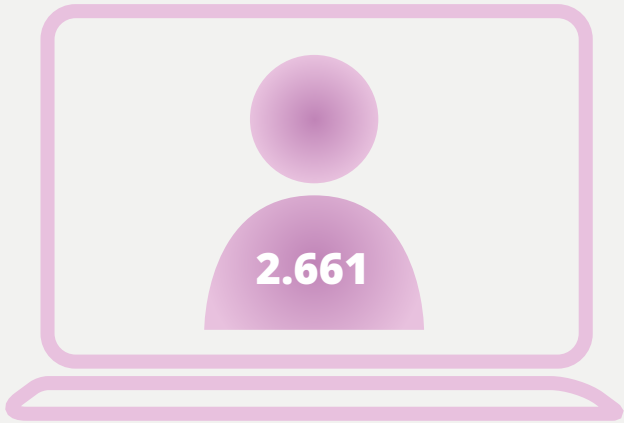
Visiting the nodes on site to gain insight into the ongoing work is an important element in a distributed infrastructure. Members of Huminfra's operational team visited KBLab, the Swedish National Archives, and Språkbanken Tal in April and were given interesting presentations of their facilities and resources.



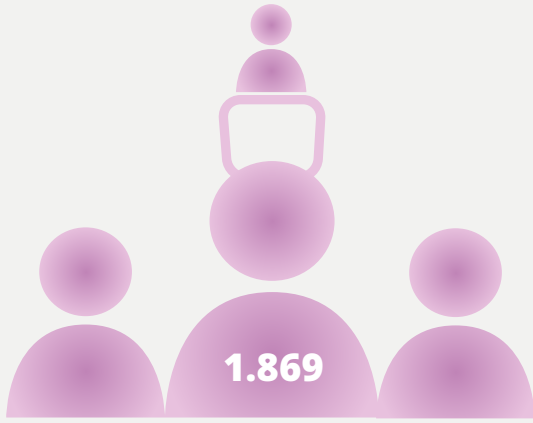
Knowledge exchange and collaboration between the nodes in Huminfra; Students from University of Portsmouth visiting Halmstad University made an excursion to Lund University Humanities Lab in June.



In January, KBLab, Linnaeus University, and University of Borås arranged a joint online seminar on AI and the library with 320 participants consisting of librarians, researchers and members of the public.



Unique visitors found our WIP



Participants in Huminfra events

Training, outreach and user support

Training (Module 3)

In Y3/2024 Huminfra's nodes organised **92 training and educational activities** (courses, workshops, tutorials, seminars, demos, and talks) for participants nationally under the label Huminfra. For example, KBLab held several workshops on topic modelling with BERTopic with participants from academic institutions and from the public sector. LU organised a workshop on experimental methods in the Humanities with participants from the entire country. Many training events were organised jointly between two or more nodes in creative formats from the whole country. For example, a workshop on motion capture was arranged simultaneously on-site at UmU and LnU, with joint discussions and knowledge exchange achieved through a hybrid solution. Other joint events have been online, only such as an online seminar on AI and the library (KBLab, LnU, HB) with 320 participants consisting of librarians, researchers and members of the public.

Outreach (Module 4)

Outreach activities in Y3/2024 involved the further development of the WIP, updates of the social media accounts, and the publication of Huminfra's monthly newsletter. By December 2024 Huminfra had **670 followers** on LinkedIn and the newsletter had **190 subscribers**. Every new edition of the newsletters generates peaks in visitor numbers at www.huminfra.se. Presentation videos of Huminfra and of the individual nodes were also produced and uploaded to the WIP, and to Huminfra's **YouTube** channel <https://www.youtube.com/@Huminfra>. Huminfra was also presented in **invited talks and demos** to university, faculty, departmental or organisational leadership, to researchers, students, to SND, and other potential user groups. The Huminfra conference, **HiC**, showcased Huminfra's activities. Other outreach includes participation in a panel on Open Science at the Royal Library, and in the symposium on humanistic AI held at GU.



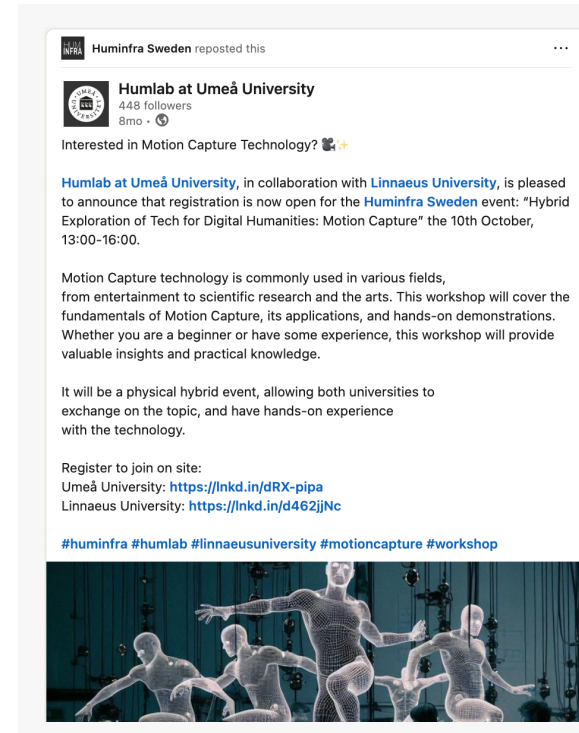
VR demo at the Huminfra conference HiC 2024.



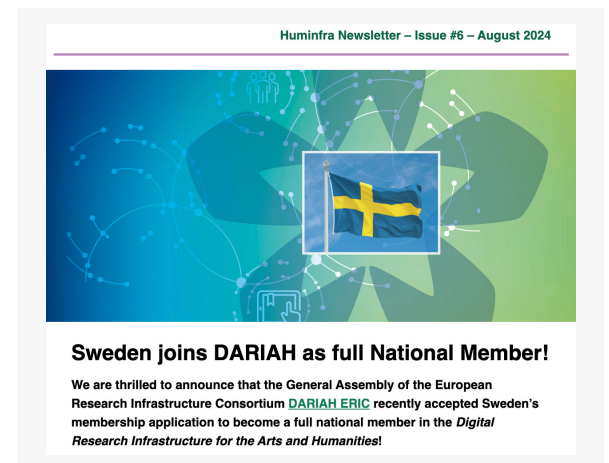
Huminfra participated in a panel on Open Science at the Royal Library in May.



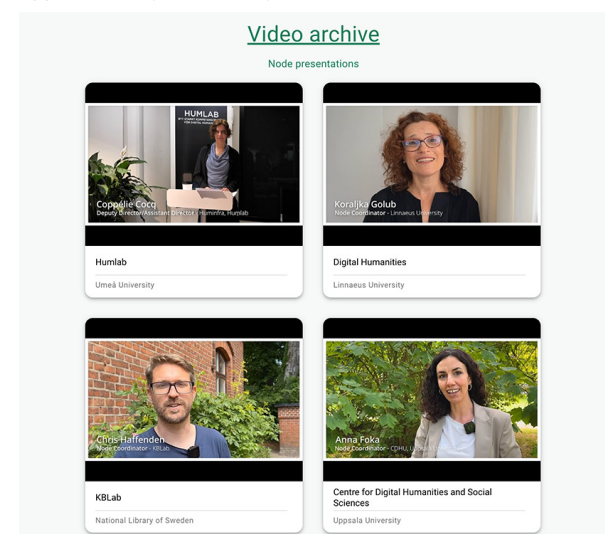
A workshop on experimental methods in the Humanities was held by Lund University Humanities Lab in October.



LinkedIn is one of Huminfra's outreach platforms where news about upcoming training events are spread, such as this hybrid workshop in Motion Capture, organised by Humlab, Umeå University and Linnaeus University.



Huminfra's monthly newsletter compiles news, events, and opportunities from Huminfra and its 12 nodes.



The video archive on huminfra.se includes presentations of Huminfra and of the individual nodes.

User support

Huminfra's user support consists of **training** opportunities to make resources accessible to researchers in the Humanities and empowering them to collect, build, and search data, design and conduct experiments, analyse data, handle software for coding, and enriching data sets in new ways. Huminfra-branded training events have been coordinated between nodes, announced at the WIP, and developed to adapt to new needs. Beyond training, Huminfra does not offer specific central user support, but rather advertises and points to local resources where individual researchers can find local help. At that level, **supervision** and **consulting** sessions, digital and in person, are frequent at all nodes. Moreover, many nodes make their resources available in repositories on GitHub, HuggingFace and other platforms. These come with substantial **documentation** which is an important form of user support.

Other comments

In conclusion, Huminfra's third year and entire first funding period has been successful. Three milestones were reached on schedule: 1) the launch and maintenance of the WIP; 2) Huminfra training and outreach events; 3) Swedish membership in DARIAH-EU and the launch of DARIAH-SE. The increased collaboration and integration across the nodes mean that Huminfra has made an impact beyond the deliverables and that a solid foundation has been laid for the further development of research in Swedish Humanities.

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Supporting **digital and
experimental research**
in the Humanities



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