



LUND UNIVERSITY

Huminfra Annual Report 2022

Gullberg, Marianne; Blåder, Anna; Lundström, Sandra

2023

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Gullberg, M., Blåder, A., & Lundström, S. (2023, Jun 19). Huminfra Annual Report 2022.

Total number of authors:

3

Creative Commons License:

Unspecified

General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

HUM
INFRA



Huminfra

Annual Report 2022



Humanities Lab
JOINT FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES
AND THEOLOGY



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY
HUMLAB



Linnæus University
Sweden



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

SPRÅKBANKENTAL SPRÅKBANKENTEXT



Stockholm
University



National Library
of Sweden



Riksarkivet



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



THE SWEDISH SCHOOL OF LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS



HALMSTAD
UNIVERSITY



Swedish
Research Council

Preface

Welcome to the first 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 aims to provide users with a single entry point for finding existing Swedish materials, research tools and expertise via the web based information platform huminfra.se, to develop national training opportunities in the techniques available, to prepare Swedish membership in a European network for cultural heritage data, DARIAH-EU, and to raise awareness about the infrastructural resources and needs both in Academia and to external stakeholders. The distributed nature of Huminfra with its strategically located nodes, each with unique expertise and instrumentation, allows us to pool national resources, strengthen collaborations nationally and internationally, and hopefully inspire and support new lines of research. This report provides an overview of achievements and progress made in Huminfra's first year.

We express our sincere thanks to the collaborating institutions and 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 is a distributed national infrastructure led by Lund University, which brings together 12 nodes in the domains of digital and experimental Humanities. In its first year of existence, Huminfra has established an organisational management structure at multiple levels, drawn up policy documents, routines and workflows, and held consortium meetings as well as smaller more focused node meetings. Second, Huminfra has designed and implemented a web-based information platform (WIP), www.huminfra.se, a website which collates and links to Swedish digital and experimental research resources (instruments, tools, expertise, materials, and training events) drawing on an inventory made at the nodes. The WIP also links to other national and international infrastructures, as well as to ethics and data management expertise. Third, Huminfra has begun an inventory of training events and opportunities at the nodes with a view to create new joint national training events once gaps have been identified. Fourth, Huminfra has established routines and platforms for *internal communication* between the nodes (e.g., functional email lists, online report forms, etc.); and for *external communication* which includes a press kit with profile materials, templates, social media accounts on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.

Description of operations

Time plan

The goals and deliverables outlined for Huminfra Y1/2022 in the GANTT chart (revised to match funding for the granted 3 instead of the applied for 5 years; Appendix A) have been well met. Despite delays caused by slow recruitment and late formal appointments, the establishment and construction of the infrastructure is now on schedule with subsidiary goals met and key deliverables provided.

Construction, development and operation of the infrastructure

Module 1 Organisation and leadership

A *consortium agreement* between LU and participating organisations is in place.

A *management structure* is established with an Operative Management Team (OMT) handling daily operations; a Steering committee for strategic overview of operations; node coordinators who manage local daily operations at the nodes and report to the OMT.

Administrators and communications officers have been recruited (LU, UmU).

Huminfra *policy documents and guidelines* have been established (e.g., a gender equality plan, a strategic plan, a decommissioning plan, and a communication plan). Routines and guidelines for financial transactions between the consortium members have been set up.

Huminfra has held 3 consortium meetings in Y1 (2 virtual, 1 hybrid); the OMT has held virtual meetings; the Steering committee has held 2 virtual meetings (due to delays in its appointment) in Jan. and March 2023. A virtual meeting with the Partners' council, hosted by LU, has also taken place.

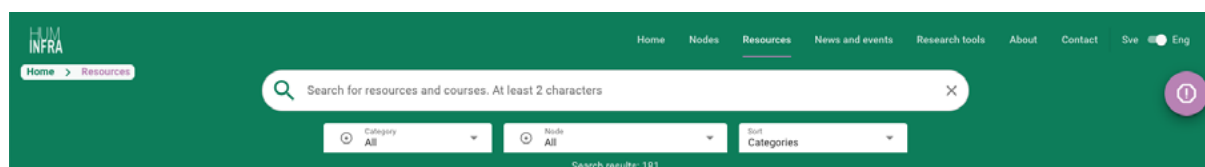
Module 2 Web-based information platform (WIP)

Systems developers with a focus on web interfaces and applications have been recruited (LU, UmU). The challenge of finding candidates has meant that recruitment was only completed in Q3, causing delays. Purchases of hardware related to the WIP and to other parts of the consortium activities (especially at KBLab) are completed.

The Huminfra *web-based information platform (WIP)* and website has been established, www.huminfra.se. It is a scalable, interactive web application designed with a focus on user-friendliness. All content is available in Swedish and English, and texts, views and media are updated reactively by language selection. Listed resources contain a short description and a link to the local website. Search is done in all available text and in the selected language. The WIP adapts to computers and small screen mobile devices. A beta version went live in Jan. 2023, as per schedule. The WIP also contains links to other infrastructures and to information about ethics and data management.

An *inventory* of resources, training, tools, equipment at the nodes to be listed on the WIP has been made with subsequent discussion about categorisation.

Nodes have developed *new resources* to increase accessibility. For example, KBLab has designed, installed and tested a new computational set-up allowing users to access and work with copyrighted materials in the collections of the Swedish National Libraries. Similarly, the Swedish National Archives have expanded work on handwritten text recognition (HTR) to render materials in the archives fully searchable.



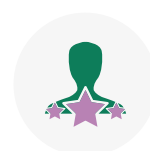
Equipment



Training



Material



Expertise

Module 3 Training

An *inventory* of national training resources at the nodes to be listed on the WIP has been made.

Training activities. The nodes have offered a range of courses, workshops, tutorials and consultations locally, also producing written and video-based training materials to facilitate access and use of facilities. There have also been new collaborative training events between Huminfra nodes in Y1 (see below; *Training, outreach and user support*).

Module 4 Outreach and communication

A structure has been established for *internal communication* between the nodes (e.g., functional email lists, shared online workspace, an online report form, etc.).

A structure for *external communication* has been established which includes a press kit with profile materials and word/powerpoint templates. Social media accounts have been established on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.

A *communication plan* has been developed to promote and publicise Huminfra to new user groups (e.g. newsletters, video presentation material, outreach events, etc.).

Collaboration with other infrastructures

Huminfra works in close contact with a number of existing relevant infrastructures. At *the international level*, Huminfra is indirectly linked to and participates in CLARIN ERIC, dedicated to language and language resources, through the membership in Swe-CLARIN by many of the nodes. In addition, individual nodes have links to relevant international infrastructures such as DIGHUMLAB Denmark, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), EUROPEANA, the iSchools Organisation, etc.

At the *national level*, four national infrastructures are nodes in Huminfra: the Swedish National Archives, the National Library of Sweden via KBLab, *Språkbanken Text* and *Språkbanken Tal*. Huminfra also interacts with Swedish National Data Service (SND) and Nationella Språkbanken since several nodes are members. Several nodes are also members of other national infrastructures such as the National Research Infrastructure for Data Visualisation (InfraVis) and the Swedish National Infrastructure for Digital Archaeology (SweDigArch). Individuals at local nodes also hold positions of trust in other national entities of relevance such as the strategic research area for e-Science, eSENCE (linking UU, UmU, and LU), the Excellence Center at Linköping-Lund for Information technology (ELLIIT), The Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program – Humanities and Society (WASP-HS), AI Sweden and the Swedish National Heritage Board (*Riksantikvarieämbetet*). Links at the *local level* of the nodes are too numerous to list.

Data management and need for supporting e-infrastructure

Huminfra points researchers to local resources and facilities. Importantly, it does *not* in itself generate or handle research data. The WIP provides metadata that describe or point to local instruments, tools, data sets, databases, registers, and archives with available 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) instead apply. Huminfra encourages and supports open data policies according to the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), 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, and guidelines concerning ethics and data management available at the Swedish National Data Service.

Huminfra does not require the constructions of any common computational resource or resource for data storage. Instead, Huminfra draws on local resources and computational networks.

Changes in organisation

No changes have been made to the organisation relative to the funding decision. The only noteworthy points concern the delay in the formal appointment of the Director (decision Y1/Nov. 24, 2022, STYR 2022/2324), the Steering committee (decision Y1/Dec. 15, 2022, STYR 2022/2322), and the Deputy

director (decision Y2/March 2, 2023, STYR 2022/2326). Work has obviously nonetheless progressed in the Operative Management Team during Y1/2022. A Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has also not yet been appointed, but the aim is to have the SAB in place in Q2 of Y2/2023.

Steering group activities

Huminfra's Steering committee was not officially appointed until Q4 in Y1/2022. This was due to a delay in an initial meeting with the Partners' council. Therefore, the first committee meeting took place in Y2/Jan. 2023 with a focus on establishing routines, and Huminfra's continuation application submitted to the Swedish Research Council (SRC) in February. A second meeting took place in March 2023 which focused on policy documents, the annual budget, and activities in Y2.

Financial performance

Huminfra has a significant financial surplus at the end of 2022 relative to the Y1 budget. Delays in recruitment of Huminfra staff and delayed appointments of the steering committee and advisory board mean that salary costs are significantly lower than planned, as are costs related to travel and physical meetings. However, all hardware investments have been made according to plan (cf. above). Importantly, the planned and budgeted activities for 2023 (joint training workshops, joint courses, outreach conferences, activities leading to a Huminfra Handbook, travel to consortium meetings, and travel by the steering committee and scientific advisory board), reflected in the updated GANTT chart, will align the Y2/2023 budget with planned expenditure.

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 for access to the local resources (instrumental or human) and user support to which the WIP points 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.

Comments on key performance indicators

Huminfra's key performance indicators are linked to users, defined as unique visits to the WIP and unique participants at training events organised by Huminfra. Since the WIP only went live at the beginning of Y2/Jan. 2023, we have no key performance indicators to report on users of the WIP yet. Similarly, although joint training activities took place in 2022 across nodes, these have not been official Huminfra events. Therefore, the same restriction applies to key performance indicators for training participation. We will have such figures to report at the end of Y2/2023.

Equality

Huminfra has developed an equality plan which is implemented and pursued in daily operations. Huminfra aims for a balanced gender representation in *management* and *working groups*. The OMT originally consisted of four women selected on the basis of their longstanding experience of infrastructures for the Humanities in Sweden and linked to DARIAH.EU. Following a re-organisation in April 2023, the OMT consists of three women and one man. In contrast, the Steering committee is perfectly gender balanced. On the whole, the consortium has more men than women (e.g. 4/12 node coordinators are female). Further, gender balance in *data compilations and evaluations*, in *workshops, symposia, conferences, and meetings* are carefully observed. Chairpersons are especially encouraged to promote and safeguard a good 'meeting culture' through active chairing. Finally, in *communications* (presentations, website, newsletters, social media posts, etc.) we strive for gender neutrality in text and images to avoid gender stereotyping.

No key performance indicators (KPIs) can be reported for users' gender. The WIP is openly available and KPIs controlled for gender equality cannot be reported, since users are defined only as unique IP numbers (in accordance with the consortium agreement).

Risk analysis

The continuation application to the SRC in Feb. 2023 yielded an updated risk analysis. A first risk category concerns recruiting and keeping top talent. The leadership monitors employment conditions carefully, staff issues, and engage active HR support at the nodes. A second risk concerns failed

internal or external communication with nodes and (new) users, respectively. The development of an explicit communication plan for both scenarios have helped identify strategic and adaptive solutions. A third risk is the maintenance of cutting-edge hard- and software, and expertise. Drawing on operational solutions already available at the nodes mitigates hard- and software risks, and continuous monitoring of recent method development is part of the module activities to reduce the risk of stagnant knowledge. A final risk is the unclear status of a possible Swedish application for membership in DARIAH-EU. In Y1, it became clear that any Swedish membership application must await adjustments to the SRC's appropriation regulations. Huminfra can only monitor but not affect this process.

Training, outreach and user support

Training

The nodes have offered courses, workshops, tutorials and consultations, produced training materials to facilitate access and use of facilities, and engaged in collaborative training with external stakeholders. New collaborative training events between Huminfra nodes have also occurred in Y1, such as joint MA courses on Digital humanities (UU and SNA); PhD courses (e.g., on cultural heritage, UmU and UU); a national course on Python programming (LU, UU, UmU). These have not been official Huminfra events – branded training events will come in Y2 as per the GANTT chart – but they lay a foundation for planned joint training activities. Moreover, in Y1 several nodes were awarded national graduate schools in digital research methods for the Humanities. These too contribute to coherence in national training.

Outreach

Outreach activities in Y1/2022 have largely involved the establishment and development of the WIP and the social media accounts, but also face-to-face presentations of Huminfra locally at the nodes to university, faculty, departmental or organizational leadership, to researchers, students, and other potential user groups. More activities are planned for Y2.

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 ways they have not previously tried. Training activities in Y1/2022 have been offered locally, online or on site. Huminfra branded training events will be developed in Y2 as per the GANTT chart. They will be 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 instead advertises and points to local resources where individual researchers can find local help.

Other comments

In conclusion, Huminfra has had a successful first year, despite administrative and recruiting delays. Considerable conceptual work has also been achieved through the inventory and categorisation of resources as part of the WIP work. This is especially important for the smaller nodes who are newer to the notion of infrastructure. We are confident that going forward the foundational organisational work achieved during Y1 will enable development of the WIP, a strong focus on joint training events, and preparations for DARIAH membership in the remainder of the funding period.

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 Institute, Linnaeus University



Steering Committee



G  ran Blomqvist, Chair

Former CEO of the Bank of Sweden's Tercentenary Foundation (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



Staffan I. Lindberg

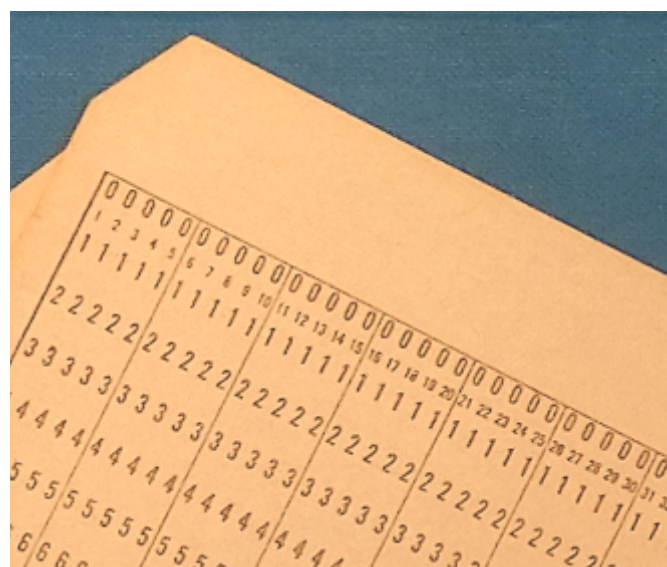
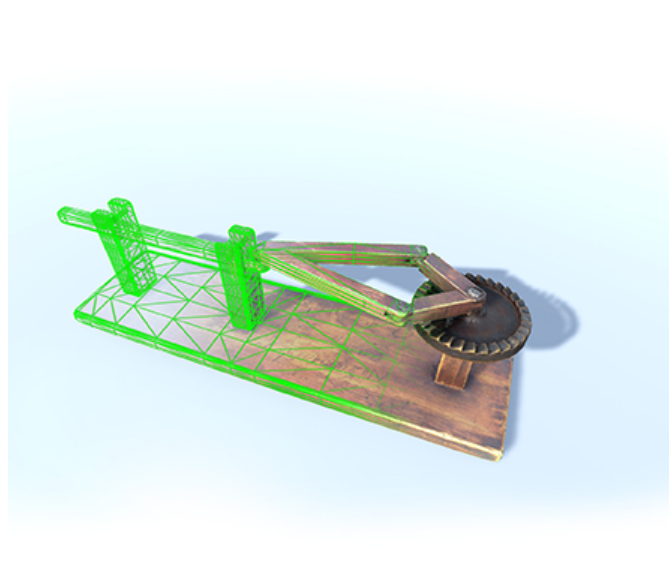
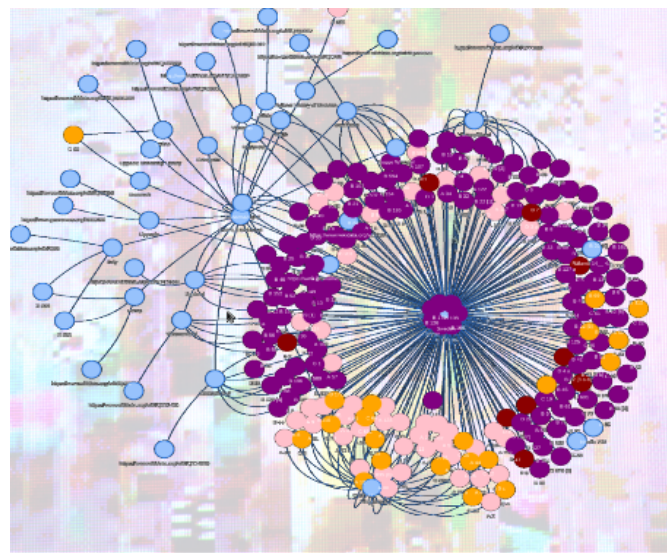
Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg



Margareta Sollenberg

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





Research in the Humanities is increasingly interdisciplinary, quantitative, and multi-methodological drawing on digital resources, tools, and technology. Huminfra, a distributed national infrastructure led by Lund University, brings together 12 nodes in the domains of digital and experimental Humanities. Huminfra aims to facilitate discovery of and access to existing Swedish instruments, tools, expertise and materials and to provide training in relevant techniques and methods. This is done via the web-based information platform (WIP), www.huminfra.se, which collates and links to existing resources and training in Sweden, and by developing and hosting national training events. Huminfra's vision is to strengthen research in areas of specific interest to Sweden (cultural heritage, languages spoken in Sweden, national archives), and to promote Swedish Humanities and ensure its international competitive edge. By pooling resources Huminfra also contributes to cost effectiveness in the use of knowledge and resources, and helps minimise the risk of missed research opportunities.



huminfra.se



info@huminfra.se



Lund University Humanities Lab/Huminfra



+46 (0)46-222 30 91