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Digital Humanism
A Short Introduction

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Humanism - Dictionary definition

Humanism /ˈhjuːmənɪz(ə)m/ *noun*

1.a <u>rationalist</u> outlook or system of thought <u>attaching</u> prime importance to human rather than divine or <u>supernatural</u> matters.

- • a Renaissance cultural movement which turned away from medieval <u>scholasticism</u> and <u>revived</u> interest in ancient Greek and Roman thought.

- • a system of thought <u>criticized</u> as being <u>centred</u> on the notion of the rational, autonomous self
and <u>ignoring</u> the conditioned nature of the individual.

Oxford dictionary

Humanism and Nature

Humanism, as a philosophical and ethical stance, has a growing and increasingly important relationship with the environment and nature, particularly in the context of environmental humanism.

- Respect for Nature and Interdependence
- Ethics of Sustainability
- Environmental Responsibility as Part of Human Flourishing
- Promotion of Science and Evidence-Based Solutions
- Intrinsic Value of Nature
- Humanism and Climate Change
- A Global, Inclusive Perspective

The Digital Humanism

Digital Humanism is a mindset, a philosophy, a political driving force, a scientific approach, and most of all – a promise to society. That we are determined to build, regulate and develop technology for people, for a better future.

https://informatics.tuwien.ac.at/digital-humanism/
https://informatics.tuwien.ac.at/digital-humanism/#latest-news
https://dighum.ec.tuwien.ac.at/ Digital Humanism movement web page @ TUW – Technical University in Vienna
https://www.youtube.com/@DigitalHumanism/featured?app=desktop Digital Humanism YouTube channel

The Digital Humanism Initiative

The Digital Humanism Initiative is an international collaboration seeking to build a community of scholars, policy makers, and industrial players who are focused on ensuring that technology development remains centered on human interests.

- Digital humanism is a global, international issue. Humankind is at the center.
- The approach: scientific, transdisciplinary, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, in the tradition of the Enlightenment.
- People are the central focus, as individuals and societies. [this is not in conflict with environment and animal rights!]*Human flourishing is fundamentally based on human connections with nature
- Technology is for people and not the other way around.
- Building a just and democratic society with humans at the center of technological progress.

https://dighum.ec.tuwien.ac.at/ Digital Humanism movement web page @ TUW – Technical University in Vienna

E. Prem, L. Hardman, H. Werthner, P. Timmers (eds.). Research, innovation, and education roadmap for digital humanism. The Digital Humanism Initiative. Vienna, 2022. https://dighum.ec.tuwien.ac.at/

*Mark Coeckelbergh (2024) What is Digital Humanism? Journal of Responsible Technology 17 100073

Perspectives on Digital Humanism – Open Access
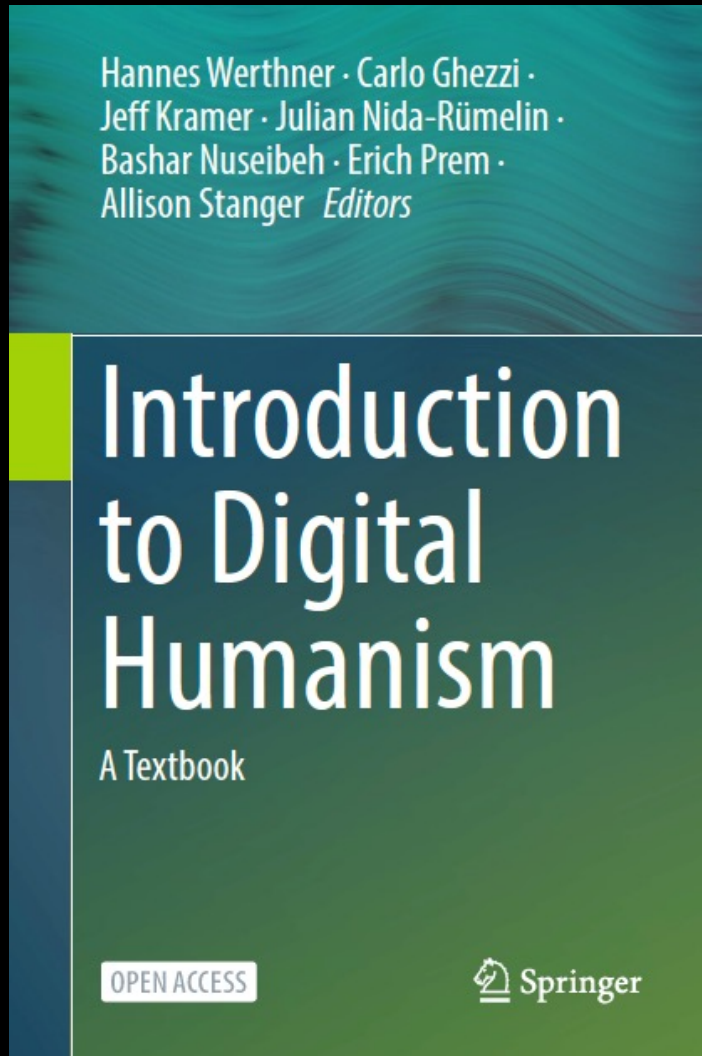
Hannes Werthner, Erich Prem, Edward A. Lee, and Carlo Ghezzi (eds): **Perspectives on Digital Humanism**, Springer, 2022.
https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-86144-5

Introduction to Digital Humanism – A Textbook
Open Access

Hannes Werthner, Carlo Ghezzi, Jeff Kramer, Julian Nida-Rümelin, Bashar Nuseibeh, Erich Prem, and Allison Stanger (eds): **Introduction to Digital Humanism**, Springer, 2024.
https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-86144-5

Digital Humanism Lecture Series

https://dighum.ec.tuwien.ac.at/news-events/

https://www.youtube.com/@DigitalHumanism Youtube channel
(Stuart Russel, Gary Marcus, Edward Lee, Deborah G. Johnson, Julian Nida-Rümelin,…)

Digital Humanism Manifesto

"**Today, we experience the co-evolution of technology and humankind.**
The flood of data, algorithms, and computational power is disrupting the very
fabric of society by changing human interactions, societal institutions,
economies, and political structures.
Science and the humanities are not exempt. This disruption simultaneously
creates and threatens jobs, produces and destroys wealth,
and improves and damages our ecology. It shifts power structures, thereby
blurring the human and the machine."

https://dighum.ec.tuwien.ac.at/dighum-manifesto/

Viable Initiatives in a Hyperconnected, Dynamic, Emergent World
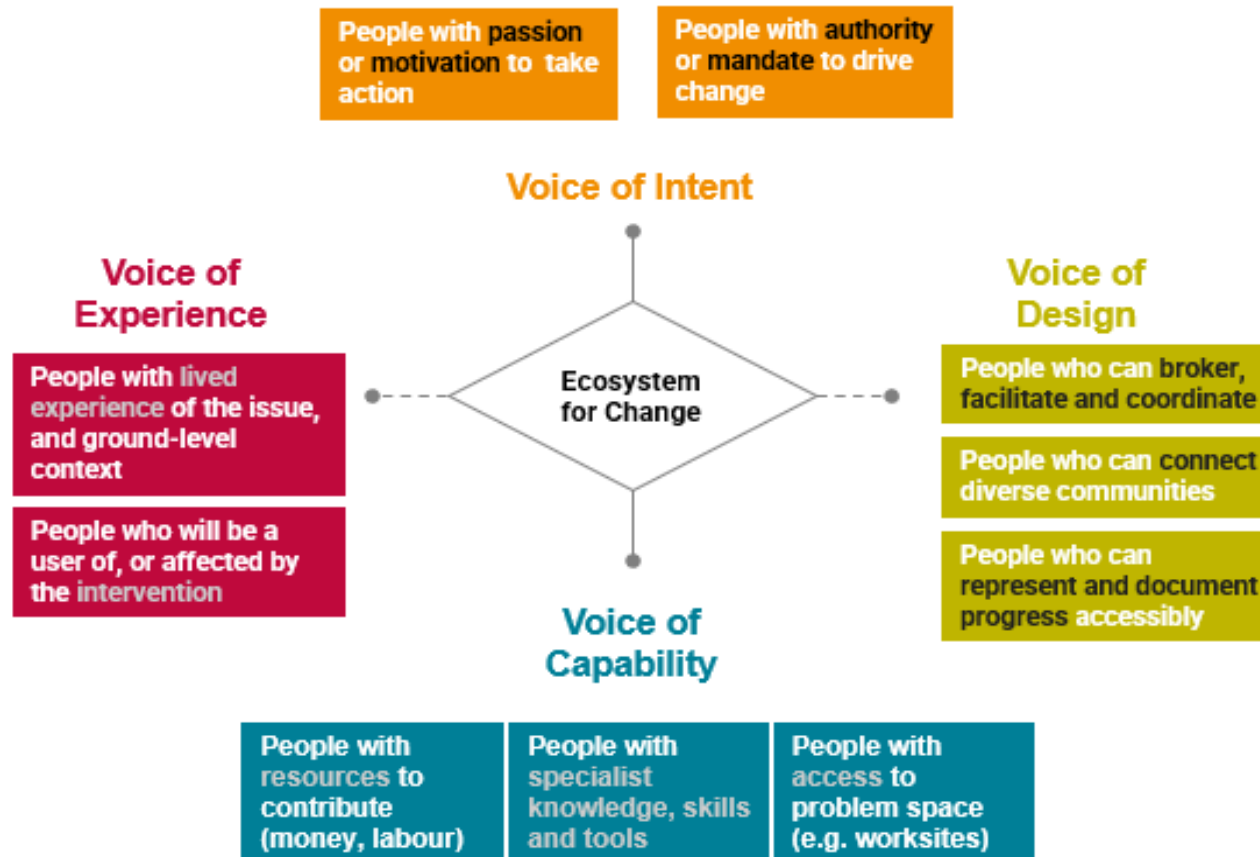
UNESCO Chair on Digital Humanism
Peter Knees Chair and Julia Neidhardt Co-Chair

"UNESCO uses education, science, culture, communication and information to foster mutual understanding and respect for our planet."

CAIML - Center for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. https://www.tuwien.at/caiml/

https://informatics.tuwien.ac.at/stories/2383

UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Digital Humanism References

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-XvfMEZgPc The Challenge of Being Humanely Digital - UCAI '22 Keynote by Erich Prem

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https://dighum.ec.tuwien.ac.at/dighum-manifesto/ Vienna Manifesto on Digital Humanism

https://nextconf.eu/2017/11/what-is-digital-humanism/#gref

https://www.erichprem.at/publications-press-videos/ Erich Prem videos