

AIPS Final Report – Digital Humanities Workshop

Grantee Information

Name: **AYESHA AKRAM**

Institution: University of Education, Lahore

Research Field: English Literature, Film, Adaptation Studies,
Media Discourse

Scholar Bio

Ayesha Akram is currently serving as a Lecturer (BPS 18) at the Department of English, University of Education, Township Campus Lahore. She is also enrolled as a Ph.D. candidate in English Literature at the University of Management and Technology Lahore. Her main research interest lies in postcolonial literature, film, adaptation Studies, public speaking and media discourse. Ms. Akram holds the honor of being one of the only two candidates selected from Punjab for participation in the **Junior Faculty Exchange Fellowship**, sponsored by the **American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)** and the U.S Department of State in North Carolina, United States in May-June 2019.

Ms. Akram is also the recipient of the **PhD Research Fellowship for University of Exeter, United Kingdom (2019/2020)**, awarded by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC).

Summary

Workshop-1 (University of Education Lahore):

The first DH training that I conducted on 26th of August 2019, was held at University of Education, Township Campus, Lahore. Fifteen participants were selected from three different **Lahore campuses** of University of Education, i.e. Township Campus, Lower Mall Campus and Bank Road Campus. I delivered a four-hours hands-on training workshop to all my colleagues and exchanged ideas with them pertaining to Digital Pedagogy in Pakistan. The participants described the workshop to be a thoroughly fulfilling experience, as a result of which, I was requested by the University administration to deliver a larger training workshop to colleagues from other remote

campuses of UE from all over Punjab.

Workshop-2 (University of Education Lahore):

After the success of my first workshop at University of Education Lahore, I conducted another training on Digital Humanities to my colleagues from **six** other campuses outside Lahore. University of Education is one of the largest public sector universities in Pakistan, with nine campuses spread all over the province of Punjab. My second training workshop on Digital Humanities expanded its scope to our remote campuses and disseminated the knowledge all across the province. This training was held on 23rd of September 2019 at Township Campus (UE Head Office) in Lahore. Faculty members from other cities and campuses travelled to Lahore to attend the event. I also involved my other DH colleague Dr. Sania Munir from University of Lahore, in this venture. Our DH mentor from NCCU Mr. Brett Chambers, very kindly agreed to deliver a talk on the ongoing DH ventures at NCCU and Duke University to the audience.

Workshop-3 (University of Management and Technology Lahore):

Since I am enrolled as a PhD scholar in English Literature at University of Management and Technology Lahore, I had a bright opportunity to organize my 3rd training session on Digital Humanities at UMT Lahore. The audience at UMT was the most critical of all, since all of them are well-trained research scholars in English language and literature. This time, I talked about DH from a research perspective instead of pedagogy only, to cater the needs of the audience. This training was held on 26th of September 2019. The researchers thoroughly enjoyed the session and we had prolonged discussions in-between the hands-on tutorials. My DH mentor from NCCU, Dr. Collie Fulford was kind enough to deliver an online talk to the audience upon my special request.

Workshops

*Title: **Training Workshop and Hands-on Tutorial on DH Tools***

Date: 26th August 2019

Location: University of Education, Township Campus,
Lahore

Number of Participants: 13-15

Title: Training Workshop and Hands-on Tutorial on DH Tools- (Part-2)

Date: 23rd September 2019

Location: University of Education, Township Campus, Lahore

Number of Participants: 35-40

Title: Contemporary Trends in Digital Humanities Research and Pedagogy

Date: 26th September 2019

Location: University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore

Number of Participants: 15-20

Deliverables

These training workshops were conducted in collaboration with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) as a part of an effort to introduce Digital Humanities as a new discipline in the Pakistani academic spheres. Over the course of the workshops, the participants worked with the facilitator to learn a range of technologies, concepts and methods in DH and how to apply them in their teaching and research practices. The workshop activities included hands-on tutorials, group discussion and brainstorming session. The major deliverable of this training was to initiate a dialogue on digital pedagogy in Pakistan.

Outcomes

Through all these training sessions, I was able to introduce Digital Humanities as a branch of pedagogy and research in humanities at two different universities of Lahore. The participants started thinking and exploring the domain further on their own. A conscious effort was made to encourage the higher education teaching faculty of University of Education Lahore especially (which is comparatively under-resourced in IT), to start using modern technology and free web tools to facilitate their classrooms. The participants realized that unlike the common myth, the use of technology in the classrooms is very affordable and do-able and enhances engagement of students in the classroom.