CALL FOR PAPERS: DÍGITOS JOURNAL – 8th ISSUE (2022)

Monographic section:

« The *Data Sprint Approach* to Research: Experiments, Protocols and Knowledge »

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Data sprints reflect the *learning by doing* principle by providing a space for intensive research, tool creation, coding workshops, exploratory data analysis and visualisations. The many potentialities of a *data sprint approach* are explored by digital humanities and social sciences scholars to foster and promote collaborative, interdisciplinary and experimental workflows underpinned by online data and methods. In this environment, participants coming from different (non-)academic backgrounds convene physically or online[1] "to work together on a set of data and research questions" (see Venturini et al., 2018, p. 1). One of the strengths of this work methodology is precisely its interdisciplinary nature, since it enables "social scientists, developers and data designers together with relevant domain experts to explore research questions and create prototype digital methods projects" (Munk, Madsen, & Jacomy, 2019: 110).

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[1] Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, referential data sprints have adapted the format to intensive, prolonged periods of online research, coding and data analysis.

Scholars have been leveraging the data sprint approach to the creation and development of reproducible methods, which have proven to be useful in the field of digital humanities (see Berry et al. 2015, Huuderman et al. 2013), while addressing social, cultural and political concerns about digital society. This monograph focuses specifically on the robust empirical framework of data sprints, which serves not only to conduct research, but also to learn and understand the dimension of digital methods.

This monograph aims to make room for research experiments, protocols and knowledge creation through data sprints, giving greater value to the so-called *data sprint technical report*, describing the implementation of exploratory and inventive ways of reading, seeing and analysing platform data. When they are reviewed in the post-sprint period, such *technical reports* often present a more concise and substantial version, avoiding the risk of "wrong" results or "poorly executed" projects caused by time pressure on analytical decisions (see Rogers & Lewthwaite, 2019). *Technical reports* contribute to new or ongoing research projects and to try-and-test methods, while also helping researchers to ground theory in empirical data and digital platform mechanisms.

The *data sprint* approach is now here to stay thanks to the enthusiasm and efforts of a number of research networks, forming part of the *digital methods* community and contributing to different research fields. Well-known examples of these research networks include the Digital Methods Initiative[2] (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), the Smart Data Sprint[3] (Nova University Lisbon, Portugal) and the TantLab[4] (University of Aalborg, Copenhagen).

This monograph welcomes manuscripts written *before, during* and *after* data sprints, yet in the short-paper format. These exploratory, experimental and innovative contributions should address the following research topics.

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[2] https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/SummerSchool2021

[3] https://smart.inovamedialab.org/

[4] https://www.tantlab.aau.dk/lab-philosophy/participatory-data-design/

Research topics:

Two main lines of research are envisaged: a) Research applying this workflow; and b) Research on the *data sprint* approach.

Dígitos will give priority to papers addressing the following topics:

- Case studies or methodological protocols developed in a data sprint context for studying a specific phenomenon

- Experimental/exploratory studies that trigger methodological or conceptual framework creation and software development

- Data sprints as a form of learning and developing data-driven research design with digital methods

- Data sprints as key to fostering collaboration and interdisciplinary research

- The role of designers in data sprint contexts

- Proposals for new dissemination formats of *data-sprint technical reports*

Author guidelines for *Dígitos*:

http://revistadigitos.com/index.php/digitos/about/submissions#authorGuidelines

Texts submitted to this special issue should follow all author guidelines except the formal extension. The article length accepted is **4.500-6.000 words** (excluding tables and references).

Deadline for submitting documents: 23 December

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