



Beyond the Archive: Mapping the Future of Digital Cultural Heritage

DIGHT-Net Research Seminar
4–6 June 2025
Tallinn University
Estonia

About the Seminar

This three-day seminar is a forum designed to take stock of where the field of digital cultural heritage stands today, and where it might head next. Over the course of 4–6 June, we will move from broad conceptual mapping, through practical digitisation case studies, to the challenges of working with digitised personal archives. Each day brings together scholars and memory institution professionals who have broken new ground – whether by building new research infrastructures, experimenting with AI tools, or negotiating the ethics and sustainability of digital archives.

By interweaving concise “inspiration talks” and academic presentations with extended roundtables, the programme is intended to inspire dialogue rather than broadcast monologues. The aim of the forum is to identify common bottlenecks – technical, legal, or conceptual – and to sketch collaborative solutions that can travel across national and disciplinary borders. Estonia’s own fast-growing digital heritage ecosystem provides a living laboratory for many of the questions we shall debate. The event also serves as a launching pad for a prospective Digital Cultural Heritage Research Hub at Tallinn University – an initiative that seeks to consolidate scattered expertise and co-ordinate future grant applications.

We invite participants to treat these days not as a conference to attend, but as a workshop to co-create – bringing forward ideas, reservations, and next steps alike.

To participate in the seminar, please register here: <https://forms.gle/JPwtmoDor3iiCCLQ7>. (The organisers reserve the right to select participants from among those registered in the event of limited capacity.) For more about the DIGHT-Net project, see <https://dight-net.tlu.ee/>.

Programme

4 June 2025 — Digital Cultural Heritage Studies: Where We Stand

Tallinn University, Mare building (Uus-Sadama 5), room M-648

14:00–14:05 **Marek Tamm** (Tallinn University): Opening words

14:05–14:20 **Daniele Monticelli** (Tallinn University): Introduction: How and Why to Build a Digital Cultural Heritage Research Hub?

14:20–15:20 Inspiration Talks I

Alba Irollo (Europeana Foundation)

Christian Olesen (University of Amsterdam)

Ivan Kisjes (University of Amsterdam)

Hannu Salmi (University of Turku)

15:20–15:45 Coffee break

15:45–16:30 Inspiration Talks II

Johanna Lilja (National Library of Finland)

Pille Runnel (Estonian National Museum)

Indrek Ibrus (Tallinn University)

16:30–17:00 Coffee break

17:00–18:30 Roundtable: Digital Cultural Heritage in Estonia

Participants: **Pille Runnel** (Estonian National Museum), **Kadri Nigulas** (The National Heritage Board of Estonia), **Eva Näripea** (Estonian National Archives).

Chair: **Marek Tamm** (Tallinn University)

19:00 Dinner

5 June 2025 — Digitising Cultural Heritage

Tallinn University, Mare building (Uus-Sadama 5), room M-648

10:00–10:15 **Ihab Saloul** (University of Amsterdam): Introduction

10:15–11:00 **Ivan Kisjes** (University of Amsterdam): Techniques for Cultural Heritage Digitization: Lessons from the Amsterdam Time Machine

11:00–12:00 **Christian Olesen** (University of Amsterdam): Unlocking the Jean Desmet Collection in the Media Suite: Approaches to Annotation and Critical Editions for AV Collections

12:00–13:00 **Johanna Lilja** (National Library of Finland): Digitisation and Sustainable Development: A Finnish Perspective
13:00–14:30 Lunch
14:30–15:15 **Paola Ciandrini** (Chiesi Farmaceutici): Archives in Motion: From Personal Legacies to Corporate Memory in the Digital Context
15:15–16:00 **Alba Irollo** (Europeana Foundation): From Principles to Practice: Making FAIR Concrete in “Collections as Data”
16:00–16:30 Coffee break
16:30–18:00 Roundtable Discussion: Digitising Cultural Heritage
Participants: **Paola Ciandrini** (Chiesi Farmaceutici), **Alba Irollo** (Europeana Foundation), **Ivan Kisjes** (University of Amsterdam), **Johanna Lilja** (National Library of Finland), **Christian Olesen** (University of Amsterdam)
Chair: **Mila Oiva** (University of Turku)
19:00 Dinner

6 June 2025 — Personal Archives: Processes of Digitisation and Digital Research

Tallinn University, Mare building (Uus-Sadama 5), room M-648

09:30–09:45 **Hannu Salmi** (University of Turku): Introduction
09:45–10:30 **Outi Hupaniittu** (Finnish Literature Society): What is Possible and Reasonable, What is Unfeasible and Impossible? Perspectives on Digitisation of Private Archives
10:30–11:15 **Alois Pichler** (University of Bergen): Digital Research on Wittgenstein’s *Nachlass*: From String Search to Generative AI
11:15–12:00 **Anneli Kivisiv** (Arvo Pärt Centre): Daily Multitasking With a Living Person’s Open Archive
12:00–12:45 **Merit Maran** (Tallinn University): Building the Digital Archive of Juri Lotman: Current Challenges and Future Perspectives
12:45–14:00 Lunch



Funded by
the European Union

DIGHT-Net is funded through the Horizon Europe Twinning programme