

Lingua Vita

"Unleashing the Power of Language"



CHRIST
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
PUNE LAVASA CAMPUS
The Hub of Analytics

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Campus

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Greetings and welcome to Lingua Vita, the newsletter that's dedicated to unleashing the power of language! Through our newsletters, we will bring you insights and updates on events conducted by the Department of Languages, as well as thought-provoking content penned by students and faculty members. Our tagline, "Unleashing the Power of Language," encapsulates our commitment to this mission. We firmly believe that language has the ability to enrich one's personal and professional life, and we strive to provide our readers with unique perspectives and understanding through our expertise and insights. So join us as we delve into the world of language and uncover the new insights for a more connected and enlightened community.



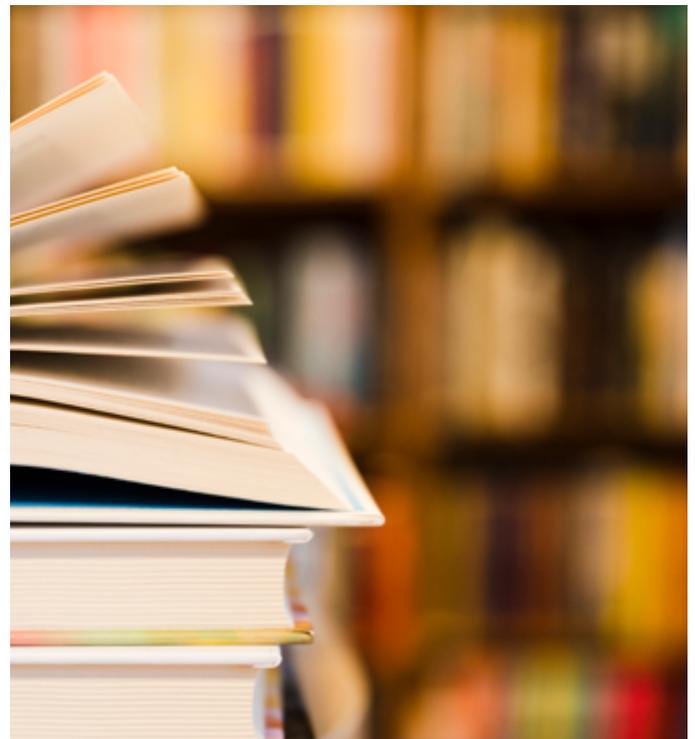
Message from the Head of Department



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Department of Languages, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Pune Lavasa Campus. With a great sense of pride, I would like to congratulate the Editorial team and the contributors for their sincere efforts. The department, with its new programme, MA English with Digital Humanities, has ushered in a new era in the world of education. It is imperative that we all create and nourish the culture of our university to be the trailblazer in society. This newsletter is an attempt to inculcate the spirit of collaboration and collective growth among the faculty and students. I am confident that our determination to strive for the best will propel us towards a more inclusive, diverse and progressive future.

Warm regards,
Dr. Richa Srishti



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Message from the Faculty Editor



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of Lingua Vita, our quarterly newsletter, under the tagline "Unleashing the Power of Language." At the heart of this publication lies our commitment to celebrating the profound impact of language in our lives and the incredible journey of discovery that we embark upon in every conversation, page, and sentence. Lingua Vita serves as your gateway to explore, appreciate, and celebrate the transformative power of language.

This newsletter also celebrates the launch of the groundbreaking "MA in English with Digital Humanities" programme. We're excited to introduce this innovative academic offering, designed to bridge the worlds of traditional English studies and cutting-edge technology. Our programme promises to empower students with the means to explore the multifaceted dimensions of literature, language, and culture in unprecedented ways, effectively uniting the best of two worlds.

Our students have taken their passion for Digital Humanities to the next level, contributing articles that provide a glimpse into this fascinating world. They will continue to explore and delve deeper into this realm in future editions, promising further revelations in the captivating world of Digital Humanities.

Warm regards,
Ms. Christine Samuel

Message from Student Editors



Dear Readers,

Heartiest welcome to the very first edition of Lingua Vita, your go-to source for all things Digital Humanities. We are beyond thrilled to share and explore the latest developments and insights into this rapidly evolving and ever expanding field. Our aim is focused onto navigating our way through the complex web of knowledge, research, and critical thinking to gain a deeper understanding of the Humanities in the digital era.

Here's to all of you, on this exciting journey of fostering a vibrant community of Digital Humanities enthusiasts. Thank you for being part of the Lingua Vita community. Enjoy the read, and stay curious about the vast and fascinating world of Digital Humanities!

Best regards,
Digangana Chanda
Kareena Elizabeth Mathew
Student Editors



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Creative Writing Workshop



The creative writing workshop provided a valuable experience for aspiring writers. Participants were guided through a structured roadmap, offering step-by-step instructions to ease the writing process. The workshop featured interactive elements, including various activities and tasks, both individually and in groups, enhancing the learning experience. Many of the students, who were budding writers, found the workshop enjoyable and beneficial. Hilda, an expert in the field, played a significant role in helping participants refine their creative skills and achieve their writing aspirations. At end of the workshop, each student composed a short reflection on their campus life. Vasantha M expressed gratitude with a Vote of Thanks, and Dr. Richa Srishti, the Head of the Department, presented Dr. Hilda with a memento as a token of appreciation.

Inkspire: Ignite your Imagination



Quality Improvement Programme



The Department of Languages conducted a Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) focused on Digital Humanities and its connection to English literature. Expert-led sessions provided valuable insights into Indian Digital Humanities, challenging traditional ideas and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration. The QIP emphasized the importance of deconstructing debates and fostering appreciation for Humanities traditions. Faculty members explored AI tools like ChatGPT for ideation and content generation, recognizing the synergy of human creativity with technology. The introduction of CATMA streamlined scholarly workflows, enhancing research processes. With a comprehensive understanding of Digital Humanities, the department is now equipped to inspire and guide students in the evolving landscape, enhancing the learning experience in English literature.

The event "Inkspire: Ignite your Imagination" organised on June 19, 2023 to celebrate National Reading Day 2023, brought together students, staff, and faculty members from various disciplines. The occasion commenced with a silent prayer and an introduction to National Reading Day, honoring P N Panicker, the Father of the Library and Literacy Movement in Kerala. Attendees were divided into small discussion groups, sharing and discussing creative pieces, inspirations, and topics like the creative process and collaboration with AI. Inkspire provided an inspiring evening of reading, sharing, and creative exploration.



Faculty Training Workshop



The “Rediscovering Purpose and Passion”, Faculty Training Workshop on June 26, 2023, was a pivotal event in the department. Dr. Anil D’Souza, the resource person, guided educators through a profound self-exploration journey. Faculty members delved into fundamental questions about their roles, seeking deeper meaning beyond the transactional aspects of teaching. Dr. Anil encouraged them to rediscover their unique teaching styles, emphasizing individuality. The session also emphasized collaborative group dynamics, fostering a holistic learning environment. The workshop provided valuable insights and empowered faculty to refine their pedagogical approaches, gearing up for the upcoming Academic Year with renewed purpose and passion.

Videogame Critique and Appreciation



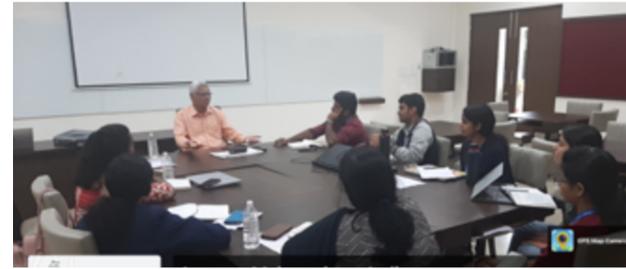
The Department organized a webinar titled “Videogame Critique and Appreciation” on February 25, 2023. This virtual event was conducted using the Zoom online platform and was led by Mr. Aaron George, a faculty member of the Department of Languages and an expert researcher in the field of videogame critique. The webinar marked the first instalment of a series focusing on videogame critique. The event received participation from a thirty attendees, comprising a diverse group of individuals, including faculty, students, and PhD scholars, all of whom shared a keen interest in the subject of videogame critique. The webinar provided an interactive and informative session for all participants.

Twine Workshop



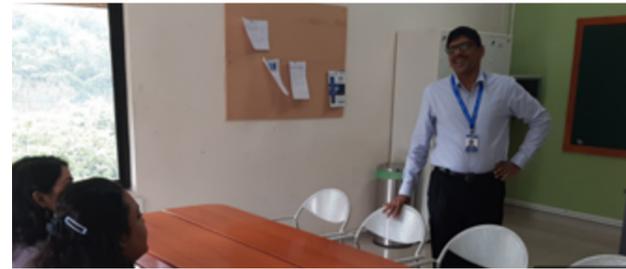
The “Twine Workshop” held on June 22, 2023, was a significant event for faculty members. This workshop was designed to introduce educators to Twine, a versatile software commonly used by video game designers and digital storytellers to craft interactive narratives. One of its standout features is its accessibility, making it suitable for users with limited coding experience. The goal of the workshop was to equip faculty members with the skills and knowledge necessary to incorporate Twine into their teaching methods effectively. By doing so, they planned to enhance student engagement, stimulate creativity, and align their teaching practices with the upcoming launch of the MA English with Digital Humanities program. Mr. Aaron George, the workshop facilitator, guided participants through each step, enabling them to create their interactive stories using Twine, empowering them with a valuable new tool for education and storytelling.

Orientation Program



The five-day “Orientation Program” for MA English with Digital Humanities students was organised from August 10 to August 18, 2023. The event began with an inaugural ceremony titled ‘Ignite’ on August 10, 2023. Dr. Fr. Lijo Thomas, Fr. Justin Varghese and Department Heads addressed the students, emphasizing the philosophy of holistic education. The orientation sessions covered various aspects, including a campus tour and IT facilities. Students were oriented about Sports and Social Action, Library Resources, Ethics, Privacy along with Theatre and DH, explored DH opportunities, interacted with faculty, and were introduced to student clubs.

Faculty Development Programme



The Programme for the Department of Languages commenced on June 30, 2023, with an inauguration ceremony. The session began with a silent prayer, setting a solemn and focused atmosphere. Dr. Richa Srishti, the Head of the Department of Languages, delivered an introductory note, emphasizing the importance of active participation and engagement from the faculty members throughout the programme.

The inauguration marked the official commencement of the Faculty Development Programme for the Department of Languages, highlighting the department’s commitment to enhancing the skills and knowledge of its faculty members. The programme was designed to provide a platform for professional growth, exchange of ideas, and collaboration among the faculty.

Introduction to Corpus linguistics Workshop



The workshop was conducted in two sessions by guest speaker, Mr. Yassine Labournane. The students were introduced to the basics of corpus linguistics analysed with the help of new and evolving software applications. The goal of the workshop was to provide the students the knowledge about the foundational tools necessary and a deeper understanding of the technicalities of how to operate digital tools like AntConc and TagAnt for interpreting a text from a fresh perspective.

WellMent: Nurturing Mindfulness



The WellMent program, organized by the department, aimed to enhance the mental well-being of faculty members. Ms Arpita Ghosh from the Centre for Counselling and Health Services (CCHS) led the program. Ms Ghosh began with a meditation exercise, emphasizing mindfulness and self-awareness, and the importance of letting go of negativity. The program played a pivotal role in promoting holistic well-being, providing participants with the tools to lead more focused and fulfilling lives. It exhibited the path to foster an encouraging environment with regards to enhanced focus and productivity. The session also emphasised on the promotion of self-awareness and acknowledgement in one’s journey to achieve an improved state of mind.

Faculty Achievements



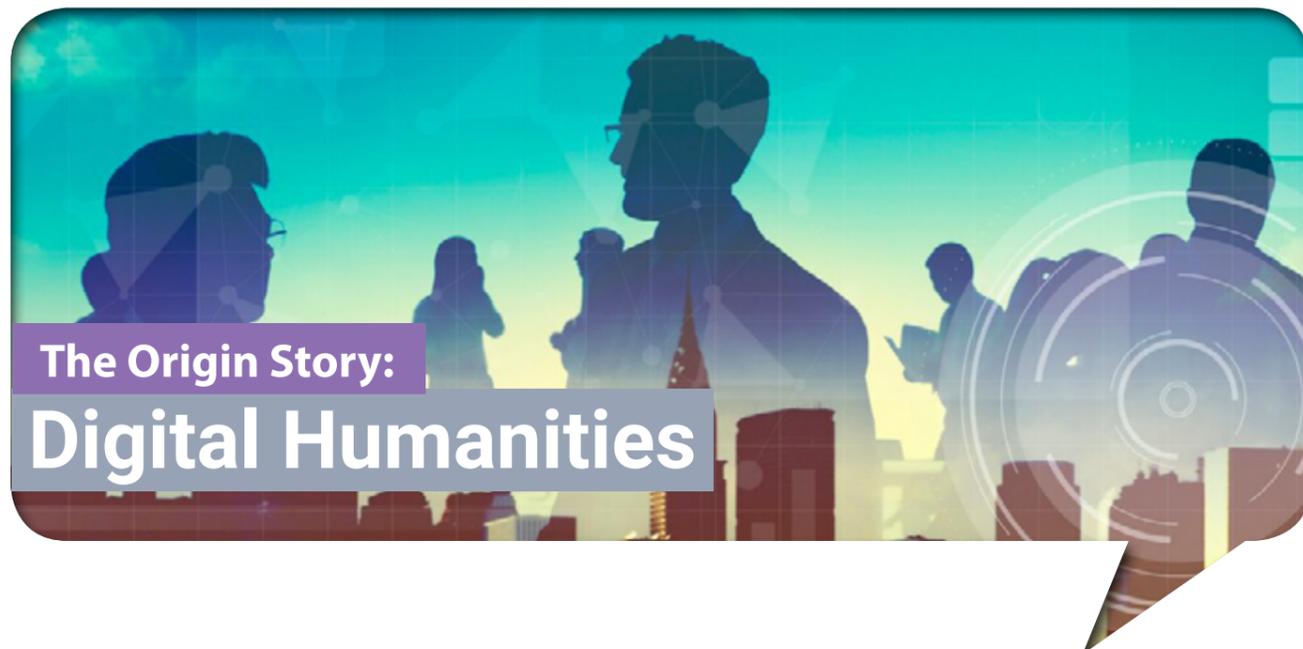
Ms Christine Samuel presented a paper titled Anthropomorphism & Stereotypes: Portrayal of Animals in Panchatantra in an International Conference on Global Trends in English Language, Literature and Linguistics jointly organized by the Department of English, Mila University Center, Algeria, the International Languages Council and the Research Culture Society from July 29 to July 30, 2023.

Dr Richa Srishti won a Poetry Competition on World Literacy Day organised by Press Club of CHRIST University Commerce Association (CUCA) on September 11, 2023.

Dr Richa Srishti, Ms Christine Samuel and Ms Elizabeth Varkey participated in an International Faculty Development Program on Introduction to Digital Humanities, organised by the Inter-Disciplinary Research



Student Voices



The Origin Story: Digital Humanities

The history of Digital Humanities is the story of the intersection between technology and the Humanities, with its roots tracing back to the mid 20th century. In the 1940s and 1950s, when computers were in their infancy, researchers began to explore the potential of these machines for humanistic endeavours. In the 1960s and 1970s, humanistic computing centers focused on textual analysis and linguistic research emerged in universities. The advent of personal computers in the 1980s made digital tools even more accessible to researchers, which accelerated the growth of the field.

Text encoding standards such as the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) were developed to create structured digital representations of texts. The 1990s marked a turning point with the spread of the World Wide Web. Digital archives and online resources became common, democratising access to cultural knowledge. Projects such as the Perseus Digital Library and the Women Writers Project have demonstrated the potential of the Digital Humanities

to shape the way we engage with historical texts. In the 2000s, the term "Digital Humanities" emerged, reflecting its tendency to approach the Humanities through a newer digitised lens.

Researchers have begun to explore data visualisation, spatial analysis, and computational methods to study various aspects of human culture and society. Projects such as Google Books and the National Digital Newspaper program of the Library of Congress have highlighted the importance of digitisation in the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage. Digital Humanities is a vibrant field today, covering a wide range of activities from creating digital archives and creating interactive visualisations to using machine learning in text analysis. It continues to evolve as technology advances, providing new opportunities for researchers to explore and understand the rich tapestry of human history and culture through digital means.



What is Digital Humanities?

Digital Humanities (DH) is an interdisciplinary field that combines the methods and tools of computer science and technology with the Humanities to analyze, interpret, and disseminate cultural artifacts and knowledge. The field has evolved rapidly in recent years, bringing about changes and revolutionising the way Humanities research and scholarship is conducted and approached. The core of Digital Humanities lies in bridging the gaps between traditional disciplines in the Humanities, such as literature, linguistics, philosophy, and history, through technological means. It takes advantage of the computing power and technology available in the digital age to cover a wide range of activities, from the digitisation of historical manuscripts and archives to the development of advanced algorithms for text analysis and data visualization.

One of the central tenets of the Digital Humanities is to digitise cultural heritage and make that information accessible to a wider audience through the creation of digital archives and digital storytelling. This includes creating digital copies of historical documents, books, works of art, and other artifacts to make them within reach of the global audiences around the world. Digitisation not only preserves these materials for

future generations and prevents them from being lost over time, but also allows researchers to perform new forms of analysis from entirely new perspectives.

Researchers can also use natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning techniques through text analysis, to analyse large corpora of texts and uncover patterns, trends, and insights that are difficult to capture using human intuition. Sentiment analysis, topic modeling, and named entity recognition are just some of the tools used to extract meaning from text data. By applying these methods to literary works, historical documents, or social media conversations, scholars can gain a deeper understanding of language use, cultural context, and social dynamics.

Visual representations of data help researchers and the public alike understand and comprehend complex patterns and relationships. Visualisation tools allow an individual to create interactive digital maps, timelines, network diagrams, and more. For example, historians can visualise the spread of a disease during a particular period of time, and literary scholars can map geographic locations mentioned in a novel. Such visualisations open new possibilities for presenting and interpreting information.

Why is Digital Humanities significant?



Digital Humanities includes the development of digital archives and databases. These repositories serve as valuable resources for scholars and students, providing searchable access to a wide variety of materials. Creating a digital archive means not only digitising existing materials, but also designing easy-to-use interfaces and metadata structures for efficient searching and querying. Archives such as the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and Europeana make access possible to a wealth of cultural knowledge from libraries, museums, and archives around the world.

Collaboration is a hallmark of Digital Humanities. Scientists from diverse backgrounds come together in an effort to answer complex research questions that require expertise in both the Humanities and technology. The multidisciplinary

team includes historians, linguists, computer scientists, artists, and more. This collaborative approach fosters innovation and results in the development of new methods and approaches in the field of academia.

Digital Humanities is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field that integrates and incorporates technology to enhance our understanding of the Humanities. Through digitisation, text analysis, data visualization, digital archives, and collaborative research, Digital Humanities has made new waves in the way we explore and engage with cultural heritage and human expression. Through Digital Humanities, traditional fields continue to evolve to fit into the newer changing world, offering scholars exciting opportunities to gain new insights and perspectives on our shared cultural heritage.

Upcoming Events

10 October 2023	: Storytelling Carnival
26 October 2023	: Workshop on Creative Writing using AI
30 October to 31 October 2023	: Workshop on Quality Enhancement Strategies - Key Performance Indicators for Institutional Accreditations
29 November to 30 November 2023	: Workshop on Twine tool



EDITORIAL CIRCLE



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