

PREFACE

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Department of ALM, Uppsala University.

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Preface

For this issue of *Tidskrift för ABM* we invited explorations of the transformative role of digital technologies in relation to cultural heritage, knowledge access and information futures. The issue contains two research articles, a review, an editorial note and two dissertation summaries. The contributions cover a diverse range of topics relating to information futures: personal information privacy, preservation of deplatformed content, challenges and opportunities of AI, digital participation in cultural heritage, and content moderation.

In the editorial note *Digitalization - a hot research topic for students*, Anna-Karin Rabe and Biyanto Rebin highlight common themes in ALM student works published in 2023. The Department of ALM at Uppsala University offers two master programmes, one in ALM (Archives, Libraries and Museums) and one in Digital Humanities. Across these programs Rabe and Rebin have identified a broad interest in digital technologies, through master theses covering themes of digital access, social media, virtualization, strategies and implementation.

This issue's two peer-reviewed research articles by Rikard Friberg von Sydow and Simone Magaard, Daniel Markus and Ann-Sofie Klareld both make inquiries into contemporary issues and their implications when looking

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towards the information future, albeit on two fairly different topics.

In “A Conspiracy of Lost Content” The Case of “Q” and QAnon, Friberg von Sydow engage with the question of preservation in the digital age. The author engages with the question of how we are to preserve networks of linked information on the internet without ending up with dysfunctional copies full of broken links and empty add spaces. The article particularly focuses on the case of QAnon, which is a movement central to recent political events, most notably the storming of the United States Capitol in Washington DC in 2022. In its notoriety, it is also a movement that has been banned and deplatformed from central social network platforms, making it vulnerable from an archival and preservation perspective. In the article, Friberg von Sydow explores the question of what we need to preserve about an Internet based movement such as QAnon in order to understand it in retrospect. Furthermore, how do we go about preserving knowledge about gaps in these networks that arise when the links that make up the network’s nodes are broken? As deplatforming becomes an increasingly more common societal response to groups spreading misinformation and disinformation, we risk losing our ability to study these groups and movements. Friberg von Sydow looks at the future implications of a contemporary example of information loss while Magaard, Markus and Klareld shines a light on the implications of new types of information being recorded.

Today, there is a number of providers of DNA testing on the market, allowing anyone to purchase an insight into their identity or heritage through a mapping of their genetic lineage and connections. In *Genomic privacy? Direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies’ and the processing of sensitive personal data* Magaard, Markus and Klareld investigates privacy aspects of direct-to-consumer genetic testing (DTCGT), focusing on the providers’ adherence to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The authors study GDPR adherence, transparency and consent in the privacy policies of the companies *MyHeritage*, *FamilyTreeDNA* and *MyDNA*. Additionally, the authors explore the conceptual relationship between the right to privacy and data protection. Furthermore, they engage with the peculiarities of privacy when it comes to genetic information, which is shared between several individuals. DNA is personal information not only for the person buying

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a direct-to-consumer genetic test but also their relatives, past present and future. Implications of DTCGT services were a topic featured in last year's issue of *Tidskrift för ABM* as well, where Widholm and Andersson (2022) explored the implications of DNA testing for the relationship between genealogists and archival institutions. The article by Magaard, Markus and Klareld further illustrates the many aspects of genetic information to pay attention to, now and looking ahead.

Another type of information that is a major component in contemporary ideas of information futures is AI generated content. General use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become less and less of a distant future and speculation around the directions of AI technologies going forward are livelier than ever. A recent example the launch of the virtual assistant ChatGPT by the company OpenAI and the debate about use of AI generated writing in higher education and academia. In *Challenges or Opportunities: When Artificial Intelligence is Applied to Digital Humanities*, Haoyue Zhao explores these challenges through a review of ChatGPT4. The author provides the AI tool with a prompt to write a 2000-word text on Digital Humanities. In this essayistic review of AI, the author delves into both the challenges and opportunities of AI and the nature of the Digital Humanities as a field. While an initial look at the text provided by ChatGPT4 may look sound, Zhao notes inconsistencies and issues in both form and content. Zhao concludes that while some challenges in the AI's performance may be more easily solved, like the formatting of references, other deeper issues connected to creativity and ethics remain dependent on human interference.

Tidskrift för ABM is a journal published by the Department of ALM at Uppsala University and these past two years, the department celebrated three colleagues defending their dissertations, Amalia Juneström, Inge Zwart and Ina-Maria Jansson. In this issue, Juneström and Jansson publish summaries of their PhD theses.

Juneström's PhD thesis, *Content Moderation and Fact-Checking: A Study of Journalists' Information Practices in the Contemporary News Media Landscape*, is a compilation thesis of four articles on content moderation and fact-checking amongst journalists and media professionals.

Jansson's PhD thesis, *A Past for Everyone? Digital Participation as Method for Democratic Cultural Heritage Production*, is a compilation thesis of four articles. Across the

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articles Jansson explores digital participation around cultural heritage collections in relation to democratic ideals and inclusivity.

Both Juneström's and Jansson's thesis work, just as the other contributions to the 2023 issue, identify central aspects of the many possible information futures ahead. We will likely face increasingly complex information landscapes with new and old kinds of information, each with seemingly endless possibilities along with great challenges. The themes of the ephemeral character of digital information, how to deal with difficult content in the digital space and the usefulness and imagined dangers of AI will probably continue to occupy our thoughts in the near future. So will the push and pull of access versus privacy, inclusivity versus moderation, and other themes that are not new to the digital space but takes on new meanings in new mediums. This issue of *Tidskrift för ABM* aims to serve as inspiration for further exploration of this vast and engaging topic.

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