In view of the growing interest for digital methods in the study of style, the SIG "Digital Literary Stylistics" (SIG-DLS) was officially approved by the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO) at its SC Annual General Meeting at DH 2017 on 6 August 2017 in Montreal.

The SIG-DLS is dedicated to providing a core DH service – enabling cutting-edge research at the interface of hermeneutic and "computational" communities. As such, it offers a space where the aesthetics- and hermeneutics-oriented approaches to style can interact with the computational ones. While it puts a focus on literary style, it is a platform fostering the study of style in any type of discourse, register, and genre. It maintains a cross-discourse comparative perspective. It supports approaches of (critical and theory-based) tool adaptation between Digital Literary Stylistics and domains of quantitative and algorithmic language processing.

Its mission is to bring together researchers from different perspectives to discuss theoretical, methodological and technical issues; share resources; instigate new research; and organize events and initiatives.

Overview of the activities carried out by the SIG-DLS Steering Committee since its approval

1. The SIG-DLS was present at the conveners’ meeting at DH2017 on 8 August 2017 in Montreal and held a first members’ meeting at DH2017.

2. We elected a Steering Committee consisting of Berenike Herrmann (speaker), Natalie Houston, Francesca Frontini, Jan Rybicki and Christof Schöch.

3. The initial membership included 30 scholars. At the time of writing, the SIG-DLS has 65 members from different national, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, with a wide array of research interests within our field: https://dls.hypotheses.org/about/organisation

4. We put in place a mailing list for communicating within the DLS community, see http://lists.lists.digitalhumanities.org/mailman/listinfo/sig-dls. At present, it has 95 subscribers.

5. We created a website with a beautiful logo, see: https://dls.hypotheses.org/. It is hosted by the open access scholarly blogging platform hypotheses.org.

6. We collected, edited and published the “Stylometry Bibliography” with more than 3,400 entries on Zotero. See the bibliography here: https://www.zotero.org/groups/643516/stylometry_bibliography/ and an accompanying blog post here: https://dragonfly.hypotheses.org/1093.

7. The SIG-DLS will be represented at the annual SIG conveners’ meeting, to be held at DH2018 in Mexico City on 26 June 2018. Also, the SIG-DLS will hold a members’ meeting at DH2018 in Mexico City.

8. A full-day workshop submitted to DH2018 has received the endorsement of the SIG and was accepted for the program. It is organized by Greta Franzini, Mike Kestemont, Marco Büchler, and Enrique Manjavacas and is about “The re-creation of Harry Potter: Tracing style and content across novels, movie scripts and fanfiction”.

9. The SIG-SC has worked on the concept of a “stylathon”, a technical/theoretical challenge or a shared task to be conducted, see +Concept “Stylathon” SIG-DLS
10. We have undertaken a variety of outreach activities. This includes introducing the SIG-DLS at national and international conferences, liaising with other, relevant initiatives such as IGEL, PALA or the COST Action on “Distant Reading”, as well as presence on twitter (hashtags #sig_dls #sig-dls #sig #dls), and a blogging initiative.

11. The SIG-DLS blog is a space in which DLS-members introduce methods, resources and report on events https://dls.hypotheses.org/dls-blog. The blog posts are curated by the SC, and distributed via the mailing list and twitter.

12. To coordinate the activities, the Steering Committee held several Skype meetings to coordinate work. These meetings took place on 16 August 2017 and 29 September 2017. Additional skype meetings for sub tasks such as the logo creation and workshop organization were held in November and December 2017. The next Skype meeting is scheduled for 18 May 2018. In addition, the SC coordinated work via email and shared documents (Dropbox).

Basel, 18 April 2018
On behalf of the Steering Committee
J. Berenike Herrmann