Call for Papers

Children’s Literature and Digital Humanities

Special issue *The Lion and the Unicorn*

In recent years, Digital Humanities has had a big impact on the field of literary studies as a whole and digital approaches are now also making their way to children’s literature studies. Moreover, various large digitisation projects have made more literary archives available than ever before. This special issue aims to show the state of the field on the current scholarship that uses digital tools for the analysis of children’s literature, reflect on methodological innovations and limitations, and highlight avenues for further research. Articles may address completed analysis with conclusions or may discuss projects in progress with a focus on data collection, methods, research questions and/or digital tools used for the project. We welcome articles that examine data sets or digital holdings compiled by the author, but also articles that work with existing digital archives or datasets compiled by others. This issue is guest edited by Rebekah Fitzsimmons, Vanessa Joosen and Paavo Van der Eecken.

We welcome abstracts for articles on the following topics:

* Digital archives of children’s books, including digitization projects either in progress or complete
* Methodological opportunities and challenges in applying DH to children’s literature
* Macroanalytic approaches to children’s literature (with a focus on e.g. canonisation, cultural change, diversity)
* Topic modeling and children’s books
* Stylometric approaches to children’s literature
* Network analysis and children’s literature (both content analysis and network analyses of the field)
* Digital analyses of visuals in children’s books
* Digital scholarly editing of children’s books
* Digital mapping projects addressing children’s literature, culture or other metacritical analysis
* Digital analysis of children’s culture, media, websites, fan communities, or other online spaces
* Bridging the gap between computational approaches to children’s literature and the dissemination of results to a wide audience, including using digital archives and methods in the classroom
* Digital tools to organize and facilitate children’s literature research

Send 400-word abstracts and short bios to childlit@uantwerpen.be before 15 March 2023. Selected authors will be notified by 15 April. Submissions should be in the range of 4000 to 8000 words (although we will also consider shorter, forum-length essays, especially on digital archives, collections, or other resources that would be ripe for future DH work). Accepted articles are due by 1 July 2023. All papers will be subjected to peer review. Accepted articles will appear in *The Lion and the Unicorn*, vol. 48, no. 2 (2024). All submissions should follow the style guidelines posted on the *Lion and the Unicorn* website including the MLA 9 edition guidelines.