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GrinUGR: dynamic digital project on Humanities and Social Sciences

Esteban Romero Frías



The [GrinUGR](#) project, launched by the University of Granada (UGR) in 2011, is designed to offer a virtual meeting place for those interested in today's digital cultures – a place for reflection, from both the academic and the citizenship perspective. The project offers an open platform for those interested in the new paradigm of the digital society. It focuses on taking positive action that fosters an academic culture that is free, trans-disciplinary and collaborative in nature, based on a clear vision for knowledge transfer, social innovation and entrepreneurship.

In early 2013 the GrinUGR initiative received approval for a project entitled 'Digital Humanities and Social Sciences: Case studies, management and business models', in the II CEI BioTic Open Call for Research and Development Projects. Awarded CEI funding of €23,000, the project brought together an impressive blend of researchers from a range of disciplines at the UGR, together with support from researchers from other centres, both Spanish

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([Escuela de Organización Industrial](#), [Universidad Internacional de Andalucía](#) and foreign ([Oxford Internet Institute](#), [e-Humanities Group](#) and [CulturePlex](#)).

The overall aim of the project was to analyse the current state of digital humanities and social sciences in the Spanish and Latin American context, with a view to foster emerging academic practices at the UGR, in Spain, and in Latin American countries. The three pillars of Digital HSS are: (1) identification and analysis of digital projects; (2) identification and analysis of research centres; and (3) identification of business models and ways of stimulating knowledge transfer in this field. These three pillars are underpinned by the GrinUGR project, which helps to create and sustain a wide-reaching community that acts as a driver for future projects.

2013 and 2014: two years of intense work

The last two years have witnessed much progress, consolidating the project across international social networks and developing the projects and research already under way. Here we provide a brief summary of some of the key activities and results to date.

We have organized a range of talks and sessions at the UGR on diverse topics related to the project, for instance: [Entrepreneurs on the Internet](#), [Gamification and Entrepreneurship](#), [Disseminating the Sciences in the Digital Age](#), [Health 2.0](#), [Culture, Music and the Internet](#) and [Google Glass](#)(see also [Twitter](#), [media reports](#) and [photography and video](#)).



Presentation of Google Glass at the University of Granada (13 November 2013)

Longer events have included:

- **GrinWeek**, a week of Internet open learning at the UGR: [first edition](#) and [second edition](#).
- **Learning Week** to run in parallel with the University of Stanford's [Learning Analytics Seminar](#).
- **I Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Conference** at the UGR (see the [impact on social networks](#), and [photographs](#) of the event), with a new event in the pipeline for 2014, organized in collaboration with the University of Malaga and entitled *Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades Digitales del Sur* ('Digital Humanities and Social Sciences from the South').
- **THATCamp UGR 2013** (see Twitter and [photography](#)), an 'unconference' hosted by the UGR addressing current issues in the fields of social sciences, humanities and technology.

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A snapshot of the results of the project

Generating collaborative networks

Thanks to CEI BioTic funding we have been able to generate a significant network of contacts that are proving invaluable to GrinUGR and the UGR itself. Participation in major international conferences such as **HASTAC Conference 2013**, **I Congreso Internacional de Humanidades Digitales**

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Hispánicas, Digital Humanities Conference 2013, and the II Encuentro de Humanidades Digitales, and visits to the Digital Humanities Department of King's College London and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (under the auspices of the [Network of Digital Humanities](#)), have all contributed significantly to GrinUGR's growing network.

Key products

Two of the key products to have emerged from the project to date are the Atlas of Digital Humanities and Social Sciences (*Atlas de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades Digitales*) and a new book.

The former initiative provides an infrastructure designed to bring together researchers, projects and centres from Latin America, Spain and Portugal, with a view to raising their visibility on an international scale.

All of the data are covered by Creative Commons Licenses and may be downloaded in CSV format. Anybody wishing to collaborate and get involved with the project is very welcome – for more information please click [here](#).

Meanwhile, a new book was launched in May 2014, entitled '[Digital Social Sciences and Humanities: Techniques, tools and experiences in collaborative e-research](#)'. Coordinated by Esteban Romero and María Sánchez, the book is available via Creative Commons license and is among the first such publications in Spanish. Writer-collaborators include authors from both sides of the Atlantic, and the prologue was provided by Paul Spence of King's College London and Nuria Rodríguez, Vice President of the Asociación de Humanidades Digitales Hispánicas.

For more information on the full range of conferences, papers, interviews and presentations delivered under the project, the following link provides a more complete overview: [GrinUGR activity overview](#). Please contact Esteban Romero (erf@ugr.es; twitter [@polisea](#)) for further information.

Si desea enviar un artículo, solicitar información o emitir alguna sugerencia puede realizarlo a través del siguiente correo electrónico:

ceigranada@ugr.es

If you would like to send us an article for inclusion, request further information or send comments or suggestions, please contact us at the following address:

ceigranada@ugr.es

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