

**Editorial**

16 issues of Digithum. On the threshold of a new challenge

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The journal *Digithum* has published its sixteenth issue, which on this occasion is devoted to “New Speakers of Minority Languages: Belonging and Legitimacy” and coordinated by Dr Maite Puigdevall from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. The dossier has an introductory piece written by the coordinator and four articles. The first, by Fernando Ramallo and Bernadette O’Rourke, is entitled “Profiles of New Speakers of Galician”. The second, by John Walsh and Bernadette O’Rourke, again, is entitled “Becoming a New Speaker of Irish: Linguistic *Mudes* Throughout the Life Cycle”. The third, by Tulay Martínez, is entitled “Constructing Inequalities in Bilingual Spaces: Teaching Catalan to Female Immigrants”. The fourth and final article is by the researchers Ane Ortega, Estibaliz Amorrortu, Jone Goirigolzarri, Jacqueline Urla and Belen Uranga and is entitled “New Basque speakers: linguistic identity and legitimacy”.

Over the last year, alongside preparation of the dossier, *Digithum* has undergone an intense process of review and improvement with the aim of continuing along the same lines that it set out on some years ago and becoming a top quality academic journal. This process has focused, above all, on detailed analysis of all the indicators linked to the editorial standards and publication processes that characterize an international academic journal. The journal’s editorial team would like to thank the Digital Communications department at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya for their professionalism and rigor as they accompanied us in this long and intense process. We would also like to highlight our satisfaction at having been able to meet practically all of the more than fifty criteria set.

As well as this process to improve the journal’s quality, *Digithum*’s editorial team and the directors of the Arts and Humanities Department also reflected on the editorial line. Based on assessment of the journal to date and analysis of the

current context, the decision was taken to adjust the line. While maintaining the identity that has characterized the journal from the start and its mission to be a journal on the arts and humanities in a world where digital technologies are present in all the processes to produce and manage knowledge, we aim now to strive further, in terms of the University’s pioneering spirit and the Arts and Humanities Department’s aspirations, and play a leading role in analysing and reflecting on the changing spheres of knowledge and research in the fields of the humanities and social sciences. This then will be the focus for all our energies and efforts here at *Digithum* as an academic journal.

The first task in this new phase, to be headed by Dr Natàlia Cantó, aims to increase the journal’s prestige in academic circles, which involves focusing its subject area more clearly. By adopting the subtitle “Experimenting with Arts and Humanities”, *Digithum* wants to explore the role of the arts and humanities as a working methodology inherent in interdisciplinary projects. In the next few years, the journal aims to become a benchmark publication in the field, which will require deeper investigation and a theoretical and critical reworking of its foundational perspective.

The arts and humanities are currently experiencing a reorientation in different directions and they are trying to find their place both within and beyond universities. Concepts and practices such as interdisciplinarity, open science and citizen science (in terms of opening up to participation and co-creation) are becoming key to thinking about science and the production of knowledge in the future. *Digithum* wants, thus, to become an academic platform for sharing experiences and projects, and for sharing the new knowledge that is now blossoming (and which will only do so more in the near future) in this context and specifically at the point where arts and humanities meet for dialogue and interrelation with other disciplines in the production of knowledge.



<http://digithum.uoc.edu>

We are particularly interested in empirical and theoretical research which, from the fields of social sciences, education, natural sciences and technologies, incorporate the arts and humanities into their processes to create and disseminate knowledge.

We would like to make the most, then, of these fifteen years of experience and effort to improve the journal's quality. We want

to renew the proposal to make it an open forum for reflection and debate on a still emerging area – an area in which *Digithum*, the Arts and Humanities Department and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya have to act as points of reference.

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