Digital Culture

The Digital Culture research cluster at the Royal School of Library and Information Science at the University of Copenhagen consists of individuals and groups whom together are concerned with the internet, new media, and digital technologies and the roles they play in society, media, culture, business, politics, the arts, and everyday life.

The digital information society poses significant changes and challenges to communication, accessing information, and interaction among people and with institutions. This new digital culture challenges power relations, authorities, the relations between users and institutions, and the separation of the private and public spheres. Research in this area focuses on society at large, specific institutions, practices, and people and the interactions with and use of new digital media. Research in the cluster consists of both analytic and critical analyses as well as empirical investigations of the political, ethical, and conceptual ramifications generated by the digital information society. The goals are to produce questions, insights, critiques and knowledge that shape information practices, policies, public debates, and research on the future of the information society.

Research Themes

Members of the research cluster have a broad set of research interests within the umbrella theme of Digital Culture, some of the themes that are intertwined in scholarship in the cluster includes:

- **Digital play and work**: this theme addresses the competences, literacies, abilities, capacities that citizens in the digital information society face in leisure, work, play and interactions with public institutions. The digital information society requires a specific skillset and unique understandings regarding accessing, using, understanding, and creating information, solving problems, entrepreneurship, and acting digitally responsible.

- **Digital media practices**: this theme explores the changes in social practice caused/shaped by the Internet, digital media, and technologies in general and at a more specific level by asking questions to how digital cultures, understandings, literacies, and practices are fashioned via the employment of databases, search engines, algorithms, and other information infrastructures.

- **Young people’s digital activities and environments**: this theme focuses on how learning environments, reading, play, institutions, social interactions, etc. increasingly become facilitated and mediated via digital media and information technology and asks empirical as well as analytic questions to the consequences and transformations shaped by this digitalization.

- **Digital societies**: this theme studies the political and historical transformation of the information society and analyses the foundation of the digital information society by exploring conceptual notions such as information, knowledge, and data, and practices such as trusting information, surveillance, and producing, organizing, searching, sharing, and presenting information.
**Members**

Members of the cluster have, in various constellations, collaborated on projects for a number of years. Members of the cluster currently consists of:

**Jack Andersen**, associate professor  
**Interests:** Genre theory, digital media, communication studies, search engines, knowledge organization.

**Gitte Balling**, associate professor  
**Interests:** Digital reading, Digital youth, Cultural communication, Cultural Policy, E-books.

**Volkmar Engerer**, associate professor  
**Interests:** history of information science; relations of information science to linguistics; thesauri.

**Jens Gudiksen**, lecturer  
**Interests:** Social philosophy, Theory of science, Cultural studies in general.

**Niels-Peder Osmundsen Hjøllund**, PhD student  
**Interests:** Digital youth, digital/information/media literacies, digital media, identity formation, theories of subjectivity.

**Helene Høyrup**, associate professor  
**Interests:** digital literacy; digital learning; learning institutions and digitality; theories of children’s literature.

**Sara Jensen**, external lecturer  
**Interests:**

**Beth Juncker**, professor with special responsibilities  
**Interests:** Digital Youth, Cultural Policy, Cultural Communication and Dissemination, the Meaning of Aesthetics in Everyday Life and in Children and Young People’s meetings with art, media and culture.

**Steffen Knak-Nielsen**, lecturer  
**Interests:**

**Lars Konzak**, associate professor  
**Interests:** Digital literacy, digital culture, game studies, transmediality, social media.

**Michael Kristiansson**, associate professor  
**Interests:** Entrepreneurship literacy, knowledge management, information policy.

**Jens-Erik Mai**, professor and research cluster leader  
**Interests:** information ethics, privacy, surveillance, knowledge organization, philosophy of information.

**Camilla Moring**, associate professor  
**Interests:** Information literacies, digital literacies, information practices, social learning, organizational learning.

**Trine Schreiber**, associate professor  
**Interests:** Information literacies, digital literacies, e-learning, information practices, social practices.
Laura Skouvig, associate professor
*Interests:* information history, history of the information society, surveillance, philosophy of information.

Sille Obelitz Søe, PhD student
*Interests:* philosophy of information, information quality, misinformation, disinformation, philosophy of language.

Torkild Thellefsen, associate professor
*Interests:*

**Current Projects**

*Big Data, Small Meaning, Global Discourses* (2015-2016) Funded by: *Einar Hansens Forskningsfond*. This research network seeks to explore further and deeper collaboration between researchers at Lund University and University of Copenhagen, with the particular focus of understanding big data within a humanistic approach to information studies. PI and co-PIs: Jens-Erik Mai, Jack Andersen, Camilla Moring, Trine Schreibler, and Laura Skouvig.

*Digital dannelse - Kultur, læring, information* [Digital Literacy - Culture, Learning, and Information] (2015-2016) Supported by the *Danish Agency for Culture* [Kulturstyrelsen]. The project investigates ecologies of learning and embedded librarianship in the light of digital media. PIs: Helene Høyrup and Lars Konzack.

*Evolution of Reading in age of digitisation* (COST-action E-READ) (2014-2018) Funded by: *COST (European Cooperation in Science and technology)*. Based on a multidimensional, integrative model of reading, and combining paradigms from experimental sciences with perspectives (e.g., diachronic) from the humanities, the Action will develop new research paradigms, and metrics for assessing the impact of digitization on reading. These metrics enable the development of evidence-based knowledge of paper and screen reading, and provide guidance for practitioners, policy makers, publishers and designers. PI: Anne Mangen, NO.

*Global and Local Knowledge Organization* (2015) Funded by: *The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation*. This event explores the interrelations and possibilities in global and local issues and tensions between the globalization of information exchange and the localization of meaning-making and ethics. The long-term goal is to establish an international research network to explore global and local issues in knowledge organization. PI: Jens-Erik Mai. More information: [http://www.glocalko.info](http://www.glocalko.info).

*Nordic Childhoods in Transformation - Methodology for new understandings* (2015-2018). Funded by: *Nordplus Høyre utdanning 2015*. The Project investigates existing understandings of childhood in order to renew our knowledge of the diversity of children and adolescents' cultural participation and how we study it. Another object is to create an intensive course at master's degree level to increase the competence of those studying to work with children and to encourage master's students to engage in further research (at PhD level). Another objective is to strengthen and combine the different contributions from the intensive course to find innovative ways of promoting more interdisciplinary

**National and International Collaboration**

*Academic collaborators:* LUIQ - Lund University Information Quality ([www.luiq.lu.se](http://www.luiq.lu.se)) | KDW - Knowledge in a Digital World ([www.kdw.lu.se](http://www.kdw.lu.se)) | BIN-Norden - Nordic researchers in child culture and children's culture | DYRN - Digital iSchool Youth Research Network | The International Information Literacies Research Network | Centre for Communication and Computing ([www.ccc.ku.dk](http://www.ccc.ku.dk)).

*Industrial and non-academic collaborators:* Rambøll Management Consulting A/S | The Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) | NOKUT, quality Assurance and Enhancement in Norwegian Education | Danish Agency for Culture.

**Activities**

- Four annual cluster meetings.
- Ad hoc research meetings with specific foci (e.g. presentations by PhD students, project applications, development of research themes, etc.) as needed.

**Selected recent publications**


Kristiansson, M.R. (2014). Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship teaching in a knowledge management perspective. Keynote at the 10th International Conference on Knowledge Management 2014,


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