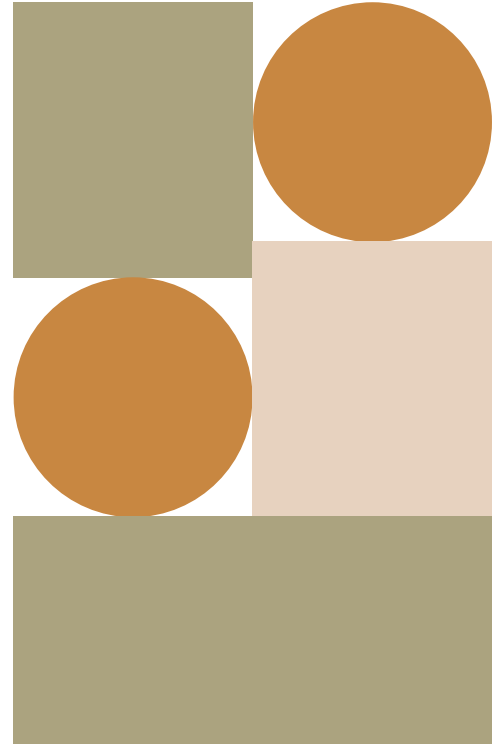


In-person, Remote, or Hybrid? **Planning a Conference that** **Works for All**

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Digital Humanities Institute

The Digital Humanities Institute (DHI) is a conference that brings together digital humanities enthusiasts from across the state of North Carolina to discuss digital pedagogy, digital research methods, and digital projects.

DHI during the
COVID-19 pandemic:



2020

Virtual



2021

Virtual



2022

Hybrid



Virtual

Virtual events allow people from all over the country to attend, but may not be as engaging.



In-Person

In-person events offer opportunities for networking, but not all are able to attend.



Hybrid

Live streaming of an in-person event increases access, but can be plagued by technical problems.



New Hybrid

Offer both wholly virtual and wholly in-person options to get the best of both formats.

Hybrid schedule of events

Virtual sessions

- Virtual, asynchronous engagement opportunities leading up to the event via Lightning Talks [video playlist](#) and corresponding [discussion board](#)
- A full day of live, virtual sessions
- Ended with a live, virtual plenary session

In-person events

- In-person meet-ups throughout the state to facilitate networking



Challenges & Solutions

In-person inconsistencies

Challenge: Some of the in-person meet-ups were less planned and thus less attended.

Solution: Provide more structure and oversight to collaborators.

Zoom room settings

Challenge: Zoom room settings varied by session (e.g., enabling chat for participants).

Solution: Triple check settings with the technical support team, since multiple people helped set up.

Lower attendance

Challenge: There was lower attendance for the Friday virtual session (while Thursday sessions were fairly well attended).

Solution: Cause is unclear, but it would help to clarify to attendees which sessions will be recorded.

Feedback

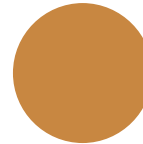
Attendees appreciated

- Flexibility this version of hybrid offered
- Communication on logistics before and after the event (reminder emails, follow-up survey)

Participation

- Recordings of presentations, especially the lightning talks, were highly viewed (295 views)
- There was a fair amount of engagement with the online discussion board that accompanied the lightning talks

“The hybrid with an in-person component was a great way to do it. It made attending a 2 day event easier for me, but I still got the chance to meet and interact with some people in person in order to forge new connections and potential collaborations.”



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