Full-Time Studies   Semester 1, 2
SUMMER SCHOOL

Module 2 European Studies through Digital Historical Developments

Practical workshop No. 1

Topic 1: Exploring Digital Repositories of Historical Texts

Part 1: The Role and Importance of Digital Repositories in Historical Research

1. **Definition and Significance of Digital Repositories**
   o How digital archives **preserve and provide access to historical texts**.
   o The role of **digitization in protecting cultural heritage**.
2. **Major European Digital Repositories of Historical Texts**
   o **Europeana**: A comprehensive digital archive of European cultural and historical texts.
   o **The European Library**: Access to historical manuscripts from national libraries.
   o **Gallica (French National Library), Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek, and British Library Digital Collections**.
3. **Technologies Used in Digital Repositories**
   o **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)** for digitizing handwritten and printed texts.
   o **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP)** for text analysis.
   o **Metadata and linked open data** for cross-referencing historical records.
4. **Challenges in Digital Preservation of Historical Texts**
   o **Data integrity and long-term digital storage** concerns.
   o **Copyright and accessibility restrictions** on historical documents.
   o **Ensuring authenticity and preventing digital alterations**.

Part 2: Practical Applications and Future Innovations in Digital Historical Repositories

1. **How Researchers and Educators Use Digital Archives**
   o Analyzing **historical trends through big data and AI-driven text mining**.
   o Creating **interactive educational resources** using historical texts.
   o Facilitating **multilingual and cross-border research collaborations**.
2. **Crowdsourcing and Public Engagement in Digital Archiving**
   o **Citizen history projects** for transcribing and annotating historical documents.
   o The impact of **Wikipedia, Wikisource, and other open-source historical text repositories**.
   o How public contributions improve **text accuracy and historical interpretation**.
3. **Blockchain and AI in Digital Text Preservation**
   o **Blockchain for document authenticity** and tracking edits in historical texts.
   o AI-powered **text restoration and handwriting recognition** for ancient manuscripts.
   o The future of **virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR)** for interactive historical archives.
4. **The Future of Digital Repositories in Historical Research**
   o Expanding **cross-border digital archives and interlibrary networks**.
   o Improving **open-access policies for historical documents**.
   o Strengthening **data ethics and cybersecurity in digital heritage preservation**.