



DigiFolk

Making Connections

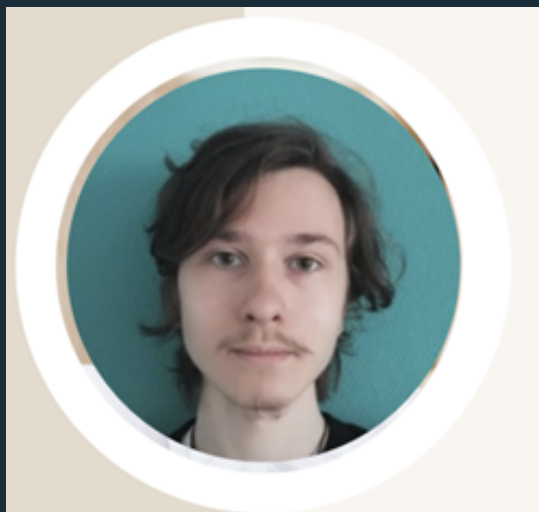
21 June 2023

Seven months into our project, we were invited to present DigiFolk to the Rector of the University of Groningen; Prof. Cisca Wijmenga. DigiFolk was chosen as an exemplary project for forging connections between cities: Nicosia (Cyprus), Belgrade (Serbia), Ankara (Turkey), and Groningen (the Netherlands), between academic disciplines: psychology, social linguistics, sociology, education and culture, digital technology, and cultural geography, as well as between communities: like for example between the academic community and local communities, and between students, educators, researchers, and practitioners.

NEWSLETTER #4

Making connections is one of the priorities of the University of Groningen. Professor Wijmenga attended and contributed to the one hour presentation sharing thoughts and tips about the project and its dissemination and even contributed to the latter by tweeting about our presentation and the project. She envisioned exhibiting the digitised stories collected in Groningen at the newly established collaborative space of the University of Groningen, the 'House of Connections'





New additions to the team

DigiFolk Groningen is excited to welcome two University College Groningen students, Patrik 'Josh' Wintergerst (Year 3 student) and Arina Aladysheva (Year 2 student) who are joining us as interns for this academic semester. Josh has a strong interest in folklore as well as in intercultural communication and prior experience with curation. He is keen to explore what he calls 'curating for empathy' or 'value-based curation' (as opposed to curation serving mostly aesthetic outcomes). Arina has a strong talent in literature (winner of All-Russian school competitions in literature) and creative writing. She worked for the Nobel Peace Prize-awarded NGO, International Memorial, for which she interviews and transcribed stories from GULAG survivors. She is interested in sustainable peace building and in the power of dialogue which is very much in line with our project's approach to intergroup relations.

Josh and Arina will be reading on best practices and other relevant literature in order to produce guidelines on story curation in ways that align with the scope of our project. The guidelines Josh and Arina produce will be part of the deliverables of Work Package 4. They will be shared with all the partners to enable them to curate the collected stories in a way that is participatory and does justice to the communities whose stories are shared.



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