



DHN 2018 - Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries,
3rd Conference. Helsinki, March, 7–9, 2018

Digital Humanities Meets Literary Studies: Challenges Facing Estonian Scholarship

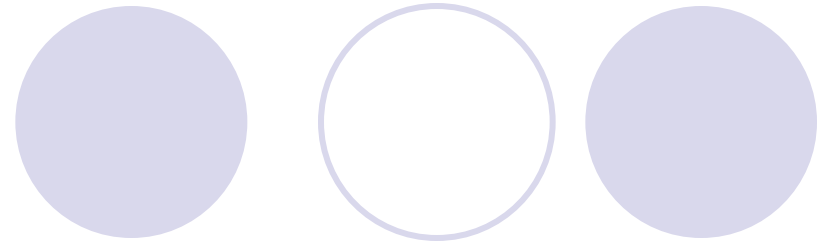
Piret Viires (Tallinn University)
Marin Laak (Estonian Literary Museum)

Aim of the presentation:



- Check out the limits and possibilities of Digital Humanities as a concept
- Determine its challenges for contemporary literary studies
- Introduce some research results and projects in literary studies done in Estonia using digital technology

Main question:



- Can Digital Humanities essentially be considered as **a tool** or **method** for **literary** research?

OR

- Is it an entirely **new approach** in literary studies, which has a potential to change literary theory significantly?

Estonian experiences:



- Since the second half of the 1990s
- Mapping and analysing new forms of literary genres in the digital environment
(*digital / electronic literature*)
- Creating and developing innovative experimental models of Estonian literary history and representing them as content-based interactive information environments



First focus of our research

- Digitally born literature
- Has been studied in Estonia since 1996
- Hypertextual poems
- Complex works of digital literature combining different media
- Literature born on social media, (e.g. twitterature, social media poetry, Alt Lit)

Hypertextual poem „Trepp“ (Stairs, 1996) by Hasso Krull

ta tormab mööda
marmorist treppe üles
üleval ootab teda
[kahe peaga](#) lohe
ta raiub maha lohe
kaks pead
nende asemele kasvab
kaks jalga
ta raiub maha jalad
kasvab kaks kätt
ta raiub maha käed
ja sinna kasvavad [silmad](#)

- <http://www.eki.ee/kodud/krull/>

Twitterature by Keiti Vilms

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter profile page for Keiti Vilms (@keitivilms). The browser address bar shows the URL <https://twitter.com/keitivilms>. The profile header includes the name "Keiti Vilms" and the handle "@keitivilms". The bio reads: "Säutsupääsuke. Kalamburist. Luuleleb. Lugeja. Johannes Aaviku Seltsi liige. #Sõnasäuts Vikerraadios T-N 7.25." The location is "Tallinn, Estonia" and the website is "rahvaraamat.ee/p/keitivilms/9...". The profile was joined in December 2011 and Keiti Vilms was born on February 16, 1983. The profile statistics show 11.4K tweets, 88 following, 5,945 followers, and 2,615 likes. The main content area displays a pinned tweet from May 9: "OLEMAS! parem raamat peos kui poes! Tõtake ostma!" with a link to a page on "rahvaraamat.ee". Below it are two other tweets: one from 3m ago saying "Kui on Proust, näita ust." and another from 1h ago saying "Suu kinni, süda jahtub ära. Ta niigi vilu. (J. Üdi) [instagram.com/p/BcF00E5B62F/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BcF00E5B62F/)". A login overlay is visible on the right side of the page, containing fields for "Have an account?", "Password", a checked "Remember me · Forgot password?" option, and buttons for "Log in" and "Sign up". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 23:01 on 29.11.2017.

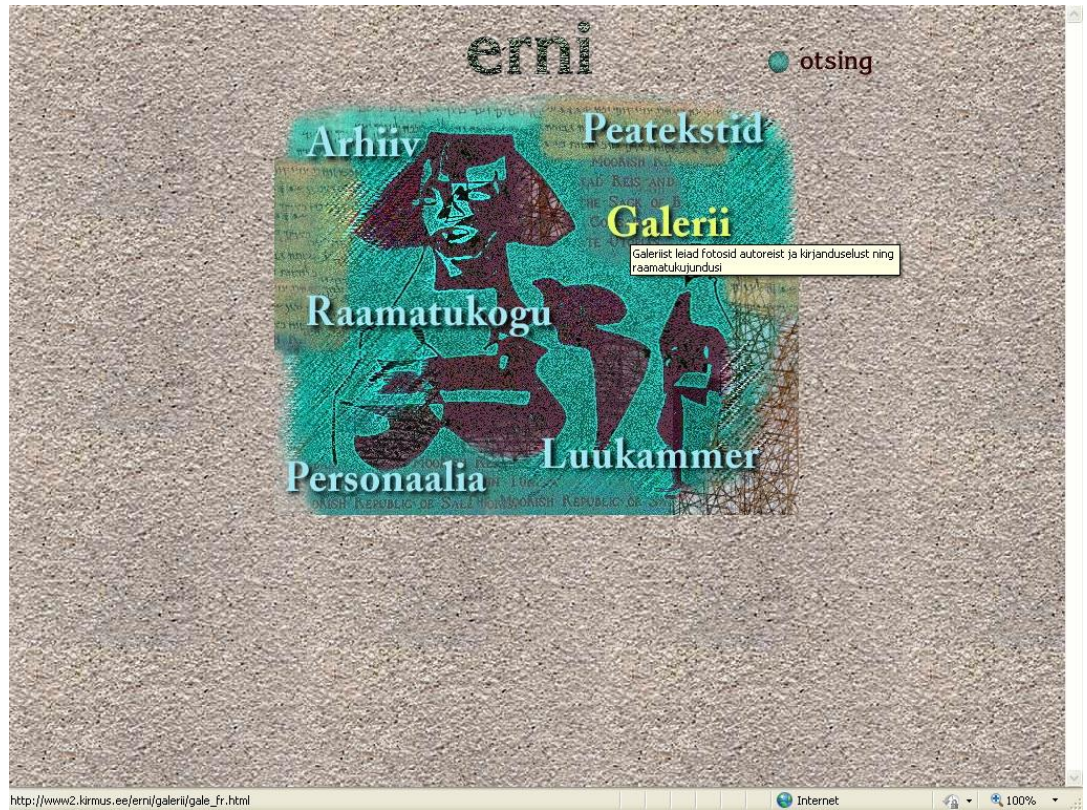
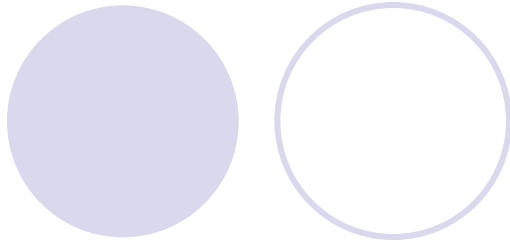


Question:

- Is Digital Humanities able to offer a new framework for analyzing digital literature?
- So far, highly varied approaches have been used:
 - 1) the studies of hypertextuality
 - 2) cybertext theory
 - 3) narratology
 - 4) trans- and intermediality
 - 5) participatory culture
 - 6) postmodernism

Second focus of our research

- Three large-scale experimental projects for digital representation of Estonian literary history in 1997–2018.
- The objective of these projects was to develop principally new models of Estonian literary history in the digital environment.
- These activities were based on the research of (intertextual) relations between authors, literary works and critical metatexts



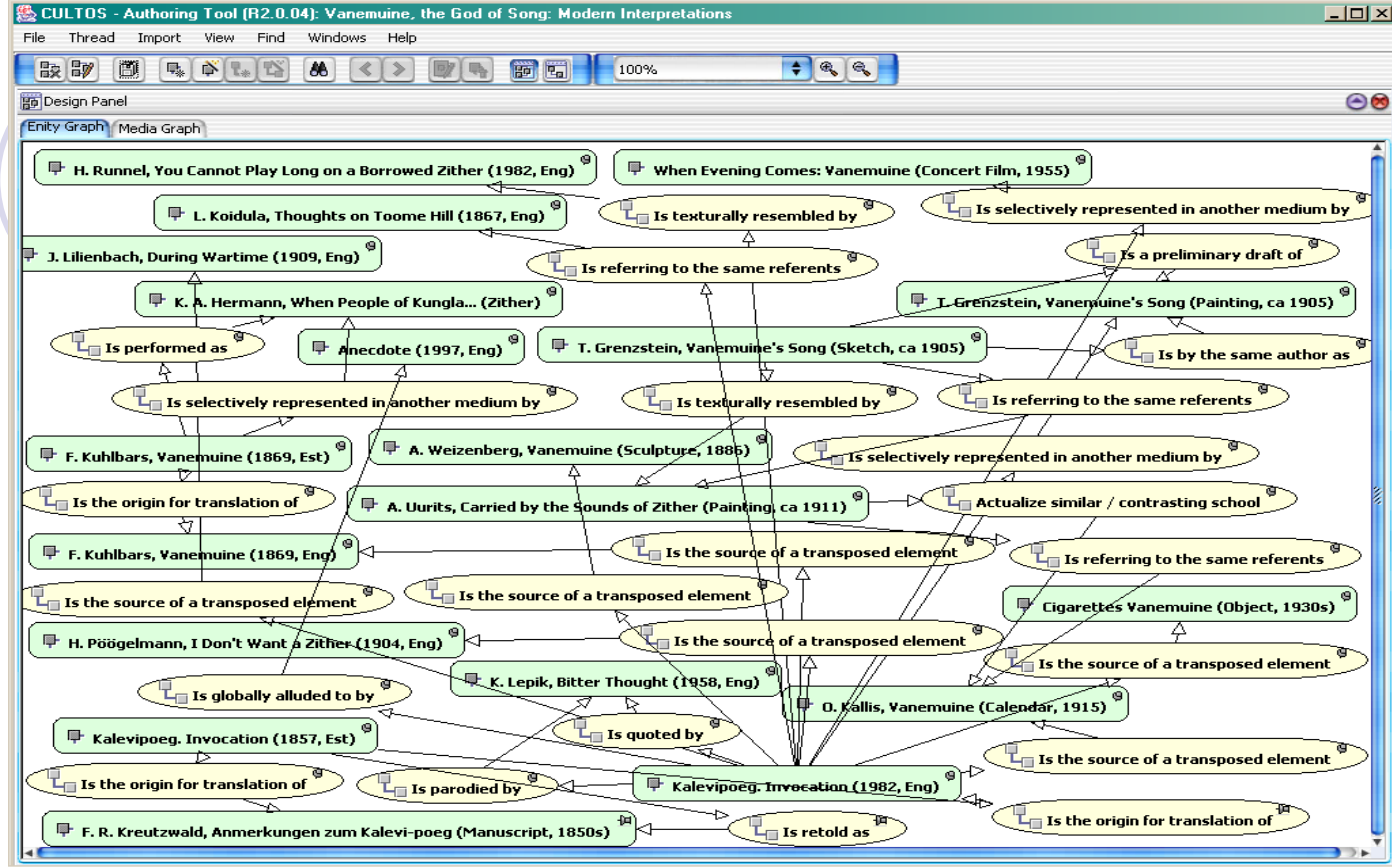
Hypertextual model
<http://www2.kirmus.ee/erni>

ERNI – Eesti kirjanduslugu tekstides 1924-25 (The Estonian Literary History in Texts)

**The first literary project of the Estonian Tiger Leap
program**

Estonian Literary Museum, Marin Laak, Piret Viires & Virve Sarapik, 1997-2001

Intertextual model of the epic



The thread „Modern interpretations of *The Kalevipoeg*“

Project „The Estonian National Epic *The Kalevipoeg* by Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald“

- project CULTOS – Cultural Units of Learning: Tools and Services (IST-2000-28134) - www.cultos.org

University of Tartu, Marin Laak & Piret Viires, 2001-2003

Relations based model

<http://kreutzwald.kirmus.ee>

Eesti Kirjandusmuuseum
ESTONIAN LITERARY MUSEUM

Kreutzwaldi sajand

EESTI KULTUURILOOLINE VEEB

The screenshot displays a grid of content categories for the website 'Kreutzwaldi sajand'. The categories are: 'Ajateljed' (Thoughts) with a network diagram; 'Raamatud' (Books) with an image of a tablet; 'Kogud' (Collections) with a list of authors and works; 'Isikuleksikon' (Biography); 'Fotod' (Photos); 'Heli' (Audio); 'Kalevipoeg' (The Kalevala); 'Noor Eesti' (Young Estonia); and 'Sündmused' (Events). Below the grid, there are three columns of text: 'Eessõna' (Foreword), 'Teated' (News), and 'Projektist' (About the Project).

Ajateljed

Raamatud

Kogud

ISIKULEKSIKON

FOTOD

HELI

KALEVIPOEG

NOOR EESTI

SÜNDMUSED

Eessõna

„Kreutzwaldi sajand“ on Eesti Kirjandusmuuseumi malupäik veebis – arenev, täienev, ideele avatud!

Veebi sisu ülesehituse keskmes on EESTI KIRJANIK. Siit leiata: isikututvustused, fotoarhiivid, teosed. Autorite valik algab Lauluisast, F. R. Kreutzwaldist, temast alates kõik 19. sajandil sündinud kirjanikud – seepärast siis „Kreutzwaldi sajand“.

Raamatud, käsikirjad, fotoarhiivid – EKM arhiividest.

NB! RAAMATUD – valiku aluseks esmatrüüdid. Lehitsejas on 3 eri formaati.

I. Piltidena - kõik esmatrüüdid (trüüksed) kuni 1924.
II. Tekstina (html) – autoriõiguste alt vabad raamatud (s.t mitte-TEOSED, üksikud jutud, luuletused kogumikest)
III. E-raamatutena - koostöö Tartu Linnaraamatukoguga

Teated

Siin on uue tarkvara testversioon – nuti-telefonidele ja tahvelarvutitele.

Siinse testversiooni sisu kantakse üle senisele „Kreutzwaldi sajandi“ aadressile: <http://kreutzwald.kirmus.ee> - siin on praegu seni töötanud versioon (arhiveeritakse).

Siin täieneb iga päevaga. Tagasiside ja teated vigadest on oodatud.

Marju Mikkel: marju@kirmus.ee

Projektist

KREUTZWALDI SAJAND – on XIX saj. ja XX sajandi I poole eesti kultuuri ajaloo veebivärv. Siit leiata kultuuriloo autentseid allikad. Materjalid KS kogudes pärinevad peamiselt Eesti Kirjandusmuuseumi arhiividest eesti Kultuuriloolisest Arhiivist ja Arhiiviraamatukogust.

IDEEST

Siinseid allikmaterjaleid on arhiividest välja toodud ja digiteeritud sisu – eesti vanem kirjanduslugu - alusel. Kui projekti esimeses etapis keskenduti „Kalevipoja“ autori F. R. Kreutzwaldi elule ja ilukirjanduslikule loomingule, siis tänaseks on kättesaadavaks tehtud kõikide Kreutzwaldi sunnisajandil, 19. sajandil sündinud eesti kirjanike elu ja looming.

AJALUGU

Projekti idee on välja kasvanud 2003. aastal J. R.

„Kreutzwaldi sajand: eesti kultuurilooline veeb“ (Kreutzwald’s Century: the Estonian Cultural History Web)

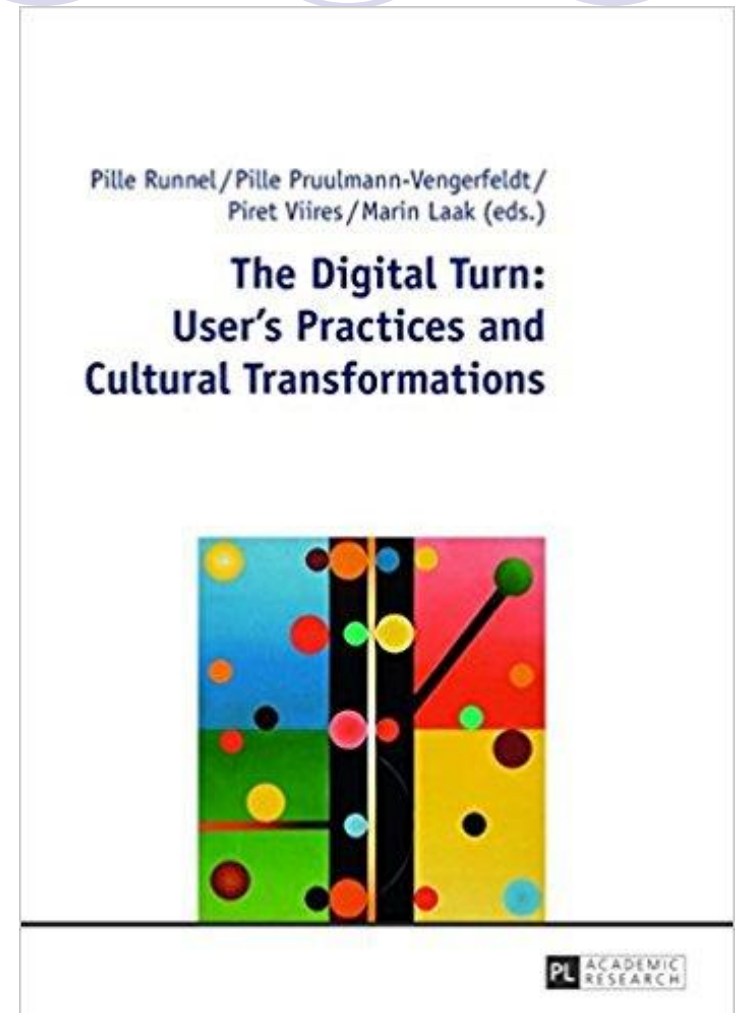
Estonian Literary Museum, Marin Laak et al, since 2004 - ...

The base of the Estonian web-projects:

- 1) Each project had its own unique literary theoretical concept.
- 2) The visualisation of textual networks was preceded by long-term research using traditional methods of literary studies:
 - Textual analysis
 - Reception aesthetics
 - Semiotics
 - Intertextuality
 -

The base of the Estonian web-projects:

- 3) The studies of new media and communication were also taken into account in cooperation with researchers of sociology of new media.
- *P. Runnel, P. Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt, P. Viires, M. Laak (eds., 2013)*
- *The Digital Turn: User's Practices and Cultural Transformations.*



Final and so far open-ended question



Can Digital Humanities essentially be considered as **a tool or method** for literary research?

- OR

Is it an entirely **new approach** in literary studies, which has a potential to change literary theory significantly?



Questions for discussion:

- Can we talk about **digital literary studies** that can be considered a new discipline in the realm of Digital Humanities?

- OR

- Can we talk about **literary studies in the digital age** that uses digital tools and methods?

A further discussion is needed for finding answers to these challenging questions.

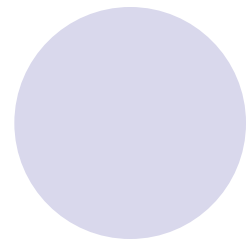
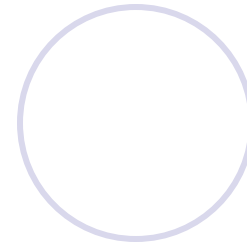
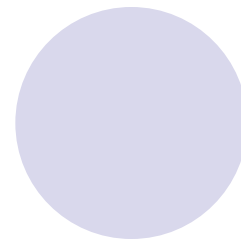
CEES  



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Investing
in your future



Thank you!



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