

**Report on Humanist  
Digital Humanities, Oulu, 2008**

**W. McCarty, Editor**

**Summary**

In its 21<sup>st</sup> year of operation, since the last report, Humanist gained a significant number of new members, growing by 113, the largest gain by far since I began tracking the yearly figures. The number of messages is up by 70, continuing what now looks to be a fairly regular sinusoidal pattern. Available data is summarized in the accompanying spreadsheet. The extensive repair of Humanist's ageing mechanisms of publication, and its move from Princeton and Virginia to an ADHO server, was not accomplished as promised but is definitely now underway and should be accomplished by this Autumn.

**Management**

Humanist is tended by one person, the Editor, with occasional help from the Assistant Editor (David Gants). In previous years the average amount of time spent daily on running Humanist was ca. 30 minutes per day, 365 days per year. During 2007-8 the workload has gone up for three reasons:

- (1) A dramatic increase in spam through the Virginia account caused an unsupportable amount of manual work, as a result of which I suspended trawling through rejected messages for the few genuine items falsely classified as spam. Consequently members have had to watch for the appearance of their postings, resubmitting as necessary.
- (2) The increasing habit of pasting formatted text from Word into postings has required an increasing amount of manual editing.
- (3) A breakdown in the archiving mechanism at Virginia now means that I must archive messages manually.

The refurbishment of Humanist (for which see below) and its move to an ADHO server promise to reduce the workload to a reasonable level once again.

Until Humanist's move, technical support is supplied by Shayne Brandon (IATH, Virginia), who once again is to be commended for his help at crucial points throughout the year. No help this year has been required from the Office of Information Technology (OIT, Princeton). IATH maintains mail relaying, message digesting and archiving functions, OIT the Listserv software.

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## **Humanist's refurbishment**

The refurbishment of Humanist now has a history.

At DH2006 both the ACH and ALLC gave strong support to an initiative for repairing Humanist's ageing mechanisms of publication and for moving these mechanisms from their current institutional homes to an ADHO server. (The problems then visible were summarized in the report for 2005-6.) During 2006-7 a survey of members was carried by Stephen Ramsay, Stéfan Sinclair and Vika Zafrin to discover if Humanist's idiosyncratic style of publication needed to be changed along with the lower-level mechanisms. Members overwhelmingly voted for continuing the current style. With the financial support of ADHO, a programmer was then engaged to carry out the work but did next to nothing, despite repeated enquiries. He resigned in early February 2008. Later that month, after consultation with ADHO, Malgosia Askanas, known widely for her efficiency and skill, was hired. She drew up a detailed plan after consultation with ADHO, began chargeable work 1 May and has been showing steady progress since then. Completion by Autumn seems highly likely.

Both Malgosia's proposal and milestone documents are attached, below. Her estimate for the work is 100 hours at a reduced fee of US \$60/hour (€40, £31) for a total of US \$6000 (€4000, £3100).

## **Membership and messages**

Statistics regarding membership and messages are given in the accompanying Excel file, `Humanist_200807.xls`, as follows:

- (1) Membership data for 2002-3 to 2007-8
- (2) Number of messages per year from 1993-4 to 2007-8
- (3) Chart of membership from 2002-3 to 2007-8 from (1)
- (4) Chart of messages per year from (2)

It is, as usual, difficult to know what these statistics indicate other than the steady, perhaps even accelerating growth in membership in the U.K., U.S. and perhaps Canada (which continues to show the highest rate of membership per capita. The chart of messages per year continues to show a puzzling sinusoidal pattern, as noted above. I can shed no further light on this variation.

## **Publication**

Humanist is a publication of the Alliance for Digital Humanities Organizations and the Office for Humanities Communication (King's College London). Since 1995-6, when Stanley N. Katz was its President, Humanist has

also been an affiliated publication of the American Council of Learned Societies, relations with which continue to be cordial but otherwise inconsequential.

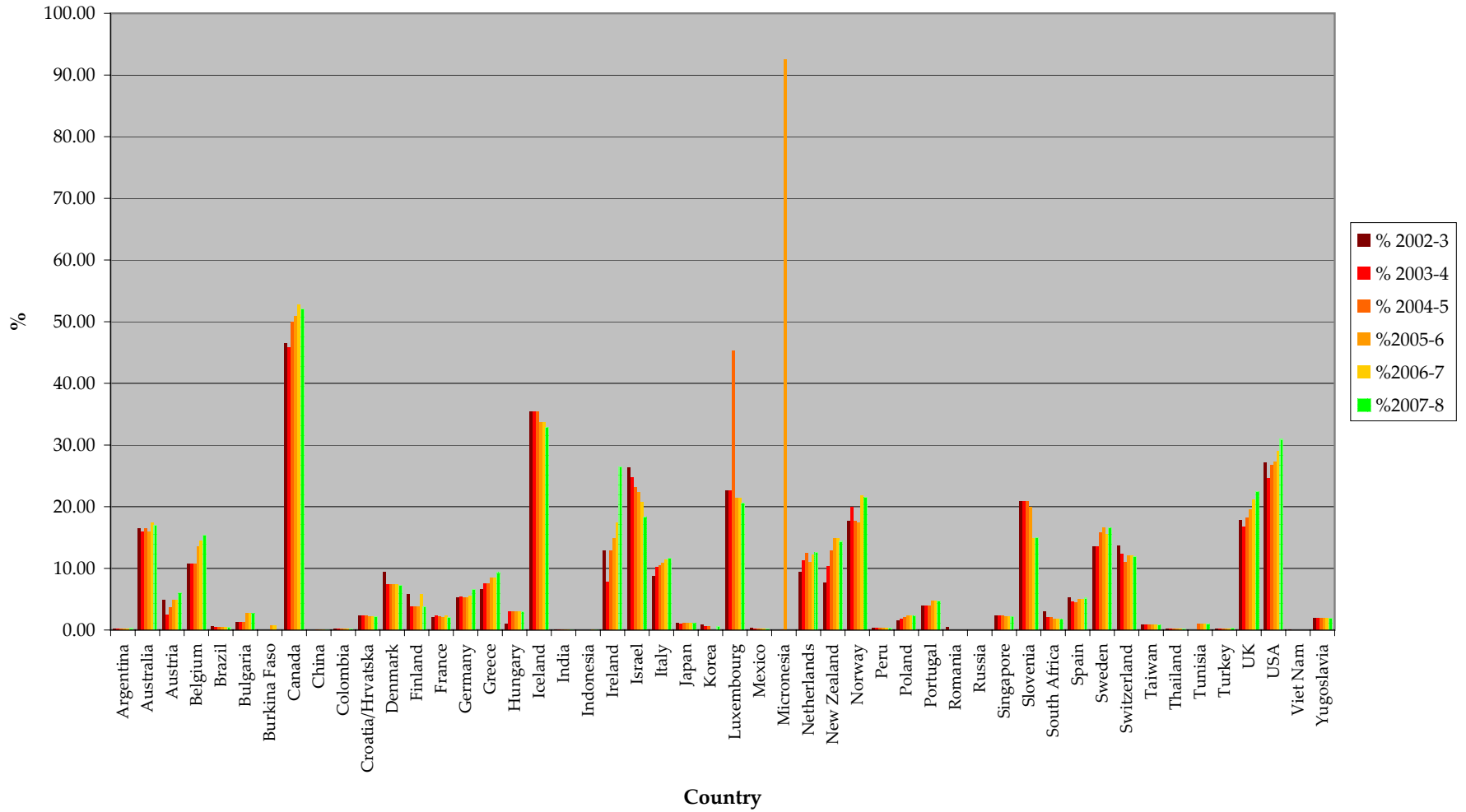
### **Coda**

Ending on a note of gratitude continues to be appropriate – to the wider, highly diverse communities of people who sustain Humanist, and so our voice in the world; more specifically, to the organizations of ADHO for their endorsement and support, which have again greatly strengthened this year.

Willard McCarty  
June 2008

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
COUNTRY	POPULATION 2002-5	POPULATION 2005-	POPULATION 2008-	POPULATION 2002-2003	% 2002-3	2003-2004	% 2003-4	2004-5	% 2004-5	2005-6	%2005-6	2006-7	%2006-7	2007-8	%2007-8	Difference from 2006-7
1	Argentina	38537843	40,677,348	1	0.26	1	0.26	1	0.26	1	0.26	1	0.25	1	0.25	0
2	Australia	19489197	20,600,856	32	16.41	31	15.90	32	16.41	32	15.93	35	17.42	35	16.98	0
3	Austria	8,184,691	8,205,533	4	4.89	2	2.44	3	3.67	4	4.89	4	4.89	5	6.09	1
4	Belgium	10,277,731	10,403,951	11	10.71	11	10.71	11	10.71	14	13.51	15	14.47	16	15.38	1
5	Brazil	162,177,623	191,988,958	1	0.60	9	0.49	6	0.44	8	0.43	8	0.43	9	0.47	0
6	Burkina Faso	7,636,666	8,254,749	0	1.31	0	1.31	1	1.31	1	1.31	1	1.31	2	1.69	-1
7	Burkina Faso	13825313	15,284,745	0	1.31	0	1.31	1	1.31	1	1.31	1	1.31	2	1.69	-1
8	Canada	31,641,184	33,212,698	147	46.46	145	45.83	158	48.83	167	50.91	173	52.74	173	52.08	0
9	China	1,281,277,001	1,330,044,605	1	0.01	1	0.01	1	0.01	2	0.02	2	0.02	2	0.02	0
10	China	4,164,435	4,356,427	1	0.24	1	0.24	1	0.24	1	0.23	1	0.23	1	0.22	0
11	Colombia	4,498,504	4,481,543	1	2.33	1	2.33	1	2.33	1	2.22	1	2.22	1	2.23	0
12	Croatia	4,498,504	4,481,543	5	9.34	4	7.47	4	7.47	4	7.36	4	7.36	4	7.29	0
13	Denmark	5,432,335	5,484,723	7	3.98	2	3.98	2	3.98	2	3.81	2	3.81	2	3.81	-1
14	Finland	5,224,442	5,244,749	12	5.25	12	5.25	12	5.25	12	5.25	12	5.25	12	5.25	0
15	France	61,949,421	62,431,939	43	6.25	44	6.25	43	6.25	44	6.25	46	6.25	46	6.56	0
16	Germany	82,431,939	82,369,546	43	6.25	44	6.25	43	6.25	44	6.25	46	6.25	46	6.56	0
17	Greece	10,620,000	10,668,354	7	6.60	8	7.55	8	7.55	9	8.44	9	8.44	10	9.33	0
18	Hungary	10,021,272	10,068,354	1	1.00	3	2.99	3	2.99	3	3.00	3	3.00	3	3.02	0
19	Iceland	282,783	296,737	1	35.36	1	35.36	1	35.36	1	33.70	1	33.70	1	32.86	0
20	India	1,049,279,885	1,147,985,898	5	0.05	5	0.05	6	0.06	6	0.06	6	0.06	6	0.05	0
21	Indonesia	23,162,700	23,752,355	5	12.91	3	7.74	5	12.91	6	14.94	7	17.43	11	26.47	4
22	Ireland	4,018,676	4,195,119	6	2.89	15	4.24	4	2.89	15	4.24	17	4.96	18	5.68	0
23	Israel	6,516,338	6,516,338	6	2.89	15	4.24	4	2.89	15	4.24	17	4.96	18	5.68	0
24	Italy	5,751,551	5,751,551	50	1.18	50	1.18	60	1.33	60	1.33	68	1.43	68	1.58	0
25	Japan	127,455,682	127,288,413	15	1.18	13	1.02	14	1.10	14	1.10	14	1.10	14	1.10	0
26	Korea	48,221,340	49,232,844	4	0.83	3	0.62	3	0.62	3	0.62	3	0.62	3	0.61	0
27	Luxembourg	4,411,971	4,486,006	1	22.67	1	22.67	2	45.33	1	21.34	1	21.34	1	20.58	0
28	Mexico	10,558,341	10,820,200	3	0.28	2	0.19	2	0.19	2	0.19	2	0.19	2	0.18	0
29	Micronesia	108,150,000	108,105	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.09	1	0.09	1	0.09	1	0.00	0
30	Netherlands	16,407,491	16,645,313	15	9.36	18	11.23	20	12.48	18	10.97	20	12.19	21	12.62	1
31	New Zealand	3,885,533	4,035,461	3	7.72	4	10.29	5	12.86	6	14.97	6	14.97	6	14.38	0
32	New Zealand	3,885,533	4,035,461	3	7.72	4	10.29	5	12.86	6	14.97	6	14.97	6	14.38	0
33	Norway	4,411,971	4,486,006	1	1.55	1	1.55	1	1.55	1	1.55	1	1.55	1	1.55	0
34	Poland	38,540,000	38,540,000	6	1.55	7	1.81	8	2.07	9	2.33	9	2.33	9	2.34	0
35	Portugal	10,077,168	10,676,910	4	3.97	4	3.97	4	3.97	5	4.73	5	4.73	5	4.68	0
36	Romania	22,329,977	22,246,862	1	0.45	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
37	Russia	140,702,094	140,702,094	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
38	Singapore	4,250,720	4,250,720	1	2.35	1	2.35	1	2.35	1	2.26	1	2.26	1	2.17	0
39	Slovenia	2,017,071	2,017,071	1	2.35	1	2.35	1	2.35	1	2.26	1	2.26	1	2.17	0
40	South Africa	43,220,333	43,220,333	13	2.91	4	2.91	4	2.91	4	19.89	3	14.92	3	14.94	0
41	Spain	43,220,333	43,220,333	22	5.34	20	4.62	19	4.41	20	4.96	20	4.96	21	5.19	1
42	Sweden	8,847,243	9,045,389	12	13.56	12	13.56	14	15.92	15	16.66	14	15.55	15	16.58	1
43	Switzerland	7,489,370	7,581,520	10	13.73	9	12.36	8	10.88	9	12.02	9	12.02	9	11.87	0
44	Taiwan	22,901,088	22,920,946	2	0.88	2	0.88	2	0.88	2	0.87	2	0.87	2	0.87	0
45	Thailand	64,161,989	65,444,371	1	0.16	1	0.16	1	0.16	1	0.16	1	0.16	1	0.15	0
46	Tunisia	9,975,000	10,383,577	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.00	1	0.99	1	0.99	1	0.96	0
47	Turkey	68,865,559	71,392,807	1	0.15	1	0.15	1	0.15	1	0.14	1	0.14	1	0.28	1
48	USA	284,869,545	295,721,434	778	17.16	793	20.42	768	26.24	808	27.52	859	30.15	840	30.44	8
49	USA	81,089,574	86,116,556	1	0.12	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
50	Viet Nam	77,106,353	80,353,576	2	1.87	2	1.87	2	1.87	2	1.87	2	1.87	2	1.87	0
51	Yugoslavia	10,693,953	10,693,953	2	1.87	10	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	0
52	Yugoslavia	10,693,953	10,693,953	2	1.87	10	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	0
53	Yugoslavia	10,693,953	10,693,953	2	1.87	10	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	1	1.87	0
54	TOTAL	41,479,796	41,479,796	1,385	13.85	1,300	13.00	1,383	13.83	1,458	14.58	1,537	15.37	1,650	16.50	113
55	Change					-85		83		75		79		113		

### % population



Year	Messages
1993-4	646
1994-5	489
1995-6	775
1996-7	919
1997-8	727
1998-9	617
1999-2000	576
2000-1	841
2001-2	640
2002-3	668
2003-4	847
2004-5	776
2005-6	765
2006-7	610
2007-8	680

Messages/year 1993 to 2008

