

CALL FOR PAPERS

DHARTI 2026 Biennial Conference

Decolonising the Digital: Social Justice, Inclusion, and Equitable Knowledge Production

18–20 December 2026

KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Hosted by Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University
In collaboration with the Digital Humanities Alliance for Research and Teaching Innovations (DHARTI)

Conference Theme

The DHARTI 2026 Biennial Conference seeks to foreground Digital Humanities as a critical site for interrogating questions of social justice, digital inclusion, digital justice, infrastructural access, representation, and epistemic inequality in and with the majority world.

As digital and algorithmic technologies increasingly shape contemporary modes of knowledge production, pedagogy, archives, media circulation, and cultural participation, it becomes necessary to critically examine the uneven structures through which digitality operates. The conference aims to explore how Digital Humanities can move beyond techno-deterministic frameworks toward more inclusive, multilingual, community-oriented, and socially grounded practices.

The conference welcomes scholars, researchers, educators, artists, archivists, technologists, activists, community practitioners, students, and engaged stakeholders across and beyond disciplines.

Sub-Themes

The conference invites contributions on, but not limited to, the following areas, with a particular focus on Global Majority spaces and contexts:

- Decolonial tools and Decolonising Practices in Digital Humanities
- Digital Justice, Infrastructural Inequalities and Digital Futures
- Digital Justice and Literary and Cultural Expressions
- Collaborative Knowledge Production and Digital Space
- Archives, Memory, and Digital Preservation
- Language Technologies and Multilingual Futures
- Digital Pedagogy and Curricular Practices
- Visual Cultures and Media Ecologies
- Platform Studies and Algorithmic Cultures
- Digital Archives, Marginalized Communities, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

- Digital Humanities, Urban Studies, Mapping and Spatiality
- Accessibility and Inclusive Digital Practices
- Digital Labour and Data Politics
- Responsible Computing, Data Ethics, and AI Governance
- Participatory/Relational ML/AI practices/projects in India/Global South
- Ethics, Surveillance, and Digital Citizenship
- Race/ Class/ Caste/ Religion/ Gender and Digital Humanities
- Black Digital Humanities and Afrofuturism
- Digital Humanities and Dalit Futurism
- Environmental Humanities and Digital Ecologies
- Digital Storytelling, Creative Practice, and Interactive Media
- Public Digital Humanities and Community Engagement

Modes of Participation

Academic Papers

15-minute presentation followed by discussion.

Panel Proposals

3–4 papers around a common theme with a focus on ensuring plurality of representation and perspectives.

In-person Poster Presentations

For emerging projects and research initiatives.

Proposals for Workshops

The conference will be preceded by a set of pre-conference workshops. DHARTI members can propose workshops. Workshops will be scheduled on 18 Dec 2026.

No participant shall serve as a lead presenter in more than one presentation. In the event that a presenter is shortlisted as a lead presenter for two or more papers after the review process, the Programme Committee will ask the participant to withdraw one of the papers. This rule shall not apply to workshops.

Abstracts in Indian languages are encouraged. Posters may also be submitted in any Indian language. However, where an abstract or poster is submitted in an Indian language, an English version must also be provided to ensure that the content is accessible to the larger conference audience.

Submission Guidelines

Individual Papers

Title

Extended Abstract: 750- 1000 words

4–5 keywords

Panels

Panel rationale: 500 words

Individual abstracts: 750–1000 words for each panelist

Details of all presenters

Poster Presentations

Posters may present completed or ongoing research, digital projects, datasets, or practice-based initiatives. Submissions should include a title, a 500–750-word abstract, and 4–5 keywords. Accepted posters will be displayed during the dedicated poster session to encourage interaction and feedback.

Submissions will be through an online submission portal that will be declared soon. Do not submit abstracts by email.

Important Dates

Extended Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 September 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 10 October 2026

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: 30 October 2026

Regular Registration Deadline: 20 November 2026

Conference Dates: 18–20 December 2026

Registration Fees

Indian Participants

Category	Early Bird	Regular
Faculty Members/ Independent Researchers	₹3,000	₹3,500
Research Scholars	₹1,500	₹2,000
Students (Undergraduate and Postgraduate)	₹1,000	₹1,500

DHARTI will offer a limited set of bursaries to students and research scholars.

International Participants

Category	Early Bird	Regular
International Delegates	USD 100	USD 150

Registration includes:

- Conference kit
- Participation certificate
- Lunch and refreshments during conference days
- Access to all academic sessions and exhibitions

DHARTI Membership

All participants are required to be members of DHARTI (Digital Humanities Alliance for Research and Teaching Innovation). To encourage wider participation, undergraduate students may avail of a complimentary six-month membership, granted by DHARTI upon request. Those who wish to continue their membership beyond that period may register according to the prescribed membership criteria. For membership details, visit the following link:

<https://dhdharti.in/membership/>

Publication Opportunity

Selected papers, following peer review and editorial evaluation, will be considered for publication in an edited conference proceedings volume.

KIIT has secured a Letter of Intent from **Peter Lang**, an internationally reputed academic publisher, indicating its willingness to consider a select number of conference papers for publication. The proposed volume will subsequently be submitted for indexing in Scopus, subject to the publisher's review and indexing requirements.

Accommodation Support

A list of nearby hotels along with tariff, location, and contact details will be provided on the conference website

Upon prior request, a limited number of hostel accommodation may be arranged for student presenters

Venue

KIIT Deemed to be University
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Located in Eastern India, KIIT offers a multidisciplinary academic ecosystem, advanced technological infrastructure, and strong commitments to educational inclusion, interdisciplinary research, and global engagement.

We invite contributions that critically interrogate, creatively imagine, and collaboratively build more equitable digital futures. Through dialogue across disciplines, regions, and communities, DHARTI 2026 seeks to advance Digital Humanities as a field committed not only to technological innovation but also to justice, inclusion, sustainability, and transformative knowledge production.

DAY 1: Workshop

DAY 2

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Registration

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Inaugural

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Tea-break

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Keynote Address

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Poster Presentation

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: Lunch

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Parallel Sessions

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM: Tea-break

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM: Parallel Sessions

DAY 3

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Plenary

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Tea break

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Panel

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Parallel Sessions

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: Lunch

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM: Parallel Sessions

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Tea-break

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Valedictory