Outlook

Article 'Null Results' for special issue of IJDH

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To Smith, Margaret <margars@siue.edu>

Dear Margaret (if I may),

We received your article **Null Results: Documenting Failure in the Digital Humanities** for the special volume about 'Reproducibility and Explainability in Digital Humanities' of the International Journal of Digital Humanities, of which I am one of the guest editors. We, the guest editors, read the article and we saw a couple of issues that we would like you to consider before sending it on to peer reviewers.

In its current form, the article does not focus strongly enough on the themes of our special issue. You do mention reproducibility and transparency etc. as a related topic, but where we would have wanted to see that this would be the main topic of the article, you do not address this on a level that would make it interesting for this special issue. Furthermore, we would have liked to see a short overview of ideas about null results in the Sciences, and how that compares to the ideas about reproducibility and transparency in the Humanities. And although the format you have developed to document failure may be useful, it remains unclear how this may function in the context of the topics of our volume.

We expect these would be some of the remarks our peer reviewers would return. To prevent unnecessary loss of time, we would therefore like to propose that you consider two scenarios. One would be to adapt the submitted manuscript to address the issues just mentioned, to make the fit with the special issue very much clearer. The other option could be that you resubmit the article to the general strand of the journal for consideration there, withdrawing it from the special issue.

I would be grateful if you can give this a thought and let me know your decision by 22 May.

Kindest regards, also on behalf of Thorsten Ries and Fabian Offert,
Karina

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