

**PISA Digital Humanities Summer School, June 2023**

**Morning Exercise, 11:00 to 12:30, 16 June 2023**

**Exploring Digital Files**

This Exercise consists of 3 parts.

After each part we will come together and discuss what we learned from each part of the exercise.

**Exercise 1, PART 1:**

In the breakout group agree one member of the team who will "own the screen" and download the file, open it, and then share their screen with the rest of the group.

Download the following file:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/rgbve5n0a74wl5q/ID\\_000121328002a.dcm?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/rgbve5n0a74wl5q/ID_000121328002a.dcm?dl=0)

then

(a) find a viewer to open it (and open it) (viewer = piece of software which can render the file to the screen)

(b) What type of file format is dcm?

(b) what is it an image of

(c) explore the metadata:

(c1) who is the subject of the image

(c2) what is the date of creation

(c3) does the metadata tell you where it was created? If so where?

[Everyone can of course download the file and examine it on their computer independently but for the sake of your group discussion you will do better if one person is sharing a version of the process and the file.]

## Exercise 1, PART 2:

In the breakout group agree one member of the team who will "own the screen" and download the file, open it, and then share their screen with the rest of the group.

(Do not use a Mac for this exercise).

Download and unpack the following zip file

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/px2ncycv3ownqbo/files\\_modified.zip?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/px2ncycv3ownqbo/files_modified.zip?dl=0)

This file contains 17 files without filenames or extensions. The Goal of the exercise is to

- (a) identify the type of file it is,
- (b) rename the file with the appropriate extension
- (c) once you have renamed the file with the correct extension type, open the file and after looking at the content create a file name which reflects the content and rename the file
- (d) you ultimately want a file name that is semantically meaningful and has an extension that makes the file viable.
- (e) Be prepared to describe the steps you took to identify the files

[Everyone can of course download the file and examine it on their computer independently but for the sake of your group discussion you will do better if one person is sharing a version of the process and the file.]

A worked example:

The steps to do this exercise are:

So here is file001 worked for you

- (a) Find a hexeditor (such as: <https://www.onlinehexeditor.com/> )
- (b) Open the file in a hexeditor (identify the magic number, in this case: D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1 ) (When you first are starting out sometimes deciding what the magic number is takes a little trial and error)
- (c) Look up the magic number in a file signature resource (use a resources such as: [https://www.garykessler.net/library/file\\_sigs.html](https://www.garykessler.net/library/file_sigs.html) )
- (d) From this you should be able to identify the file extension. (In the case of file001 .xls --although to be fair it could be a little tricky in this case.

- (e) Rename the file with the file extension (file001.xls)
- (f) Open the file with the appropriate viewer look at the content (A budget spreadsheet for the SCAN Project)
- (g) Rename the file with an appropriate name reflecting its content. SCAN\_BUD\_2003\_onward.xls

**Exercise 1, PART 3:**

In the breakout group agree one member of the team who will "own the screen" and download the file, open it, and then share their screen with the rest of the group.

Download:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/b2klgu66aato1b5/simulate\\_digital\\_aging.zip?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/b2klgu66aato1b5/simulate_digital_aging.zip?dl=0)

Unzip the file into a directory you create for the purpose (e.g. fileexp)

Locate the file: ReadMeODT.docx

And follow the instructions in the file.

[Everyone can, of course, download the file and examine it on their computer independently, but for the sake of your group discussion you will do better if one person is sharing a version of the process and the file.]