

Appendix: The Interview Questionnaire

VERSION 1

HWR interview questions

Interviewee:

Date:

Interviewer:

Introduction:

This is a questionnaire for the Humanities Worldwide Report. We'd like to elicit your views on the current state of the humanities and of the challenges facing them in the future.

We shall collate the results of these interviews anonymously and use them alongside data collected from reports and other surveys.

Questions for interviewees

1. To start off, please say in a few sentences a little bit about yourself and your role in your university/organisation.

2. Funding

Please give a brief description of the funding sources that support your institution. Is your funding situation undergoing any significant changes?

3. Major research themes

What themes have been dominating your own field?

What themes do you expect to dominate your field?

Where do you see the potential breakthroughs in your field?

4. Interdisciplinary research

Is your own research monodisciplinary or interdisciplinary? What are the benefits or disadvantages of each type of research?

5. The digital humanities

Is the development of digitisation changing the nature of research practice in your field?

Do researchers in your field have the necessary skills to make the most out of the digital resources available to them?

6. Research infrastructure

What kinds of research infrastructure are needed in your field?

Is there adequate funding for such infrastructure in your institution?

7. Publications and career development

How do publications affect the way research is done, in particular through the assessment criteria they provide for hiring and promotion? What effects do the demands of getting published have on the work of younger researchers?

8. Ranking systems (e.g. university rankings, citation indices, national assessment systems)

What effects do ranking systems have on research, on the behaviour of researchers and on the management of research in your area? (Give examples to illustrate your answers.) What views do you hold on efforts to measure the wider social impact of research?

9. Internationalisation

What effects is internationalisation (e.g. in recruitment patterns, institutional collaboration, networks) having on research and research activity?

Do researchers in your field have sufficient language skills for their work?

10. Government policies

How do government policies currently affect humanities research?

11. The nature of the humanities

What are the major similarities and dissimilarities between the humanities and the sciences in the ways they conduct and present research? Could you give some examples (up to three) of important findings gained in the humanities? Aside from your own views,

how do you think the humanities are perceived in this respect? And what impact does the perception of the humanities in comparison to the sciences have on funding?

12. Translating the humanities

How are you or members of your organisation working with or exchanging knowledge with stakeholders outside academia? (If possible, please give some concrete examples, e.g. in media-related activities, museums, policy making or social innovation.) What support systems are in place for translational research?

13. Justifications for humanities research

'Why fund research in the humanities?' If you had to give a succinct answer to this question, what would it be? How would you articulate the value of the humanities research to an impatient and potentially hostile audience?

VERSION 2

HWR interview questions

Interviewee:

Date:

Introduction:

This is a questionnaire for the Humanities Worldwide Report. We'd like to elicit your views on the current state of the humanities and of the challenges facing them in the future.

We shall collate the results of these interviews anonymously and use them alongside data collected from reports and other surveys.

Questions for interviewees

1. To start off, please say in a few sentences a little bit about yourself and your role in your university/organisation.

2. Funding

Please give a brief description of the funding sources that support your institution. Is your funding situation undergoing any significant changes?

3. Major research themes

What themes have been dominating your own field?

What themes do you expect to dominate your field?

Where do you see the potential breakthroughs in your field?

4. Interdisciplinary research

Is your own research monodisciplinary or interdisciplinary? What are the benefits or disadvantages of each type of research?

5. The digital humanities

Is the development of digitisation changing the nature of research practice in your field?

Do researchers in your field have the necessary skills to make the most out of the digital resources available to them?

6. Research infrastructure

What kinds of research infrastructure are needed in your field?

Is there adequate funding for such infrastructure in your institution?

7. Publications and career development

How do publications affect the way research is done, in particular through the assessment criteria they provide for hiring and promotion? What effects do the demands of getting published have on the work of younger researchers?

8. Ranking systems (e.g. university rankings, citation indices, national assessment systems)

What effects do ranking systems have on research, on the behaviour of researchers and on the management of research in your area? (Give examples to illustrate your answers.) What views do you hold on efforts to measure the wider social impact of research?

9. Internationalisation

What effects is internationalisation (e.g. in recruitment patterns, institutional collaboration, networks) having on research and research activity?

Do researchers in your field have sufficient language skills for their work?

10. Government policies

How do government policies currently affect humanities research?

11. The nature of the humanities

What, in broad terms, are the major similarities and dissimilarities between the humanities and the sciences in the ways they conduct and present research?

Please give up to three examples of things that, due to humanities research, we know today that we did not know before, either in your own field or in the humanities in general.

Do you think it is appropriate to describe the results of humanities research as findings?

What impact does the public perception of the humanities in this respect have on funding?

12. Translating the humanities

How are you or members of your organisation working with or exchanging knowledge with stakeholders outside academia? (If possible, please give some concrete examples, e.g. in media-related activities, museums, policy making or social innovation.) What support systems are in place for translational research?

13. Justifications for humanities research

Here are some ways of expressing the value of humanities research:

- i. Intrinsic value
- ii. Informing social policy
- iii. Understanding cultural heritage
- iv. Promoting economic value
- v. Contributing to other academic disciplines (e.g. in the natural or social sciences)
- vi. Promoting personal and spiritual development
- vii. Feeding through to undergraduate education
- viii. Promoting critical thinking and innovation

Which of these in your own view is (or are) the most important? Which of these is considered most important in your country/region?

‘Why fund the research in the humanities?’ If you had to give a succinct answer to this question, what would it be? How would you articulate the value of humanities research to an impatient and potentially hostile audience?