H-SKILLS RESEARCH

PILOT STUDY

STEP 1: Open question to sample of students

First conduct a free response questionnaire in which you ask students (or even supplemented by faculty and staff members) to write down in three blank fields what skills they had acquired during (and through) their education at the Faculty of Arts. Collect all the tokens you received. We did this for 565 respondents (437 students, supplemented by faculty and staff members), and collected 1638 tokens of skills.

STEP 2: Cluster answers to question

As might be expected, certain answers recur: there are clusters of similar skills. In order to reduce these tokens as objectively as possible to a limited number of clusters, you can use automatic tools like Word Space Models (Turney & Pantel 2010; Lenci 2018). Word space models are used in computational linguistics to automatically detect semantic relationships between words.

STEP 3: Label conceptual clusters using concrete skills items.

The tokens used to describe these skills were often formulated in rather generic terms. Hence, in the third phase you need to translate these intuitive articulations into more explicit terms. First, through the input of focus groups, an extensive literature review and the responses of the open question themselves (where skills were exceptionally well described by some respondents in richer terms), you will be able to draw up concrete translations of skills items for each of the clusters.

Need more information? See the following references:

De Dijn, M., Zenner, E., De Pascale, S., & Heyvaert, L. (2019). Hoe digital zijn de humanities-opleidingen? Een perceptiestudie aan de faculteit Letteren van KU Leuven. *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde, 135*(4), 433-452.

Heyvaert, L., De Dijn, M., & Zenner, E. (2017). Letteren Beyond Employability: Impulsfinancieringsproject Faculteit Letteren. https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/studeren/onderwijsbeleid/afbeeldingen/rapport-onderwijsimpulsproject-2016-2017

asset-H
Identifying Humanities Skills.

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