

WDMDAD 2022: WHAT THE PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED

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What Do Musicologists Do All Day?

- aim: a better understanding of musicologists' daily use of digital technologies and their attitudes towards these
- first survey in 2014/2015 (n=621)
 - <https://archives.ismir.net/ismir2015/paper/000171.pdf>
- second survey in 2022 (n=584)
 - impact of recent technological developments
 - use of technology during pandemic
 - expected impact of pandemic on future technology use

Q18: Which changes will you keep after the pandemic?

amount of change	count
(almost) no change	73
specific change(s)	210
most or all	19
don't know	9
unclear or unusable	6
total	317

area of change	count
human interaction	136
interaction/teaching	29
digital and physical materials	76
remote work, travel	50
hardware, software, services	24
other changes	21
other/skills and attitudes	13
other/health	5
total	301

- includes specific changes mentioned under 'all' or 'none'
- responses may mention multiple areas of change
- sentiment may be positive or negative

Changes in the discipline

- over 180 responses reflect on more general changes, beyond the individual

category	Q13-Frustrating	Q14-Rewarding	Q15-Risks	Q16-Limitations	Q17-Benefits	Q18-Changes after pandemic	total
access	2	3	29	12	24	6	76
interaction	0	14	11	3	16	7	51
equity and inclusion	0	3	7	9	15	3	37
learning skills	0	3	3	3	13	1	23
method	1	1	7	2	7	2	20
technology	1	1	7	7	2	0	18
money	0	1	4	2	6	1	14
values	0	0	9	1	0	1	11
travel, remote work	0	2	1	0	4	0	7
environment	0	1	1	0	3	1	6
organisations	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
health and wellbeing	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
total remarks	4	29	82	41	92	23	271
unique responses	2	21	57	30	59	13	182

Learning new skills

- Many of us had to learn items and methods of technology that will be useful with or without pandemic
- Basically, I think that the pandemic added to the acceptance of technology. It helped people, which were reluctant, to also see technology's possibilities and chances.
- Another is that the forced use of technology appears to have helped a large contingent of previously digitally-averse scholars to become more open to digital tools, modes of operation, and modes of thinking for what constitutes 'legitimate musicology.'

Access to digital resources

- Many institutions moved forward in digitization, and many researchers found digital resources they perhaps were not aware of.
- A lot of people have discovered new tools and resources they wouldn't have known otherwise.
- a radically accelerated pace of obtaining and disseminating scientific information
- One thing that comes to mind is that researchers reliant on digitized materials are at the mercy of those on the other side of the scanner. We don't have a say in prioritizing what gets digitized and what doesn't.



Methodological reflections

- It prompted research areas that might not have been visited without the urgencies of limitation
- Potentially a push towards the much further developed technological standards of other academic disciplines.
- I am concerned about how reliance on digital resources can shape research questions and trends
- Asking the same questions all the time because using the same pool of resources

One possible storyline in the responses

perhaps none of them [my changes] huge or transformative on their own, but in sum the changes in habit and standard operating procedure have been huge.

- tech skills were essential for survival
- many discovered potential of technology for research
- specifically, online access to materials (matched by concerns about study of physical resources)
- maybe a more collaborative attitude
- new research topics and methodological reflections
- promising for reconnection of computational and mainstream musicology (historical or otherwise)

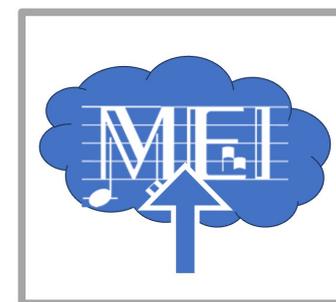
Final words

- raised awareness of technology's practical potential, and willingness to use it
- affects mainly two pillars of the discipline
 - communication and social structure
 - access to research materials
- leads to methodological reflection

- don't get overexcited, it's not a sign of conversion
- focus on added value of technology to normal work processes: show it!
- make things easy (tech should be in Kahnemann's system 1)

The complexity of the information appliance is that of the task, not the tool. The technology is invisible.

Donald Norman, *The invisible computer*, 1999



MEI-data button for all music notation programs



Thank you for listening and for participating in WDMDAD