Establishing a Code Review Community for DH

DHTech Code Review Working Group
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Many digital humanities projects require custom software development.
DH software development may be implemented by:

- Researchers
- Professional software developers
- Someone in between

But who is testing and reviewing that software to confirm it works properly?

- Errors are inevitable in software
- Some errors affect research findings
- Edge cases may drastically affect results

Code review is a widespread technique to improve software and reduce the number of flaws. In a code review, a programmer (other than the original code author(s)) reviews the source code. Code review:

- helps to identify and **eliminate errors**.
- improves overall code quality and increases **readability and maintainability**.
- increases **trustworthiness** of code.
- improves skills for both reviewers and reviewees.
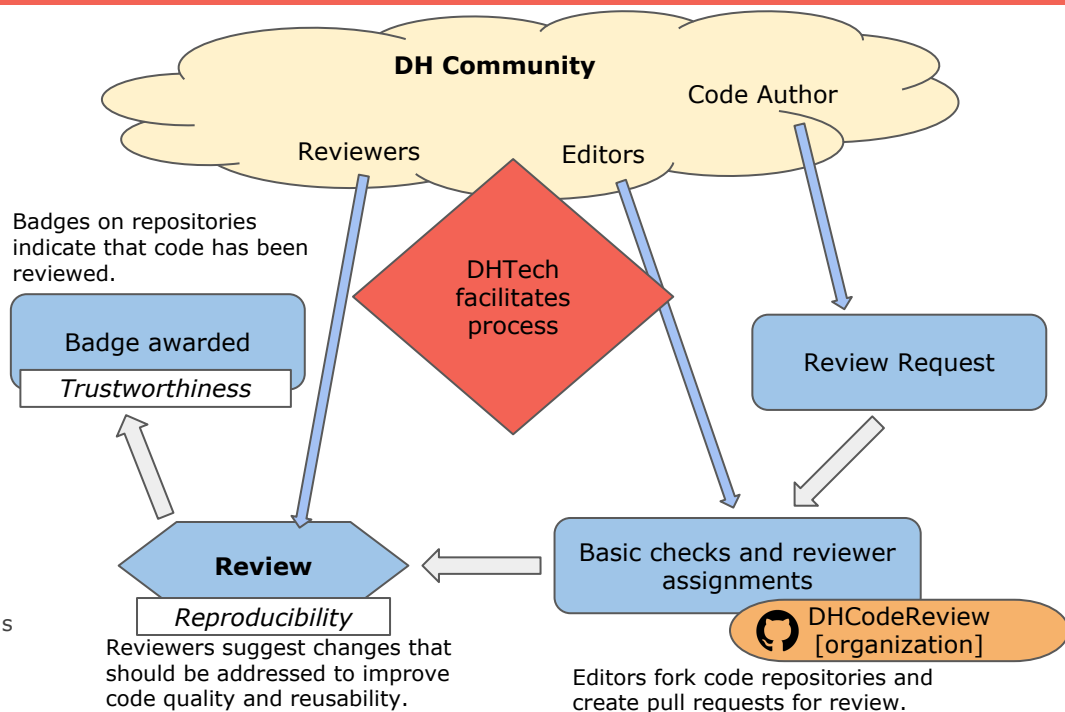- foster sharing of knowledge and building relationships.

The **DHTech Code Review Working Group** meets monthly. It's mission is to:

- build a technical community.
- build a community code review infrastructure.
- give researchers and developers confidence in reviewed software.
- give graduate students without technical mentors feedback on programming.

Find us
DHTech (a ADHO Special Interest Group): https://dh-tech.github.io/
Code Review WG on GitHub: https://github.com/dhcodeReview/
Email: jdamerow@asu.edu

We welcome new code review request submissions and volunteers who would like to become reviewers!

Badges on repositories indicate that code has been reviewed.

DH Community

Code Author

Reviewers

Editors

DHTech facilitates process

Badge awarded
Trustworthiness

Review Request

Review
Reproducibility

Reviewers suggest changes that should be addressed to improve code quality and reusability.

Basic checks and reviewer assignments

DHCodeReview [organization]

Editors fork code repositories and create pull requests for review.

Alpha Phase
We are currently in the alpha phase of building a community code review infrastructure. **Three projects** submitted **review** requests in that phase. Each project was reviewed by **two reviewers**. The responses so far were positive and encouraging. In some cases review comments have already been addressed by the submitters.To further refine the code review process, short surveys have been sent out to both reviewers and reviewees.

Submit code for review: https://github.com/DHCodeReview/DHCodeReview/wiki
Become a reviewer: https://forms.gle/PepxF6U64AT2Y5TZA