



DARIAH Newsletter

Digital Research Infrastructure
for the Arts and Humanities

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This free newsletter is published quarterly. If you find it useful, please tell your colleagues and friends about it.

DARIAH Workshop in Paris: The Governance of Digital Research Infrastructures

During the international conference *Digital Publishing and its Governance: Between Knowledge and Power*, held from the 28th to the 30th of April 2010 at the l'Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art in Paris, a workshop, organized by DARIAH, was dedicated to the governance of digital research infrastructures. On the basis of the actual DARIAH governance model the workshop put up for discussion the roles, responsibilities and bodies to devise alternative governance models for pan-European e-Infrastructures.

The session was moderated by Philippe Aigrain (Sopinspace/Paris) and the opening keynote talk was given by Yannick Maignien (CNRS) who presented DARIAH and its governance model for the arts and humanities embedded in a larger reflection about the principles of governance in

networking societies. Maignien outlined a comprehensive approach to the key topics, both in terms of critical perspective and theoretical generalisation and focused on the high significance of subsidiarity, mutualism and interoperability to find a good balance between a high level of democracy and creative efficiency.



The roundtable of international experts started with the presentation by Johanna Niesyto (University of Siegen), who spoke on 'what to learn from Wikipedia and especially from Wikipedia critique'. Niesyto analysed to what degree Wikipedia can, like DARIAH, be seen as a digital research infrastructure where digital sources are bundled and knowledge and expertise is exchanged. With events

such the Wikipedia Academy or the Wikiversity project, Wikimedia seeks explicitly to mobilize researchers to contribute to Wikipedia and the analysis and critical review of its governance processes like a 'failure case' recommended by Niesyto seems in this context an interesting new approach for the discussion.

Prodromos Tsiavos (London School of Economics) presented in his paper a series of recommendations for policy makers, funding bodies and individual organisations in order to provide a framework for the management of flows of rights, value and content (including meta-data). Based on a study on an ongoing research project investigating management processes in the UK public sector, Tsiavos emphasised the big need for all the EU initiatives for digitising content to avoid isolation and incorporate them into a broader ecology of institutions that share and re-use content.

A different approach was presented by Soenke Zehle (Saarland University, Academy of Fine Arts) who is less interested in models such as multi-stakeholderism, which are predicated on agency as an unchanging force and which have demonstrated a reluctance to engage the constitution of capacities that fall outside its models of management. Zehle proposed practices of institution which imagine new forms of individual and collective agency. The question of governance within informational, networked societies as a key terrain of social-political conflict today and for the foreseeable future

was responded to by Zehle when he argued that the work of organizing networks itself serves as a constituent power in the production of protocols, research practices, and subjectivity.

The concluding discussion was characterized by stimulating and fruitful debates especially connected with some crucial recommendations for the future DARIAH governance structure. To enable new research questions DARIAH has to rise to the challenge to find innovative ways within long standing institutional frameworks (Niesyto), bringing into the discussion also the crisis of the university (Zehle) and being early thinkers for novel funding schemes (Aigrain).

Learn more about DARIAH!Visit the DARIAH website: <http://www.dariah.eu>Send us an e-mail: info@dariah.eu

**Experts Forum on Scholarly
Activity Process Modelling***Athens, June 10-11 2010*

The Experts Forum forms part of DCU's work within the conceptual work package of DARIAH (WP8), based on a combination of scholarly information behaviour literature survey with qualitative research on how arts and humanities researchers interact with information.

As an essential step to develop a fuller understanding of conceptual issues and to validate substantive research findings the Digital Curation Unit, is organizing an Experts Forum to be held on 10 and 11 June 2010 in Athens. A select group of leading researchers of scholarly information work and digital humanists will participate in the event.

While it touches upon broader theoretical, methodological and technology issues, the forum will focus on receiving feedback, nurturing critical discussion and reaching consensus amongst participants on the empirical study and conceptual modelling work on scholarly information practices and requirements for scholarly e-infrastructure conducted by DCU as part of DARIAH. It will be structured in six two-hour sessions, each dealing with a particular question or set of questions relevant to the objectives of DARIAH process scoping (WP8.1) work, based on a combination of invited contributions and open discussion amongst participants.

The forum will contribute to the development of a process model of scholarly information work, and also feed into the specification of an object model for information resources and scholarly objects pertinent to humanities research, an important factor in determining digital infrastructure requirements for scholarship.

As part of process scoping work in DARIAH, interview-based, qualitative research was conducted on humani-

ties researchers' actual information practices and opinions on digital information use. Its results concern questions regarding:

- the actual kinds of information work performed by mainstream and digital humanities researchers, as part of particular research activities, and their implications on the specification of digital repositories, services and tools for arts and humanities research;
- the relationship between research activities and particular kinds of information objects (including scholarly objects) for specific research fields; and,
- the relative importance of particular "scholarly primitives" for arts and humanities research and the way they are, or could be, supported by specific digital research methods, procedures, services and tools.

Substantive research results were consolidated with findings from an extensive survey of prior studies on scholarly information behaviour in a conceptual model of scholarly information activity, which accounts for relationships between user requirements stemming from research information processes and relevant digital services and tools.

The Experts Forum will take place in central Athens the Kostis Palamas Building, University of Athens (Akadimias 48 and Sina). For further details, see the forum website¹ or

¹ <http://snipurl.com/wvcsh>

contact organisers directly at:
experts.forum@dcu.gr.

A Glimpse of the MIRFOL Project

*The Heritage Laboratory (LaPa),
Spanish National Research Council
(CSIC)*



MIRFOL is a new research project led by DARIAH associate partner LaPa¹ – CSIC, partially funded by the INCITE programme of the Xunta de Galicia (the state government of Galicia in Spain) and expected to run between 2010 and 2012. MIRFOL stands for *Metodoloxía Integral para a Representación Formal do Patrimonio Cultural*, which is Galician for Integral Methodology for the Formal Representation of Cultural Heritage.

The project's major goal, as its title suggests, is the development of an integral methodology for the description, assessment and interpretation of cultural heritage elements. This methodology will include a formal language, composed of concepts and relationships, plus a collection of methodological guides about its usage and extension.

This integral methodology will enable people to represent heritage elements of any kind (archaeological, anthropological, architectural, docu-

mental, artistic, historical), and at any level of detail, from the most abstract to the most detailed, depending on necessity. It will also let heritage experts create their own specific extensions of the formal language according to the needs of each particular project while keeping total compatibility with the pre-defined formal language.

In this respect, MIRFOL does not try to homogenise the way in which people deal with cultural heritage by imposing a common set of concepts; we acknowledge that different projects and endeavours have different needs, and a universal solution is not possible. Interoperability will be achieved by using a variable level of abstraction when dealing with cultural heritage elements: each project will be able to treat each element in their particular way, while maintaining a common shared language at high levels of abstraction.

Such an apparent contradiction is connected to the ever-present tension between the theoretical advantages of standardisation and the need for specificity. MIRFOL hopes to resolve this tension by managing epistemic subjectivity explicitly through purposely crafted information modelling mechanisms. However, not everything in MIRFOL will be basic research; a collection of readily applicable software tools is planned as well so that practitioners can benefit from new theoretical advances.

A multi-disciplinary team has been assembled to carry out the project, including archaeologists, anthropolo-

¹ <http://www.iegps.csic.es/lapa>

gists, art historians, method engineers and information modelling specialists. External collaborations have been secured with the *Laboratorio de Arqueología del Paisaje y Patrimonio de Uruguay* (Landscape Archaeology and Heritage Laboratory of Uruguay) and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Washington, USA.

Validation and transfer of the methodology are incorporated in the project plan as explicit work packages, and will take place during 2011 and 2012. If you are interested in MIR-FOL, please contact César González-Pérez for more information: cesar.gonzalez-perez@iegps.csic.es.

ESF-COST Conference on Networked Humanities: Art History in the Web

Italy, 9-14 October 2010



Art History in the Web

ESF-COST High-Level Research Conference
Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy, 9-14 October 2010

Since the earliest times, new technologies have contributed to profound scientific advances and have transformed the ways we can do research. It is claimed today that the World Wide Web offers revolutionary models of scientific cooperation, which promise to instantiate a utopian democracy of knowledge. This claim has repeatedly been associated with the

development and introduction of a collaborative Web, commonly referred to as 'Web 2.0' as well as its offspring, a semantically enriched Web 3.0 still in the making.

The aim of this conference is to bring together art historians and other researchers (including digital humanists) in order to investigate the intersection between the web and collaborative research processes, via an examination of electronic media-based co-operative models in the history of art and beyond.

The conference will not only be an occasion to exchange ideas and present relevant projects in the field, but, with contributions spanning from art history (and digital art) to philosophy and cultural studies, from psychology and sociology of knowledge to computer graphics, from semiotics to curatorial practices it will offer a unique forum for the representation of both diversified and complementary approaches to the topic of Networked humanities.

Conference format:

- lectures by invited high-level speakers
- short talks by young & early stage researchers
- poster sessions, round table and open discussion periods
- forward look panel discussion about future developments

A number of grants are available for young researchers to cover the conference fee and possibly part of the travel costs.

Full conference programme and application form are accessible on the conference website.¹ Closing date for applications: 18 July 2010.

CARARE and Europeana

Making archaeology and architectural heritage content available through Europeana



The Europeana² service offers access to millions of digital items provided by Europe's museums, galleries, archives, libraries and audio-visual organisations. Some of these are world famous, others are as yet hidden treasures. Europeana will deliver public access to over 10 million digital objects by 2010.

CARARE³ (Connecting ARchaeology and ARchitecture in Europeana) will play an important role in ensuring

¹ <http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=6726>

² <http://www.europeana.eu>

³ <http://www.carare.eu>

that digital content for Europe's unique archaeological monuments, architecturally important buildings, historic town centres and industrial monuments of heritage importance is interoperable with Europeana and accessible alongside contents from national libraries, archives, museums and other content providers. CARARE aims to enable spatial and virtual reality content for heritage places to be brought together in Europeana and new services for users.

By working closely with Europeana, through the involvement of the EDL Foundation⁴ as a key partner in the project, CARARE will establish an aggregation service and a framework for cooperation which will benefit heritage agencies and organisations in every Member State.

CARARE will add substantial value to Europeana and its users by:

- Promoting and enabling participation in Europeana by heritage agencies and organisations, archaeological museums and research institutions and specialist digital archives, and raises awareness of Europeana in the domain.
- Establishing an aggregation services which contributes on a practical level to enabling interoperability, promoting best practices and standards to heritage organisations, taking account of the particular needs of content for archaeology and architecture. It will bring 2 million items (im-

⁴ <http://snipurl.com/wxdrb>

ages, maps, plans, aerial photographs and 3D models) for Europe's unique archaeological monuments, historic buildings and heritage places into Europeana.

- Implementing Europeana compatible infrastructures, standards and tools so as to make available millions of digital items for heritage places across Europe, thus contributing to the growth of Europeana.
- Acts as a test bed for Europeana's APIs which are intended to make contents available for other service providers to use, for example in the areas of tourism, education and humanities research.
- Establishes the methodology for 3D and virtual reality content to be made accessible to Europeana's users.

CARARE, which runs from 1 February 2010 until January 2013, is funded under the European Commission's ICT Policy Support Programme and co-ordinated by Henrik Jarl Hansen (Kulturarvsstyrelsen, Denmark) and Kate Fernie (MDR Partners, UK).

The project consortium consists of 29 partners from 20 countries across Europe. The CARARE project team includes content providers, aggregators/country coordinators and suppliers of technical or other specialist expertise.

The first data from CARARE is expected to be available on Europeana in 2011.

Kate Fernie, CARARE's technical coordinator:

"If you search on Europeana at the moment, you only get a limited amount of information about the iconic buildings - the temples, tombs, churches, houses, palaces and landmarks - that make up such an important part of Europe's landscape."

"Pompeii is very well known, and it is easy to plan a visit. But across Europe there are less well known but equally interesting monuments which we will make available to the public too: the prehistoric cemetery at Varna in Bulgaria, or the beautiful Castle of Methoni in southern Greece, or the World Heritage sites of the 4th century AD theatre in the city of Paphos on Cyprus and the megalithic temple at Ta Hagra on Malta".

"Another unique feature of CARARE is its goal of including map coordinates with each item, allowing users to pinpoint where a monument, building or ancient ruin is located - a feature that would be especially useful for tourism".

"CARARE will bring details about the history, current condition, and the features of these sites to Europeana, alongside standard information such as the name of the structure and the period it dates from".

Focus on DARIAH Associate Partners

Swedish National Data Service

SND Swedish National Data Service 

SND is the national infrastructure for digital resources for research in humanities, social science and medicine. SND is presently in a construction phase, which started in 2008. SND is situated in Gothenburg and the activities are carried under a contract between the Swedish research council and the University of Gothenburg.

Leading up to the contract was a thorough analysis with national and international participation of the activities of the previous social science data archive, SSD, which also was based in Gothenburg and from which SND has inherited key personnel.

There are important differences between the way SND is operating and the traditional social science data archive functions of SSD. First of all the scope of SND is wider encompassing all the arts and humanities and all of medicine. Secondly, archiving of data is only one of the ways to secure long term preservation of digital research resources. Extending good advice to the data producers about how to treat and maintain data is also very important.

SND is responsible for long term preservation and accessibility of digital resources within the disciplines covered. The production of true and

standardised documentation plays a central role for both preservation and dissemination. In some cases this documentation is produced by SND in other SND advises the data owners about documentation standards and their application.

To assist users seeking digital resources, SND maintains a number of finding aids on its home page. Among these are our search catalogue¹ of studies held at SND, the SND Nesstar Server² for analysis and download of data, and soon to be inaugurated the SND Question Data Bank.

In the near future we also expect to be able to show the results of a cooperation with Statistics Sweden directed towards making metadata about official statistical micro data available through the SND finding aids.

Legal and ethical aspects of research involving digital resources play a central role for SND. Therefore SND employs legal expertise. The creation, maintenance and usage of digital resources containing sensitive information is not exactly easy under Swedish law, and it is important to discover how this is accomplished and to communicate this knowledge to the data users.

SND has responsibilities in assisting to make international digital resources known and available in Sweden and to make Swedish digital resources known and available abroad. For this reason participation in in-

¹ <http://www.snd.gu.se/en/catalogue>

² <http://nesstar.snd.gu.se/webview>

ternational cooperation is important to SND. SND is active in CESSDA where we hold the presidency, take part in the CESSDA based EU projects and will support the establishment of a CESSDA ERIC. SND has a member of the board of IFDO. SND is an active participant in the DDI-Alliance. And SND is an associate partner in DARIAH.

Among the big arts and humanities projects that SND cooperates with are the Swedish Language Bank¹, Swedish Rock Art Archives² and Göteborg Organ Art Center³.

SND is located in very pleasant surroundings, a nineteenth century bourgeois villa, located in central Gothenburg. More splendid than actually practical.

The Humanities Informatics Department in IMI-BAS



The Humanities Informatics Department⁴ (HID) in the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) was established in October 2004 as part of the work on the EC-funded project *Knowledge Transfer for Digitization of Cultural and Scien-*

tific Heritage in Bulgaria (KT-DigiCULT-BG). The department currently has 11 staff members, including 7 researchers, and amongst them two PhD students.

The Humanities Informatics Department activities are fully in line with the Digital Libraries flagship initiative of the i2010 programme⁵ of the European Commission, more specifically, with digitization, accessibility online and long-term preservation of cultural and scientific resources. The team is generally concerned with research, implementation and education in Digital Humanities interdisciplinary fields such as digitization of scientific and cultural heritage, and image recognition.

The Humanities Informatics Department hosts the first national digitisation centre in Bulgaria. It develops pilot implementations of digitization workflows for various types of cultural materials. In the last few years the department established cooperation with various national cultural and scientific heritage institutions and worked on joint projects with them. In this period the department took also part in EC-funded projects: KT-DIGICULT-BG, COMTOOCI⁶ and DIGMAP,⁷ and was an associated member of MINERVA,⁸ MICHAEL¹

⁵ <http://snipurl.com/wx9ep>

⁶ Computational TOOLS for the librarian and philological work in Cultural Institution, funded by the Culture 2000 programme, <http://www.ilc.cnr.it/comtooci>

⁷ Discovering our Past World with Digitized Maps, funded by the eContentplus programme, ECP-2005-CULT-038042, <http://www.digmap.eu>

⁸ Ministerial NEtwork for Valorising Activities in digitisation, a series of projects funded by FP6 and eContent programmes, <http://www.minervaeurope.org>

¹ <http://spraakbanken.gu.se>

² <http://www.shfa.se>

³ <http://www.goart.gu.se>

⁴ <http://www.math.bas.bg/digi>

and EDL.² Its staff members also took part in the activities of the projects Great-IST³ and DELOS.⁴

The Department takes part in various services of particular national importance connected to:

- Contribution to the inter-institutional council at the Ministry of Culture, aimed at creating a national digitization strategy;
- Support to the National Commission for UNESCO;
- Support to the State Agency for Information Technology and Communications in monitoring digitization activities in Bulgaria (in the frames of Numeric project);
- Creation within the Academy of Sciences of an inter - institutional infrastructure, related to the preservation of the national cultural and historical heritage;
- Establishment of a national network of institutions involved in the digitization of cultural and scientific heritage;
- Digitization activities and preparation of exhibition in Foreign Arts Gallery in Sofia (April 2009) in collaboration with the Centre

of Architectural Studies at BAS;

- Participation at high-level professional training programmes organized by UNESCO, the British Council and the Italian Ministry of Culture;
- Contribution to long-life training programmes aimed at re-qualification of the unemployed in Bulgaria.

The department is amongst the founding members of SEEDI,⁵ the South-East European Digitization Initiative, which brings together specialists from EU member states, west Balkan countries, EU candidate states and New Independent States (NIS) – a unique regional informal network which already organized five international conferences on digitization.

In addition to the traditional research lifecycle, the department is engaged also in practical digitization activities. As a result up to now approximately 100 000 pages have been digitized, among them – old printed books (17 000 pages), documents of the State Archive (8 000 pages), documents of the BAS archive (approximately 1 000 pages), newspapers (approximately 1200 issues), musical periodic (approximately 1 000 pages), the archive of the High Attestation Commission (8 500 pages), IMI archive and other written mathematical heritage (44 000 pages), audio archive of Bulgarian dialects (7 hours) and photographic collections (200 items).

¹ Multilingual Inventory of Cultural heritage in Europe, <http://www.michael-culture.org>

² European Digital Library NETwork, the project which develops the pilot version of Europeana, <http://www.europeana.eu/portal>

³ Bringing Together IST Research Stakeholders from Western Balkans, NIS and Associated Candidate Countries, <http://www.great-ist.org>

⁴ DELOS Network of Excellence in Digital Libraries, <http://www.delos.info>

⁵ <http://seedi.ncd.org.rs>