

e-Humanities – an emerging discipline

Workshop in the

4th IEEE International Conference on e-Science

7-12. December 2008, Indianapolis, USA

Aim of the workshop

In the Humanities the availability of new digital technology and increasing amounts of digitized data has triggered the development of several novel research methods. The capability of creating and using large digital collections of structured and unstructured resources and the emergence of powerful algorithms for processing the data from multiple perspectives is already affecting all Humanities disciplines. However, to reap the full benefit of e-Science approaches, a number of issues that are specific for the Humanities must be addressed. It is the aim of this workshop to do just this.

In the past many resources have been made available in digital form. These include texts, multimedia documents, but also a wide range of meta-data, from annotations of documents, via lexicons and taxonomies to grammatical descriptions of many natural languages. Since these resources have been created independently, in the absence of standards for character encoding, file formats, annotation systems, access rights and IPR, these resources do not interoperate. Yet, the full benefits of e-Humanities can only be had if independently created resources can be combined, as if they formed one large resource. Therefore, substantial work remains to be done to reach a situation in which each scholar can peruse the combined resources with the same ease as if they formed one homogeneous resource.

So far only a fraction of the existing documents that are of interest to the Humanities has been digitized. The same holds for knowledge sources such as lexicons and grammars. Thus, we are seeing, and we will be seeing, projects aimed at digitizing additional resources. To avoid the need for expensive repair measures to enable interoperability after the completion of these projects, standards for all levels –from character encoding to the semantics of meta-data- must be developed. Standardization activities are under way, but they are far from completion.

The distributed character of the resources, in combination with local expertise that is needed to keep them up-to-date, naturally leads to a Data Grid. The enormous amounts of computations necessary for advanced automatic pattern detection and other machine learning techniques gives rise to the need for using Grid Computing. Both aspects of the Grid-based processing are likely to pose special requirements related to the type of data, the type of questions that scientists ask, and the access rights.

The specific questions addressed in the Humanities and the specific types of data that are of interest require the development of dedicated algorithms. Even if these algorithms can be adapted from related disciplines, there is still a large amount of work to be done before the toolbox for e-Humanities research is reasonably

complete and before existing tools can easily be combined to workflow chains by the humanities scholar who is not an expert.

e-Humanities can only be successful if it is possible to provide computer tools that support scholars in their research, rather than forces them to spend lots of time learning how to use new tools, or even worse, developing new tools. To prepare researchers for using the emerging e-Humanities tools, novel courses must be developed for undergraduate and graduate programs. However, even the best possible education cannot compensate for bad design of the tools. Therefore, the e-Humanities toolbox must come with an excellent user interface.

Call for Papers

Papers submitted for presentation on the workshop should report original research that has not been published elsewhere. In addition, we invite position papers that make solid contributions to the design of a research roadmap for the e-Humanities.

All papers submitted for presentation in the workshop will be reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee.

Against the background of the general aim of the workshop we invite papers in all areas indicated above. Thus, the following topics will be covered:

- advanced e-Humanities research scenarios supported by language resources and technology
- advanced collaboration scenarios for geographically distributed collaborative research
- text and media integration, interoperability
- advanced computational modeling
- development of novel tools for Humanities research
- flexible knowledge weaving technology
- data and compute Grids
- advanced user interfaces supporting advanced e-Humanities methods
- education and training for e-Humanities researchers
- accessibility, legal and ethical issues involved in e-Humanities scenarios
- impact of e-Humanities on the research process and changes of the role of the researcher
- other topics that fit in the general goal of the workshop

The full-day workshop will comprise two invited lectures, oral and poster presentations. The workshop will conclude with a discussion that should contribute to the roadmap for future research in the field.

Accepted papers will be published in the workshop proceedings. We intend to publish extended versions of the most interesting papers and the result of the panel discussion in the form of a book, or as a special issue of a leading journal in the field.

Important dates (suggested)

1st Call for Papers 5. Mai 2008

2nd Call for Papers 16. June 2008

Deadline for Submission of full papers 22. August 2008

Notification of Acceptance 5. September 2008

Final submission of camera-ready papers 10. October 2008

Final Program published on the Web 10. October 2008

Conference and Workshop 7-12. December 2008

Submissions of papers with a maximum length of eight pages must use the conference format instructions and only PDF documents without page numbering will be accepted.

Workshop Site

Conference Site

Organizers

(CLARIN (<http://www.clarin.eu/>) and DARIAH (<http://www.dariah.eu/>) will take care of continuity)

Peter Wittenburg	MPI, Nijmegen (chair)
Laurent Romary	MPDL, Berlin
Sheila Anderson	AHDS, London
Peter Doorn	DANS, Den Haag
Tamas Varadi	Academy of Science, Budapest
Steven Krauwer	University Utrecht

Tentative Program Committee (to be verified):

Hans Uszkoreit	DFKI, Saarbrücken
Nicoletta Calzolari	CNR, Pisa
Martin Wynne	OTA, Oxford
Gerhard Budin	U Vienna
Tamas Varadi	Academy of Science, Budapest
Stelios Piperidis	ILSP, Athens
Carlos Levinho	Museo d'Indio, Rio
Sven Strömquist	U Lund
Kiril Simov	Academy of Sciences, Sofia
Bente Maegaard	U Copenhagen
Jost Gippert	U Frankfurt
Eva Hajicova	CU Prague
Dan Tufis	Academy of Sciences, Bukarest
Walter Daelemans	U Antwerp

Ed Hovy	ISI, University of Southern California
Kee-Sun Choi	KAIST, Daejeon
Helen Dry	U Michigan
Gary Simons	SIL, Atlanta
Tony Hey	Microsoft Research
Sadaoki Furui	Tokyo Institute of Technology
Eva Hajicova	Charles University Prague
Marc Kemps-Snijders	MPI, Nijmegen
Laurent Romary	MPDL Berlin
Sheila Anderson	AHDS, London
Steven Krauer	Utrecht University
Peter Wittenburg	MPI, Nijmegen
Chu Ren Huang	Academia Sinica, Taipei
Peter Doorn	DANS, Den Haag
Sue Ellen Write	Kent State University, Ohio
Linda Barwick	Paradisec, Sydney University
Paul Dorenbosch	Dutch Royal Library, Den Haag
Heike Neuroth	SUB Göttingen
Lee Giles	IST, Penn State U, Philadelphia
Peter Gietz	DAASI, Tübingen