The Dutch projects CLARIN-NL and DARIAH-NL have merged and evolved into a new infrastructure for data and tools in the humanities: CLARIAH.

Libraries, museums and archives conserve and manage large collections of data (texts, images, structured data, audio-visual materials) which are gradually being made available in digital form for re-use. Until now there has not been an integrated approach to dealing with digital data and tools for the humanities; existing datasets are not interconnected, and researchers and students experience a lack of training in applying digital methods to analyse large datasets. CLARIAH aims to deal with these issues and find integrating solutions. The CLARIAH infrastructure will give researchers access to large collections of digital data and innovative, user-friendly applications for the processing of these data. Both data and tools will be managed in a sustainable way, i.e. they will be easily accessible to humanity scholars such as linguists, historians and media scientists.

CLARIAH is the natural continuation and extension of two national projects: CLARIN-NL (linguistics, texts) and DARIAH-NL (socio-economic history, structured data), complemented with a third pillar: Media Studies (audio-visual data). CLARIAH combines the European CLARIN and DARIAH infrastructures in the Netherlands.

Beyond topic and time

Until recently, addressing questions about culture and identity depended on experts’ ability to identify potentially relevant pieces of information in archives, libraries and museums.

The purpose of CLIO-DAP is to improve communication in research by asking leading scientific journals in the field of economic and social history to make available the research data associated with articles they publish. The software should facilitate the process where data are deposited in reliable digital data archives; ideally, these data collections are also published and reviewed, and subsequently linked to the corresponding research, with a transparent and efficient communication in research by asking leading scientific journals in the field of economic and social history to make available the research data associated with articles they publish. The software should facilitate the process where data are deposited in reliable digital data archives; ideally, these data collections are also published and reviewed, and subsequently linked to the corresponding research publications.

OHT Oral History Today

OHT collection are a rich basis for various types of scholarly research. However, scholars need tools to explore these collections in a way that is suitable for answering research questions. In the first phase of research, scholars need to select relevant collections. After that, they will want to analyse the selected materials thoroughly. The tool developed in OHT aids the scholar during the selection phase by means of a full-text search, content visualisation using word clouds, and various filter options based on information available in the metadata, such as time periods and location. For the analysis phase, the OHT tool provides features like a personal folder to store interesting segments selected using a virtual cutter. The segments can be annotated and shared with colleagues. The tool also recommends related interviews or interview segments within the collection.

CRoSH ‘Challenges ahead’

Baroque Library Prague photo Banga

Because such research was extremely time consuming, it was hardly possible to look at all the data or test alternative analyses. In the CLARIAH infrastructure digital data will be made accessible to a large number of researchers, who will be able to process them using digital tools. They will be well equipped to verify data selections and other researchers’ interpretations. CLARIAH will open up their world by enabling them to search beyond the boundaries of topic and time, to tackle the vast universe of data and study the development of culture, cultural identities and ideas.

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