

DARIAH connects Europe's resources, tools and scholars

Advancing a digital revolution in the arts and humanities

DARIAH, the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, is committed to advancing the digital revolution in the arts and humanities across Europe by connecting resources and tools with the emerging next generation of digital scholars.

Laurent Romary and Sally Chambers

As more sources become digital, more digital content is being produced and more digital tools are being deployed, we see a next generation of digital scholars in the humanities emerge. DARIAH aims to connect these resources, tools and scholars, ensuring that the state of the art in research is sustained and integrated across European countries.

Collaborations

DARIAH works closely with research communities in an expanding network of affiliated projects, for example with archaeologists (via ARIADNE, the Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Data Networking in Europe), medieval and modern historians (via CENDARI, the Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure) and Holocaust researchers (via EHRI, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure). This collaboration fosters the production of digital reference materials of all kinds (archival descriptions, transcriptions, annotated images, musical simulations, 3D models, etc.) and makes it essential to offer a data platform combining generic and specific hosting facilities.

Although some digital humanities projects such the TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) have already achieved high levels of maturity and reach, many new projects are funded where scholars need to collaborate and require help and support. It is important to remember that the wide majority of scholars has little or no background in digital methods. The vision for DARIAH is therefore to offer a portfolio of infrastructure-orientated activities centred around research communities across the broad spectrum of the arts and humanities, no matter how far advanced they are in the digital revolution.

dariah.eu

ARIADNE Excavating the past, building the future

There is a large availability of archaeological digital datasets spanning many periods, domains and regions. However, due to access barriers and non-homogenous perspectives, their potential has been constrained. ARIADNE brings together and integrates existing archaeological research data infrastructures to allow researchers to use the various distributed datasets as well as new and powerful technologies in archaeological research.

ARIADNE aims to enable researchers to access data centres, tools and guidance from various countries; intends to create new web-based services based on common interfaces to data repositories; and will promote the availability of reference datasets and the use of innovative technologies.

ARIADNE is set to contribute to the creation of a new community of researchers ready to exploit the contribution of Information Technology and to incorporate it in the body of established archaeological research methodology.

ariadne-infrastructure.eu

Marieke Polhout and Valentijn Gilissen

NEDIMAH Network for Digital Methods in the Humanities

NeDiMAH is one of the so-called Research Networking Programmes of the European Science Foundation (ESF). Sixteen European countries participate in the initiative, which is scheduled to run for four years until May 2015.

NeDiMAH is responsible for a series of activities and networking events that will allow the examination of the practice of, and evidence for, digital research in the arts and humanities across Europe. It is promoting collaboration and networking among the community of European scholars in this field as well as those engaged in creating and curating digital collections of scientific and cultural heritage.

Five working groups have been set up in which scholars can exchange and share insights and results. NeDiMAH will enable arts and humanities researchers to develop, refine and share research methods that allow them to create and deploy digital methods, collections and infrastructures. NeDiMAH collaborates closely with the DARIAH and CLARIN e-research infrastructure projects and other national and international initiatives. All NeDiMAH activities are open to the entire European community of scholars.

nedimah.eu

René van Horik

CARARE Bringing content for archaeology and historic buildings to Europeana users

CARARE is a Best Practice Network, funded under the European Commission's ICT Policy Support Programme. It is designed to involve and support Europe's network of heritage agencies and organisations, archaeological museums, research institutes and specialist digital archives in the following activities:

- opening up – through the cultural network of Europeana – the digital content on archaeological and architectural heritage which they hold;
- aggregating content and delivering services; and
- enabling access to 3D and Virtual Reality content through Europeana.

CARARE is one of a suite of projects aimed at further developing the Europeana cultural network. It will play an important role in involving Europe's network of organisations responsible for investigating, protecting and promoting unique archaeological monuments, architecturally important buildings, historic town centres and industrial monuments of World, European and national heritage importance alongside the existing national, regional and local content providers.

carare.eu/eng

Marieke Polhout and Valentijn Gilissen

EHRI Digital infrastructure as well as human network

The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) aims to support the Holocaust research community by providing –online – access to dispersed sources relating to the Holocaust and by encouraging collaborative research. EHRI helps researchers overcome one of the major challenges facing Holocaust research: the fact that the research materials are dispersed across Europe.

Beyond this unique attempt to bring information about collections together, EHRI activities range from promoting new research methodologies to conducting analyses of research needs, e-Science standards and technologies, and research support. EHRI's fellowship programme enables researchers to work on-site in a number of leading institutes. EHRI organises summer courses on Holocaust research and promotes a European-wide approach.

An important condition for EHRI to succeed is its interdisciplinary structure. The collaboration between historians, archivists and e-infrastructure specialists is a key contributing factor to EHRI's success.

ehri-project.eu

Petra Drenth