

DiXiT – Digital Scholarly Editions Initial Training Network

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Scholarly editors were quick to realise the value of using digital technology for performing research, disseminating results, facilitating access and bringing research communities together. The early adoption of digital technologies has led to some interesting digital editions, but this initial head start also created some 'handicaps' or challenges for the field. To name but a few: the continuous flux of technological developments requires editors to constantly adapt their tools and methods, and confronts them with serious issues regarding long-term access and preservation. Moreover, the traditional isolated nature of scholarly editing resulted in a range of individual projects reinventing the digital wheel and developing a separate methodology.

Another challenge can be found in the designated audience of a digital edition. A digital edition has potential to be of interest to a large audience. However, the public of scholarly editions is traditionally quite small, specific and mainly academic. Finally, while scholarly editing projects are often used as an illustration of the multidisciplinary character of humanities research, their collaborative potential is yet to be fully realised.

This poster presents the DiXiT-project, a European Marie Curie funded research network designed to study the theory, concepts and practices of digital scholarly editing. By exploring the relationship between traditional forms of editing and new computational methods and technologies, DiXiT aims to determine the essential components of scholarly editing in the digital realm. In order to accomplish this, DiXiT distinguished several critical issues, grouped together in specialised work packages. The projects in work package 1 concentrate on concepts, theory, and practice. Work package 2 holds a number of projects that study the technology, standards, and software. Finally, the third work package focuses on the place of scholarly editing within academia, cultural heritage and society as a whole. A number of digital editions will be created within the DiXiT framework, which illustrates how theory and practice are closely intertwined. Consequently, the DiXiT network operates on matters across the full editorial cycle: from digitisation and production through dissemination.

The project runs from 2013 until 2017 and offers a coordinated training and research programme for 12 early stage researchers and 5 experienced researchers in the multi-disciplinary skills, technologies, theories, and methods of digital scholarly editing. Currently 14 of these positions are taken. The 11 early stage researchers are (in alphabetical order) Francisco Javier Álvarez Carbajal, Elli Bleeker, Misha Broughton, Federico Caria, Richard Hadden, Aodhán Kelly, Merisa Martinez, Frederike Neuber, Daniel Powell, Elena Spadini and Tuomo Toljamo. The 3 experienced researchers are (in alphabetical order) Gioele Barabucci, Linda Spinazze' and Magdalena Turska.

As a group of DiXiT-fellows we would like to present the current stage of the project and its participants, as well as outline the plans of our specific research projects for the coming years. During the poster presentation, we highlight a number of specific issues from different research projects within each work package. As such, we can provide a more detailed overview of the network's progression as well as a reflection of the current challenges of the field.