

DARIAH and the Benelux

Sally Chambers

Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities
Ghent University, DARIAH-BE
sally.chambers@UGent.be

Maarten Hoogerwerf

Data Archiving and Networked Services
(DANS), DARIAH-NL
maarten.hoogerwerf@dans.knaw.nl

Jan van der West

Data Archiving and Networked Services
(DANS), DARIAH-NL
jan.van.der.west@dans.knaw.nl

Marianne Backes

Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe
(CVCE), DARIAH-LU
marianne.backes@cvce.eu

DARIAH, the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, aims to enhance and support digitally-enabled research and teaching across the humanities and arts. By bringing together national activities from Member countries, DARIAH is able to offer a portfolio of services and activities centred around research communities. DARIAH was established as a European legal entity in August 2014 with 15 countries - Austria, **Belgium**, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, **Luxembourg**, Malta, **The Netherlands**, Slovenia and Serbia – as Founding Members. This was an important step towards developing a research infrastructure for sharing and sustaining digital arts and humanities knowledge across Europe and beyond.

Strengthening cooperation in the Benelux

Using the DH Benelux conference as a catalyst, DARIAH-BE, DARIAH-LU and DARIAH-NL would like to explore how closer collaboration can strengthen their participation in DARIAH both within their individual countries and together as the Benelux region. Here is an overview of the DARIAH activities in each country:

DARIAH in Belgium

DARIAH-BE is represented by three consortia: the research groups and universities of DARIAH-Flanders (**DARIAH-VL**) and DARIAH-Federation Wallonia-Brussels (**DARIAH-FWB**), together with the federal scientific institutions, e.g. Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage and CEGESOMA, the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (**DARIAH-FED**). The key objectives are to identify and join-up existing digital humanities activities across Belgium in order to create a sustainable network of digital humanities researchers that operates within a larger European network. DARIAH-BE will develop and offer a flexible and standards-based service platform consisting of modules and applications for collaborative research, analysis and publishing.

DARIAH in Luxembourg

DARIAH-LU is still in its early stages of development. The current group of partners includes a variety of organisations which reflect the Luxembourg public research landscape and their stakeholders including the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (CVCE) as the DARIAH National Coordinating Institution for Luxembourg. Luxembourg's participation in DARIAH-EU will build on the strengths of the different partner institutions with a particular focus on the provision of expertise and services/tools for data curation, enrichment, analysis, visualisation and personalisation (including multilingual, multimedia and spatial dimensions).

DARIAH in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, DARIAH and CLARIN have joined forces in CLARIAH, which brings together the major humanities research institutes in The Netherlands. CLARIAH, which kicked off in March 2015, is a four year roadmap project that aims to provide a common digital infrastructure for the humanities in the Netherlands, focusing on three pillars: media studies, linguistics and socio-economic history. The resulting infrastructure allows ground-breaking research by providing humanities scholars with access to a large collection of digital resources and innovative processing tools.

DARIAH: an opportunity for the Benelux?

Using the opportunity to present a poster at DH Benelux 2015 as a starting point, the authors would like to explore how the three DARIAH countries could collaborate. Initial ideas include:

- **increasing collaboration between researchers and infrastructure providers:** taking advantage of the *geographical proximity* and *language synergies* to participate in shared activities e.g. joint research projects and training events.
- **increasing funding opportunities:** exploring regional possibilities for funding and establishing partnerships for European funding proposals.
- **sharing DARIAH knowledge and experience:** increasing understanding and identifying synergies between the DARIAH activities in each country.

Through strengthening the collaboration between DARIAH activities in Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands, we would like to facilitate maximum participation of digital humanities researchers in the Benelux region in DARIAH in order to take full advantage of the benefits of being part of the European DARIAH community.

References:

DARIAH-EU: www.dariah.eu

DARIAH-BE: <http://be.dariah.eu/> and www.ghentcdh.ugent.be/content/dariah-be

DARIAH-LU: <http://dariah.lu/> and www.cvce.eu/en/actualites/2014/viewer_news/-/news/55986?refererPlid=10184

DARIAH-NL: see CLARIAH: www.clariah.nl and www.clariah.nl/proposal/CLARIAH_2013_Final.pdf