

Visualising Data Resources

The Potential of a Wikimedia Platform for the
Digital Humanities

Workshop
27 – 28 April 2012
Forschungszentrum Gotha
Invitation



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Visualising Data Resources

Steps towards a Wikimedia Platform for the Digital Humanities

With Wikigrid we are planning to construct a database within the pool of Wikimedia resources.

A “Semantic MediaWiki” will collect metadata from library catalogues and archival repositories and add new features. We are aiming at a database users will be able to widen according to their needs – and at providing a data environment attractive research projects.

Unlike regular library catalogues the grid will allow users to correct, augment and to enrich data sets. (As in Wikipedia anyone will, in turn, be able to undo changes if necessary.)

Our resource will also differ from regular library catalogues by allowing users to create new search options, set new categories, define new data fields and to edit text within the medium. Standard visualisations will make it attractive to open platforms of research within the grid – such as

- statistics
- distributions of materials on the timeline
- localisations of results on maps
- visualisations of networks of persons and organisations
- visualisations of historical exchange (e.g. between correspondents who exchanged letters)
- genealogies of persons, institutions and materials (for example in order to illustrate dependencies between individual editions and versions of a book)

Synergy and exchange between projects

The idea to invite research projects to do their work within the common resource rather than on individual servers has a number of attractive features

- Many research projects are presently investing resources in the construction of tools that do the very same things. It would be fruitful if these tools were produced in a common pool, so that new projects could invest their resources in improving them or in generating new and more specialised tools.
- It has become clear that open source projects have the best chances to remain in use, as they can easily be continued by succeeding projects without the risk of copyright infringements. This is the reason why financing institutions have been changing their requirements in recent years in favour of open projects.
- We are often working at the moment without exploiting the potential of linking our projects – it has remained technically impossible to build bridges between

projects. The site we are planning should be technically flexible to allow such synergy between research projects.

The aim of the Workshop planned in Gotha for April 27 – 28, 2012

Wikimedia Germany and the Forschungszentrum Gotha, headed by Prof. Dr. Martin Mulsow, will organise an open workshop at the Forschungszentrum on April 27 – 28, 2012 with the aim of obtaining a clearer picture of what an open project should and could do for researchers and the wide world of internet users. We will be able to compensate travel expenses and accommodation in Gotha.

We are interested in bringing together

- Wikipedians with experience in cooperative work
- Wikimedia representatives who have supervised cooperative projects with public institutions in the past (such as the enormously successful project the Bundesarchiv has undertaken with the Wikipedia Community)
- Programmers interested in the further development of MediaWiki software
- Scholars who have worked on projects of the digital humanities.

We will be interested in increasing an awareness of

- technical solutions (such as new search options, new visual interfaces and new tools)
- setbacks and chances of cooperative work which we have experienced within projects in the past
- the interest we see in creating a platform which individual projects could use without fear of losing recognition for their individual contribution to research

We would especially like to encourage presentations (ca. 20 minutes) of web-projects: What did they want to achieve? What tools did they develop? What technical problems did they experience? What tools can still be envisaged?

Olaf Simons, December 18, 2011

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Links & Inspiration

Mapping the Republic of Letters, Stanford University

<http://mapping.stanford.edu/>
<https://republicofletters.stanford.edu/>
<http://vimeo.com/25796059>

Charles van den Heuvel (NL) Authoritative Annotations, Encyclopedia Universalis Mundaneum, Wikipedia and the Stanford Encycloped

<http://vimeo.com/10608291>

Charles van den Heuvel, Virtual Knowledge Studio (KNAW), Sandor Spruit, Leen Breure, and Hans Voorbij, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2010/papers/heuvel/heuvel.html>

CKCC Circulation of knowledge and learned practices in the 17th-century Dutch Republic

<http://ckcc.huygens.knaw.nl/>
<http://ckcc.huygens.knaw.nl/visualizations/>

Cultures of Knowledge: An Intellectual Geography of the Seventeenth-Century Republic of Letters, An Intellectual Geography of the Seventeenth-Century Republic of Letters

<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/cofk/>
<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/cofk/archives/6084>

Impuls-Bauhaus: Das soziale Netzwerk des Bauhauses und sein weltweiter Einfluss

<http://impuls-bauhaus.de/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DB9qU9tK3Y>
<http://mediaarchitecture.de/projekte/impuls-bauhaus/impuls-bauhaus-ausstellung-n1-im-whitecube09/>

Google Public Data Explorer: World Bank, World Development Indicators › Visualization

http://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=d5bncppjof8f9_&ctype=b&met_x=sp_dyn_le00_in&scale_x=lin&ind_x=false&met_y=sp_dyn_tfrt_in&scale_y=lin&ind_y=false&met_s=sp_pop_totl&scale_s=lin&ind_s=false&dimp_c=country:region&ifdim=country&hl=en_US&dl=en_US#ctype=b&strail=false&bcs=d&nسلم=s&met_x=sp_dyn_le00_in&scale_x=lin&ind_x=false&met_y=sp_dyn_tfrt_in&scale_y=lin&ind_y=false&met_s=sp_pop_totl&scale_s=lin&ind_s=false&dimp_c=country:region&ifdim=country&pit=343954800000&hl=en&dl=en_US

Vizualize.me Instantly Turns Your Resume Into Charts – An intriguing web Application

<http://vizualize.me/>

And more links

<http://www.improving-visualisation.org/visuals/tag=bubble+chart>

And yet more links

<http://blog.threestory.com/>

<http://wiki-grid.org/>

http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Bibliographisch-archivalische_Datenbank