RDA and Humanities

Insights from the RDA Europe domain Ambassadors

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RDA and the Digital Humanities

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www.rd-alliance.org/rda-disciplines/rda-europe-ambassadors
How can the RDA and the humanities be of value for each other?

- **RDA ->** building infrastructure for data sharing on a global scale

- **Humanities ->** academic disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture
  - No central discipline
    - (OECD classification: (1) History and Archeology (2) Language and literature Philosophy (3) ethics religion (4) Arts (5) Other)
  - Primarily critical or speculative methods (with significant historical element)
  - Close relation humanities and social sciences (e.g. fields such as law and politics)
From humanities computing to digital humanities

Using computers to digitize historical sources – humanities computing (ca. 1995)
Digital Humanities example

- Digital Edition of scholarly source

Digital Humanities

- Emerged around 2004

Examples of computer use in humanities research:
  - Machine translation
  - Text analysis
  - Text markup
  - Creation of concordances and glossaries
  - Image processing
  - Geospatial analysis

- Humanities data
  - Rich and complex
  - Non-standardized in format
  - Without common or consistent metadata and ontologies
  - Subject to complex right issues
Concerning data sharing there is no single common practice across the entire domain.

Obstacles for data sharing have to do with governance, funding and sustainability (thus not technical).

In Europe the ESFRI roadmap is an important factor in the improvement of the situation. Two prominent RIs in the field of DH are:

- DARIAH (arts and humanities)
- CLARIN (language and linguistics)

Other initiatives:
- E-RIHS (Heritage Science)
- ARIADNE (Archeology)
- IPERION CH (Restoration and conservation of cultural heritage)
The RDA and the Humanities

- RDA does not have a “domain science” WG/IG active in the humanities (yet?)
- Assessment of RDA output (IGs / WGs / Recommendations) relevant for humanities
  - 6 Interest Groups / 2 Working Groups seem to be relevant
    - (mainly related to Research Data Management and Data Repositories)
  - Recommendations and outputs, relevant topics are:
    - Data citation / Certification of Repositories / PIDs / Metadata management / Interoperability / Identity management
    - They are discipline agnostic
How can the RDA and the humanities be of value for each other?

RDA and DARIAH RI

- Recommendations on data sharing
- Funding for activities
- Working groups / interest groups / plenaries

Contribute to infrastructure development
- Share experiences
- Gain expertise in data science

3 examples of RDA output

- Research Data Management
- Metadata Standards
- Certification of Repositories

Section of poster for DARIAH annual event, Warsaw, 15-17 May 2019
How can the RDA and the humanities be of value for each other?

RDA and CLARIN RI

- CLARIN representatives are active in several WGs and IGs and prominent in some published recommendations.
- The CLARIN RI implements RDA output

https://youtu.be/lk4_znNAV1Q
Wrap up

• Several RDA activities are relevant for digital humanities (and services to support digital humanities research), e.g.
  • Metadata management
  • Interoperability
  • Persistent Identifiers
  • Certification of repositories
  • Identity management

• Humanities RIs increasingly get involved in RDA activities.