Scales of Data Sharing Challenges in the Digital Humanities

Lindsay Potlier
Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Research Data Alliance Data Share Fellow

Abstract
As part of the RDA Data Share Fellowship, I will spend the next six months examining the barriers to adoption of RDA outputs in the digital humanities. Based on early research, in this poster, I elaborate a framework, designed by Kim Fortun, for analyzing the scales that business contemporary problems. I show how the challenges that DH researchers face as they work towards adopting RDA outputs are the result of interactions between issues at many scales. In this sense addressing the barriers to output adoption in the digital humanities is not just about developing more appropriate technologies, nor is it just about providing the humanities with more technical support. It will require an agenda for tackling issues at many different scales.

Mcro
- How do we build a culture of data sharing from the ground up?
- How do we position data sharing in the context of digital humanities research?
- How do we encourage the development of data sharing infrastructure?
- How do we ensure that appropriate incentives are in place to support and sustain the development and implementation of data infrastructure?

Meso
- How do we ensure that adequate resources are available for the development and implementation of data infrastructure?
- How do we ensure that appropriate financial structures are in place to support and sustain the development and implementation of data infrastructure?
- How do we network these technologies in ways that work for interdisciplinary communities?
- How do we factor the time to build technologies into research projects?

Macro
- How do we ensure that the appropriate incentives are in place to encourage researchers to participate in data sharing and infrastructure development?
- What governance structures best support collaborative research projects?
- How do we ensure that appropriate financial structures are in place to support and sustain the development and implementation of data infrastructure?
- How do we ensure there are (affordable) places to put new technologies and data?

Techno
- How do we develop data standards that are flexible enough for researchers to map their workflows onto digital infrastructure?
- How do we develop data sharing workflow that align with diverse research methods and practices?
- How do we prepare researchers to work with data infrastructure - to integrate data best practice into their day-to-day work?
- How do we develop technical infrastructure to support data sharing?

Data
- How do we design data architecture to protect the diversity of analytic modes and thought styles across research traditions?
- How do we design and structure data architecture and configurations to fairly represent the diversity of analytic modes and thought styles across research traditions?
- How do we position data sharing in the context of digital humanities research?
- How do we ensure that the infrastructure (Internet access, bandwidth, and processing power) needed to support data sharing technologies are accessible to DH researchers?

Open Questions
- How can RDA tap into existing DH support venues to promote output dissemination and adoption?
- What progress should be made toward?

Further Research
Does leveraging this framework to understand the barriers to data infrastructure adoption change how we approach solutions?