In this poster, I present several proposals for support services that can help advance adoption of RDA recommendations in the empirical humanities. I summarize ethnographic research conducted in the first 6 months of my RDA Data Share Fellowship on the barriers to adopting data sharing practices in the empirical humanities. I then go on to outline a proposal for an Empirical Humanities and Creative Social Sciences Research Infrastructure Initiative (EHCSSRII) that aims to support 1) organizational infrastructure, 2) technical data sharing services and infrastructure, and 3) critical data literacy education. I discuss early efforts to advance this initiative, along with some of the early challenges we've run into.

**RELEVANT RESEARCH DOMAINS**

**Collaborative Hermeneutics**
- Researchers address (continually iterating) sets of shared questions
- Researchers also struggle to define their own interpretation and those of other researchers focused on "the same" data
- Researchers recognize that interpretation is not "subjective" but are always informed by situated perspectives

**Empirical Humanities & Creative Social Sciences**
- Include history, folklore, cultural anthropology, and related fields
- Researchers produce data for cultural analysis, through interviews and other methods informed by diverse analytic traditions
- Often not hypothesis-driven
- Aiming to capture both common themes and abnormalities
- Researchers not trying to reproduce data but instead to layer theoretically informed thick descriptions of data

**SPECIFIC DATA SHARING CHALLENGES IN THE EH & CSS**

**Meta**
- There is depleted discourse on the need for research infrastructure in EH & CSS.

**Macro**
- There are considerable privacy, ownership, and ethics concerns in human subjects research.
- Funding agencies for EH & CSS are under attack, and there are few funding opportunities for infrastructure.

**Micro**
- There are few institutionalized incentives for EH & CSS researchers to share their data.

**Meta**
- EH & CSS researchers tend to work in isolation.
- Workflows in EH & CSS tend to be "invisible" and thus difficult to map into digital infrastructure.
- EH & CSS researchers often do not have the expertise to design and implement infrastructure.

**Tactics**
- User-driven tools for implementing data infrastructures for this part may not exist.
- Recommended data practices have not been identified in EH & CSS.
- There are few affordable places to store EH & CSS data and services.

**Data**
- There are a diversity of analytic modes and thought styles in EH & CSS that often are out of sync with the assumptions designed into existing research infrastructure.

**Nano**
- Educational programs in the EH & CSS are not set up to teach researchers that designing research infrastructure is an imperative endeavor.
- Data in the EH & CSS are produced from specific research perspectives. There is great fear in EH & CSS that in sharing data derived from specific perspectives, data will be taken out of context.

**ABSTRACT**

CHI aims to intervene hermeneutically in the humanities and social sciences with research and findings in scientific domains such as the life sciences, engineering, computer science, and medicine in order to answer complex questions about contemporary global problems. By bringing diverse, geographically-dispersed and interdisciplinary perspectives to the characterization of data, CHI seeks to advance what we’ve termed “collaborative hermeneutics.” The initiative both seeks to advance understanding of contemporary problems, while also theorizing the research infrastructure needed to make possible the integration of data and analyses across scales, disciplines, and cultures.

**PROPOSAL FOR AN ECOLOGY OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT**

We suggest that in order to advance an international collaborative hermeneutics initiative, we need governance for research infrastructure support that is attuned to the particular aims and challenges of the empirical humanities and creative social sciences. We hope that such support can network and vet existing research frameworks, tools, and services according to domain-specific challenges, as well as propose new strategies when existing frameworks, tools, and services do not align with domain-specific commitments.

The EHCSSRII would offer research infrastructure governance for vetting, networking, and sustaining frameworks, tools, and services to advance CHI.

**EMPIRICAL HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE**

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