Introduction to DM2E (Digitised Manuscripts to Europeana)

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Lower the barriers for humanities scholars to re-use digital heritage in their teaching and research.
Division of labour

1. Provide **data** and **digital content** to Europeana with a focus on **digitised manuscripts**

2. **Build tools** for the **aggregation** of this data and content so that it can be **re-used** and **connected**

3. Develop tools for the **re-use** of Europeana **Linked Data** in humanities research contexts
Content providers

- European Association for Jewish Culture (Judaica)
- Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (ECHO)
- Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Google)
- Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Kalliope)
- University of Bergen (Wittgenstein)
- CNRS ITEM (Nietzsche)
- National Library of Israel (Judaica)
- Berlin Brandenburgische Akademie (German Text Archive)
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Polytechnisches Journal)
Linked Open Data

- make your stuff available on the Web (whatever format) under an open license\(^1\)
- make it available as structured data (e.g., Excel instead of image scan of a table)\(^2\)
- use non-proprietary formats (e.g., CSV instead of Excel)\(^3\)
- use URIs to identify things, so that people can point at your stuff\(^4\)
- link your data to other data to provide context\(^5\)
Linked Data & RDF

- **Resource Description Framework (RDF)**
  - Conceptualizes information as web-resources identified by a URI
  - Models information as statements about resources in the form of **triples** (subject – predicate – object)
  - RDF makes **meaningful connections** between resources very easy
Linked *Open* Data

- Allow teachers, students and researchers to **explore** the **connections** others make between works, authors and collections
- **Lower the barrier** to entry for others to **build** the **tools** that will define 21\(^{st}\) century scholarship
What kind of tools do we want?
Beyond infrastructure

“Research infrastructure is not research just as roads are not economic activity. We tend to forget when confronted by large infrastructure projects that they are not an end in themselves. [...] Infrastructure projects can become ends in themselves by developing into an industry that promotes continued investment. To sustain infrastructure there develops a class of people whose jobs are tied to infrastructure investment.”

Rockwell, 2010
refers to

a theory of language

to a theory of language authored by Alphonso Bickford also wrote


These words, it seems to me, give us a particular picture of the essence of human language. It is this: the individual words in language name objects—sentences are combinations of such names.—In this picture of language we find the roots of the following idea: Every word has a meaning. This meaning is correlated with the word. It is the object for which the word stands.
Scholarly primitives

• "Scholarly Primitives: what methods do humanities researchers have in common, and how might our tools reflect this?" – John Unsworth, 2000

• Unsworth’s scholarly primitives:
  – discovering
  – annotating
  – comparing
  – referring
  – sampling
  – illustrating
  – representing

• Professor Stefan Gradmann co-authoring a paper with the DM2E Digital Humanities Advisory Board developing this set of primitives to further model the scholarly domain
According to Christian Mortiboyd the following text from George Berkeley:

130. It is a prevailing opinion, even amongst those who have thought and writ most accurately concerning our ideas and the ways whereby they enter into the understanding, that something more is perceived by sight than barely light and colours with it.

[from: An Essay Towards a New Theory of Vision]

cites as source document the following text from John Locke:

This Judgment apt to be mistaken for direct perception. But this is not, I think, usual in any of our ideas, but those received by sight. Because sight, the most comprehensive of all our senses, conveying to our minds the ideas of light and colours...

[from: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding - Book II - Chapter 00]

Go to annotated web page
Hands-on Pundit demo 15:45-17:00 in the Auditorium with Christian Morbidonni (Net7)
Wittgenstein Case Study

10 scholars from the University of Bergen using DM2E tools to annotate and curate Wittgenstein’s Brown Book

Feedback in to further development of the platform
Useful Links

- [http://dm2e.eu](http://dm2e.eu)
- [http://thepund.it](http://thepund.it)
- Follow @DM2Europeana
- Get in touch email sam.leon@okfn.org