Centre for Digital Humanities and Arts

Introduction, 22 May 2022 in Edda

Organisation

- Consortium of 11 key institutes (and growing!)
  - Operated within the University of Iceland, which funds the day-to-day operations.
- Centred around projects funded by the Infrastructure Fund.
  - Each project governed by an administrative board.
- Part of the first Roadmap for Research Infrastructure in Iceland since 2021.
  - Future of Roadmap not clear.
- Homepage: mshl.is

The funded projects

- **Historical Farm and People Registry**
- **Icelandic models for Transkribus**
- **Automatic speech recognition of folklore audio recordings**
- **3D scanners**
- RUV – digital transfer of audio recordings
- Manuscript catalogue (handrit.is)
- Sarpur – cultural database
- *New projects being developed for funding applications*

Sarpur

Long-term objective

- Developing a "service centre" for researchers working under the DH umbrella.
  - In collaboration with IREI: Icelandic e-Research Infrastructure.

- A major opportunity, but also a major challenge.
  - Funding for the CDHA very limited and not secure (as opposed to the projects).

Ownership and access

- New projects owned jointly by members of CDHA.

- Existing projects, developed by CDHA:
  - Main principle: Ownership stays with the original owner.

- All projects are Open Access – as far as possible.
  - Exceptions due to copyright and privacy issues.

- Challenge: Access to data for research purposes.
  - The visual arts a special problem (but not the only one!). Need a new contract with The Icelandic Visual Art Copyright Association.

Collaboration, domestic and international

- Domestic:
  - IREI: Icelandic e-Research Infrastructure (another Roadmap project).
  - Language technology (incl. CLARIN).
- International:
  - Institutional member of DARIAH.
  - Hosting the Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic (DHNB) annual conference in 2024.
  - Minnesota Population Centre (for census data).
- A number of more specific projects.

Research: The criterion of success

- The future of CDHA depends on new research and research opportunities.
    - The whole rationale of the Roadmap!
- Our projects can already be used.
    - Domestic funding applications currently being developed, using one or more of our projects.
- The Centre is participating in international projects and applications.
    - *Digital Action on Climate Change with Heritage Environments* (Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, funded 2023).
    - A funding application being developed by a NOS-HS network!!!

Impact

- Our projects (funded or not) relevant to stakeholders outside the network and to society in general.

- Databases and tools relevant:
  - to start-ups and industry;
  - for teaching at different levels;
  - for curious citizens and anyone eager to become an explorer;
  - for regional development;
  - more?

Thank you!