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MODELS FOR OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING
DARIAH THEME EVENT

ABSTRACT: The following note presents the four-day summer school on *Models for Open Access Publishing* hosted in Villa Vigoni from 8 to 11 June 2015. Joining together the needs of researchers and publishers, the convention turned out to be a fruitful meeting of people and ideas on Digital Humanities. Furthermore, the fact that many of the participants are active in the DARIAH project was a stimulus for the discussion, since one of the key concepts of DARIAH, as well as of Digital Humanities in general, is cross-disciplinarity.

The wonderful frame of Villa Vigoni, a place rich not only in historical importance but also in memories of international cooperation, hosted the summer school on *Models for Open Access Publishing*. The summer school aimed being an occasion for meeting people and ideas, especially because of the variety of different standpoints involved. The overall purpose was to achieve a reliable description of the ever shifting landscape of technologies, considered from the perspective of a fluid field such as Digital Humanities, and at the same time to gather new proposals for the improvement of research infrastructures. Joining together researchers, publishers and developers was considered the best way to fulfil the common ambition of shaping new models both for reading and for writing. The conference was

organised as a summer school in order to allow the exchange between experts and students, coming from different domains and eager to discover new perspectives and interests, and to widen their own competences. The fact that many of the participants are active in DARIAH-ERIC (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) was a further stimulus for the discussion, since one of the key concepts of DARIAH, as well as of Digital Humanities in general, is cross-disciplinarity.

The *Opening Addresses* session was introduced by Riccardo Pozzo (DSU-CNR). He pointed out how one of the main roles of national research institutions is to promote a fair discussion on open access publishing and to improve research.

In his address to the participants of the Summer School, Jean-Claude Guédon (Université de Montreal) expressed with passion and historical thoroughness his vision on the public nature of knowledge, claiming that the main point of research is knowledge itself, rather than publishing. Publishing indeed, in spite of some of the actual trends, must be regarded as a mean, not as a purpose. Thanks to the new digital techniques scholars will soon be able to dispense with private academic publishers, or at least not to be bound to depend on them.

Filippo Camerota, an architect working with Paolo Galluzzi at the Museo Galileo presented a digital rendering of *Martin Waldseemüller's Map of the World* (1507), realised through a very new approach to digital publishing. The digital rendering offers, among other things, a marvellous example of the different perspectives that can be joint together thanks to the new technologies, transforming a map of the world in a full world itself.

Giovanni Solimine, library science professor at Sapienza University of Rome, invited to a deep reflection on the role played by libraries in the digital migration of an increasing number of publications from their original print, to show how the development of online sharing of research requires an improvement in the circulation of these results, both in terms of speed and of completeness. He highlighted the double bind between the future of the book and the transformation of libraries. Libraries should be considered in this context as research infrastructures whose main focus shifted from documents to services, and eventually to users.

The *Open Sources* session was opened by Roberto Delle Donne. Historian at the University of Naples, he spoke as coordinator of the *Open Access Group* for the Conference of Italian University Rectors(CRUI). He focuses his attention on some fundamental questions of publishing that are

relevant for book-historical research: (1) How to publish data? (2) Which publishing platforms are most effective? (3) Which metadata are most complete? (4) Which quality control and validation procedures should be implemented? Although these questions have always been crucial, they assume new aspects in the digital age. For this reason, Delle Donne stressed the importance of broaden the discussion including also non-academic stakeholders.

Melanie Dulong de Rosnay (Institute for Communication Sciences-CNRS) asked questions about the legal interoperability and future rights of access and reuse of texts and databases (questions that arose also from some suggestions given by Jean-Claude Guédon). She stressed the necessity to consider the legal and, in some ways, political aspect of these issues; that is, to act as policy advocates at the national, European and international level for better supporting Open Access.

Christopher Smith, Director of the British School of Rome, showed the transformations which research is currently undergoing due to the availability of original material out of copyright, and to more sophisticated tools for research. The result is an actual revolution in accessing high quality research materials. He underlined the impact of open access as it is being applied in the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF).

The third section (*Design of Reading in the Digital Era and Digital Publishing in SSH*) began with Gino Roncaglia (Università della Tuscia) who explored new ideas for enhanced e-books. The start-point of his contribution was Bob Stein's Voyager Company who twenty years ago was already explored and experimented the concept of book-enhancement. Roncaglia proposed ten points of discussion with a large number of examples.

Right after Roncaglia, Bob Stein, Director of the Institute for the Future of the Book, described the reasons of his long-lasting research, explaining how this research evolved in the era of the digital network. We are going "back to the future" insofar as reading and writing acquired once again the features of social activities, often blending together and gaining tremendous power in the process. By means of examples taken from his brilliant career, Stein clarified also that what would and will be a networked book is also of a paramount social and political importance.

The book tools designer and developer Francesco Leonetti asked technical, provocative and interesting questions about the layout of the future of digital books. He stressed out the importance of the participation

of researchers in the discussion and the necessity of collaboration between researchers and forthcoming designers of e-books. Without this kind of cooperation, some very good opportunities will be lost, especially for research's innovation. What some may consider a mere technical issue, as the choice to improve pdf or ePub for example, is actually a core scientific issue, since the support is an integral part of the research process. Only some kind of native digital and research driven publication may permit semantic enrichment, multimedia, interactivity, metadata driven discovering, multi-layering, responsiveness, accessibility, geolocalization, and social reading.

In the opening of the session, *Standards and Infrastructures for Research and Publishing*, Fabio Ciotti, president of the AIUCD, addressed this kind of questions. He underlined the importance of cooperation between digital publishing industry and research community, in order to settle what seems to be the main divergence regarding text encoding. On one hand, the digital publishing industry cannot devote full commitment to a standardization of the practices for text encoding, because of the laws of market; on the other hand, that is exactly what the research community needs to gain expressive plasticity, interoperability and digital preservation of digital texts. The solution to face this mismatch and to give better instruments to researchers can be a customisation of TEI, 'TEI Simple'.

Christof Schöch (Universität Würzburg) showed how quantitative researches in literary studies, one of the main fields in digital humanities, can be positively affected by an open access to huge collection of digital texts. He gave a full insight on the matter, stressing out the importance of: standards for texts, annotation and metadata; advantages and challenges of digital text collections for research; long-term storage, accessibility and usefulness of resources; legal issues such as copyright and licensing.

Although the role played by infrastructures such as DARIAH for all the issues at stake was clearly present in most of the speeches, in the session *Knowledge Exchange and User Measurement* Emiliano Degl'Innocenti (SISMEL, FEF) chose to focus on the importance of interpreting the national in-kind contribution to the project as a mean to obtain a landscape analysis of the research infrastructure; this, in turn, would be a paramount factor to determine open access policies.

Dirk Wintergrün (MPIWG), co-head of DARIAH's VCC4 (Virtual Competency Centre 4), explored the history and mission of DARIAH. In stressing the fact that open access policies enter in almost all the tasks of

VCC4, advocacy, impact and outreach, he suggested that considering open access as a publication strategy for a sustainable research infrastructure might be one focus of a possible working group in VCC4.

Following the same line, Hansmichael Hohenegger (ILIESI-CNR), co-head of VCC4 and organizer of the Summer School, shared the same auspice, stressing the necessity for DARIAH to lead the process of making the digital instruments more and more suitable to the needs of the researchers. In order to do this it is important to convince traditional scholars to commit themselves in a public discussion and in common decisions on technical and social forms and functions of digital instruments and infrastructures.

The closing session on *Economic Models for SSH Publishing* was a fair confrontation between the different points of view of the private publishers represented by Piero Attanasio from the *Italian Publishers Association* and that of the open access publishers represented by Jean-Christophe Peyssard from the *Center for Open Electronic Publishing*. Piero Attanasio advocated for new equilibriums in digital publishing, especially in the humanities, considering the fundamental shift that open access might bring on market, resource allocation and social objectives. His analysis leads to the conclusion that no solution could actually fit each and every circumstance and that publishers, institutions and policy makers should look at flexible and yielding strategies.

Jean-Christophe Peyssard provided an update on the various economic models and possibilities of electronic publishing in Open Access. His examples showcase how Social Sciences and Humanities community developed innovative projects in building a diversity of high level platforms and models, and that this diversity could only benefit from the collaboration between SSH communities and enlightened private publishers.

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