Call for Papers:
Audiovisual material in Digital Humanities

Workshop DH2014, 8 July, Lausanne, Switzerland

Introduction

The issue that will be addressed during this workshop is how to overcome the contrast between audiovisual material being a steadily increasing body of data and the fact that it is relatively poorly represented in the field of the Digital Humanities. When considering the available DH tools, projects and publications it is clear that sources such as television, film, photos and oral history recordings have not yet received the same level of attention from scholars as written sources. This can be considered as problematic in the light of the expected exponential growth in volume of audiovisual sources and of the abundance of information for researches contained in this type of data that is largely overlooked. One can envision how a single document could satisfy the needs of various disciplines if tools would be available to identify, retrieve and analyse the various dimensions of a video-recording such as language, emotions, speech acts, narrative plots and references to people, places and events. This richness not only holds the promise of multidisciplinary collaboration between e.g., computer sciences, social sciences and the humanities, but also makes audiovisual material a potentially valuable playground for the Digital Humanities.

Workshop Programme

The workshop aims to bring scholars and computer scientists together to discuss the following key questions in four subsequent sessions.

1. Why are audiovisual data/archives scarcely used within the (Digital) Humanities?
2. What are possible strategies to stimulate the use of audiovisual data/archives within the Digital Humanities?
3. Which examples of digital tools applied on audiovisual data/archives can serve as best practices?
4. What should be the priorities on the agenda for the future uptake of audiovisual data/archives in the Digital Humanities?

The keynotes within the first two sessions will be delivered by Andreas Fickers, professor of contemporary and digital history at the University of Luxembourg, and Dr. Arjan van Hessen, specialist in speech technology and member of the Executive Board of CLARIN-NL. The first will talk about the use of audiovisual sources within humanities research, and the second will discuss the necessary technical and infrastructural provisions for the analysis of these sources. For the third

session scholars are invited to submit papers and demos that illustrate the potential of applying DH approaches to audiovisual data with a focus on lessons learned. The final session is dedicated to the assessment and evaluation of the findings and aims at formulating a research agenda for the future. To disseminate the results of the workshop among a broader audience, the initiators intend to propose a special issue on this topic to a Digital Humanities journal.

Submission of proposals

For the third session on applications of DH on audiovisual data, the workshop organisers invite papers and demos that deal with experienced challenges of integrating AV in DH. Submissions should include the following:

- General abstract (should not exceed 800 words)
- Contact info and a short description of research interests of the authors.
- The committee aims to select a balanced set of abstracts that cover the various media (film, television, photography, oral history, digital storytelling, recordings of sound and movement) and tools that are needed at the various stages of the research process (exploration, annotation, analysis, presentation, curation and preservation).

To submit a proposal, please send an abstract (docx or pdf) to avindhworkshop@gmail.com. Acceptedabstracts will be published on the workshop website.

Important dates

- Abstract submissions due: 16 May 2014 23:59 (CET)
- Acceptance notification: 28 May
- Workshop: 8 July 2014

Further information

More information about the workshop can be found on the website. Please note that registration for the workshop requires registration to the full DH2014 conference. For further information and questions, contact us (avindhworkshop@gmail.com).