

AHRC ICT Methods Network Workgroup
DIGITAL TOOLS DEVELOPMENT

B201 and B211, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London, 13 November 2007

ABSTRACTS

Making space: a methodology for tracking and documenting a Cognitive Process in 3-Dimensional Visualisation-based Research

Principal Investigator: Professor Richard Beacham

Abstract

Our project will draw upon our extensive experience in diverse 3-dimensional (3D) based research to reflect and analyse how in individual projects we and others gathered and evaluated data and made choices when creating and contextualising our models and their functionalities. Secondly, it will develop the tools that will enable these experiences and analyses to be documented and then extended to provide the transparency necessary for 3D to be more widely used as a research methodology in a range of arts-based subject areas.

ARMADILLO: Information Mining in Distributive Research Datasets in the Arts and Humanities

Principal Investigator: Professor Mark Greengrass

Abstract

This project examines new ways of extracting ('mining') relevant information from unconnected electronic sources. It is an attempt to answer the question of how to locate and interpret information contained in distributive online research datasets effectively, using criteria acceptable to the Arts and Humanities community. This project uses a substantial set of available online resources in eighteenth-century British social history to evaluate the benefits of automated data-mining techniques. It then explores the potential for applying these techniques to a wider collection of arts and humanities resources.

ICT Tools for Searching, Annotation and Analysis of Audio-Visual Media

Principal Investigator: Dr Alan Marsden

Abstract

Speech, music and video are important for the Arts and Humanities. Historians use them as sources; linguists study the sound patterns; artists, actors, musicians and others study performances. All these fields would benefit enormously from the ability to search for audio-visual materials as simply as we now search for text, and from tools to automate some of the processes of analysis. This project will survey technologies under development for searching audio and visual media streams, automatic annotation, and related analysis tools. It will examine how they can be put to scholarly uses, and their likely impacts.

The Hunt for Submarines in classical art: mappings between scientific invention and artistic inspiration

Principal Investigator: Dr Mike Pringle

Abstract

This interdisciplinary project is concerned with the use, within visual arts, of advanced imaging ICT developed in certain medical and military arenas. Taking a structured information gathering approach, the project will: conduct a focused survey of relevant scientific research into such technologies; elicit a number of clearly- defined visual arts needs; and produce mappings between the two. The project's detailed information output will be extremely valuable for visual arts research, and the approach taken, using a bespoke, reusable method, has relevance in the exchange of ideas in other cross-domain projects, both in visual arts and in the wider arts and humanities community.

Project website: <http://www.vast.ac.uk/>

Making the LEAP: Linking E-Archives and E-Publications

Principal Investigator: Professor Julian Richards

Abstract

The project will investigate novel ways in which electronic publication over the Internet can provide broad access to research findings in the arts and humanities, and can also make underlying data available in such a way so that readers are enabled to 'drill down' seamlessly into online archives to test interpretations and develop their own conclusions.

Project website: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/leap/>

Lexical Searches for the Arts and Humanities

Principal Investigator: Professor Jeremy Smith

Abstract

The project will investigate new ways of searching online texts in a variety of humanities disciplines. Tools will be developed to exploit and expand the research potential of a unique database developed at Glasgow University, the [Historical Thesaurus of English](#). This resource contains the vocabulary of English (around 650,000 meanings) from the modern period back to Anglo-Saxon times, arranged in detailed semantic categories. Although the test data are English, the methodology could be transferred to other languages where an online thesaurus and text corpora are available.

Project website: <http://leo.englang.arts.gla.ac.uk/historicalthesaurus/>

Creation of a flexibly searchable streaming media archive of contemporary and modern art theory and practice

Principal Investigator: Professor Robert Zimmer

Abstract

We will create an intelligent system for archiving and retrieving video and audio recordings of events about contemporary and modern art, in the first instance, focusing on a select portion of the Tate's existing Online Event Archive.

The system will be able to extract (from long recordings) only those sections that are relevant to a user's current interest. Furthermore, the system will be able to personally assist users, directing and guiding the search/research activity, with 'intelligent' suggestions.

We will also focus on semi-automatic indexing of the material. The system will be extendable and reusable for other collections.

Communities, Tools and Dissemination

Craig Bellamy AHDS and Torsten Reimer, AHRC ICT Methods Network

Abstract

In the light of decreasing funding, the community has to look for other ways to facilitate tools development. Based on existing and envisaged project, we will explore some possibilities on how this might be approached.

Zotero - Ups and Downs of Humanities' Tools Development

Dan Cohen, George Mason University

Abstract

Zotero is a new reference management software that is directly integrated into the Firefox browser. Dan Cohen discusses the ups and downs that the Center for History and New Media encountered when creating the tool.