



E-Humanities Working Group

The ALLEA E-Humanities Working Group was established on 5th November 2012 at the founding meeting in the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and Dr Sandra Collins of the Royal Irish Academy was elected as Chair. ALLEA, the federation of All European Academies, was founded in 1994 and currently brings together 58 Academies in more than 40 countries from the Council of Europe region.

Our Working Group addresses the digital humanities, humanities data, open access for data and digital preservation, and sustained e-Infrastructures and digital tools for the humanities.

Our key advocacies are:

- Responsible open access for humanities data
- Sustained and openly accessible research infrastructures for the humanities
- Long-term durable digital preservation to prevent digital obsolescence
- Recognition for the societal responsibility for preservation of our digital cultural heritage

The European Academies constitute a unique pan-European knowledge base that is trusted, non-partisan and long-term. The Academies therefore have an important contribution to make to debates regarding sustained digital infrastructures and project-funded artefacts, the achievement of long-term durable digital preservation, and the societal responsibility for preservation of our digital cultural heritage.

Humanities data can be rich and complex, non-standardised in format, without common metadata and ontologies, and can be subject to complex rights issues. Consensus and best practice regarding digitisation and metadata standards for common usage, that still retain the richness of different disciplines and data types, could enable open access to Humanities data, and facilitate data exchange and sharing between the wealth of archives, repositories and libraries across Europe.

In 2015 the ALLEA E-Humanities Working Group will publish and launch a Digital Humanities report, and continue our engagement and consultation activities with the European Commission and the Research Data community, which to date includes contributions to the European Commission's ERA Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures, Science 2.0, the Joint Research Centre, and the Research Data Alliance Europe Forum, as well as engaging with the Survey and Analysis of Basic

Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities at the European Academies and DARIAH, the pan-European Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities.

In 2014 we were pleased to have contributed to the book “Facing the Future – European Research Infrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences” by Adrian Dusa, Dietrich Nelle, Günter Stock and Gert G. Wagner (eds)¹, where experts from research, politics and research management backgrounds discuss digital infrastructures of the present and future in twenty articles. Our members also contributed to the organisation, chairing and presentations at the 2013 conference of the same name that led to this publication.

Our members come from six European academies:

Dr Sandra Collins (Chair) - Royal Irish Academy

Dr Natalie Harrower (Secretariat) - Royal Irish Academy

Dr Dag Trygve Truslew Haug - Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

Dr Beat Immenhauser - Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Professor Gerhard Lauer - Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities

Professor Tito Orlandi - The National Academy of the Lincei

Professor Laurent Romary (Special Member) – President of DARIAH

Dr Eveline Wandl-Vogt - Austrian Academy of Sciences

¹ Available at http://www.akademienunion.de/BMBF_Projekt/FACING_THE_FUTURE.pdf