

Action IS0704 'Interedition'

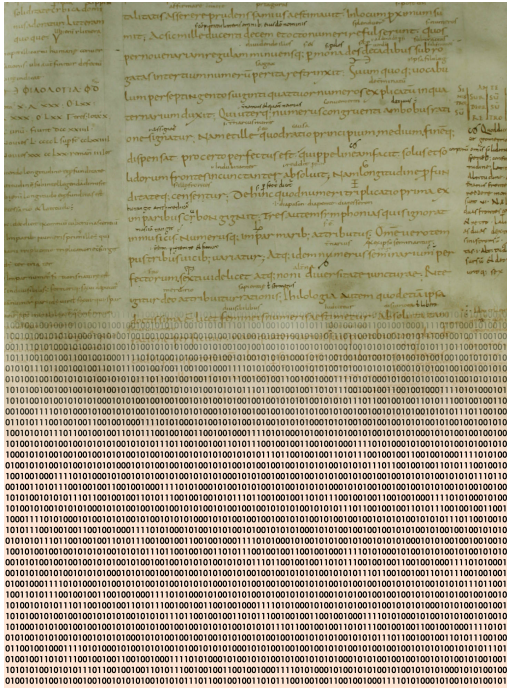
2008 - 2012



Participating countries: BE, DE, DK, FI, FR, IT, IL, IR, NL, PL, UK, BU, MC, IR

Chair of the Action: Joris van Zundert, NL, joris.van.zundert@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl
COST Science Officer: Julia Stamm, julia.stamm@cost.eu

www.interedition.eu



Textual Scholarship in the Digital Age

The printing press eventually revolutionized the impact of written information. Print empowered millions by distributing knowledge that was previously only accessible by a few learned and literate scholars. However, the transformation from manuscript to print practice also ushered in a number of decades that saw the loss of huge amounts of information. The practice of manuscript copying waned and much of the written record didn't make it to the presses, and even worse: numerous valuable manuscripts were destroyed when cut up and glued together to serve as new print book bindings. In an analogues process the digital revolution is creating a problem of continuity for textual information.

Solutions for Vulnerable Digital Information

Fields like textual scholarship, literary and documentary research have seen their tools and data shift more and more into a digital environment in the last decades. As this revolutionizes possibilities of collaboration, sharing and analysis, this shift has been welcomed. However, technical approaches until now present problems for sharing and sustaining tools and data. The objective of COST Action IS0704 'Interedition' is to raise awareness of this problem, to find a sustainable model of creating and sharing data and tools for the targeted fields, and to provide a proof of concept implementation for the proposed model. Selecting and proofing the best of breed technical and heuristic solutions is an interdisciplinary challenge for the fields of informatics and textual scholarship, that is much facilitated by COST instruments. The current model is aimed at very specifically supporting the heuristics of individual research networks within a technological framework warranting sustainable interoperability of tools and data. Sustainability and interoperability are propagated by expressing scholarly tasks through a light weight web service oriented architecture. Individual scholarly functions are identified with individual distributed web services, that can be composited into specialized workflows. Sustainability of data and services is found in distributed redundant cloud computing. Sustainability of development is sought through open source approach and community based development.

Objectives:

- Raising awareness of the continuity risks involved in the transgression of textual scholarship in the digital realm
- Exploring and defining a model for sustainable digital textual scholarship and resources
- Seeding a viable digital humanities development community
- Promoting light weight and distributed interoperability solutions
- Delivering proof of concept implementations
- Producing a 'Roadmap' describing a possible implementation for interoperable infrastructure for digital textual scholarship
- Raising funding for executing the implementation of the 'Roadmap'

Working Groups

COST Action IS0704 'Interedition' comprises four Working Groups. WG1 'European Dimension' is concerned with inward and outward dissemination, WG2 'Prototyping' focuses on delivering proof of concept implementations, WG3 'Strategic IT recommendations' is for technical and heuristic modeling, and WG4 'Roadmap' concentrates on management and the final deliverable a blueprint for the implementation of the agreed sustainable model for interoperability.

Main Achievements:

- Defining the principles of a three tier model for sustainable interoperability in the field: technical, semantic and community interoperability should all be properly addressed to propagate sustainability.
- Delivering two prototypes: a web services based text collation engine and a web GUI compositing services in a production level demonstrator as a proof of concept for the distributed light weight web services approach.
- Deployment of first prototype within four national level digital humanities projects
- Various national and FP7 level proposals