TIC-SIGHT

Transnational Belgium & INSIGHT. Valorisation of the collections

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The technology and standards for **valorizing and archiving social science and humanities research data** are evolving rapidly. We will use the opportunity for additional valorization actions to **go further than announced** in our project plan to make our data and metadata available via IIIF and a Linked Open Data publishing platform. By opening our text corpus and relational database in two fully functioning open access platforms, we can strongly stimulate future and ongoing research into transnational dynamics of 19th century social reform movements and 19th and 20th international non-governmental organizations in general. In 2015, TIC Collaborative, the overall project of TIC Belgium- became a pilot project of **DARIAH-BE**. The (Nodegoat powered) solutions developed by and for TIC Collaborative will be documented, upscaled and offered to other ongoing projects. In line with one of DARIAH-BE's guiding principles we also intend to go beyond science outreach and valorization by incorporating 'public humanities' into the open science strategy and definition. We will promote the use of our data by both specialist users, non-governmental organizations and the general public with interactive online exhibition, inviting visitors to dig into the data themselves. Three major objectives to valorize our data and project results have been identified:

1) Make the **unique collection of historical primary sources**, metadata and thematically tagged (1200 documents, mostly conference proceedings > 500 000 pages) **IIIF accessible** in order to make the corpus available for a wider audience of scholars who will be able to explore and query them thoroughly. In addition to this, we will collaborate with the INSIGHT team and open up the KMKG collection via IIIF.

2) **Improve** the **dataflow** between TIC's work environment, a nodegoat driven relational database, and the Linked Open Data environment ANANSI, a Linked Open Data publishing platform, in a **semi-automated** way in order to open all the data on reformers, conferences and international organisations for external scholars in a more user-friendly and durable way.

3) Creation of two **online exhibitions** on TIC's public website in order to promote the use of the TIC dataset and to disseminate the project findings and prototype INSIGHT's "photobox". Both **interactive exhibitions** will be built around the maps, graphs and other visualisations made by the researchers connected to the project but also in external collaboration with the *Union of International Associations.*

Tasks timing

WP 1. Making the collection IIIF accessible. The International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) is an open framework and standardised method to publish image-based resources, to be viewed, cited, and annotated by any compatible image-viewing application. Notwithstanding some limitations (for example its - by definition - focus on images), it is the most advanced and widely supported framework that allows researchers to build corpora across institutional borders and collections. By making our extensive and unique corpus of primary sources IIIF-accessible, the sources will be fully available for a wider audience of scholars who will be able to explore, annotate and query them thoroughly. As part of the DARIAH-BE Virtual Research Environment Service Infrastructure (VRE-SI), a IIIF Corpus Management Platform (CMP) pilot, powered by Omeka-S, has already been developed.

Once made available in IIIF, it will be possible to integrate our collection into this fully functioning platform, but other potential users can also import our IIIF manifests in their working environments.
In addition to this, we will collaborate with the INSIGHT team and open up the KMKG collection via IIIF. The KMKG collection, catalogued via the web-based collection management system MuseumPlus Ria, contains 173.233 objects from difference museum collections: Egypt, Middle and Near East, Islam, Iran, China, Japan, Griekenland en Rome, Southeast Asia, Gothic to Baroque, Nationale Archeologie, Merovingers, Oceanië, Kostuum en Kant, Rijtuigen, Historische foto's en Etnische kunst.

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WP 2 converting the relational dataset to LOD: Two subsets of TIC's data (15% of all data) have already been made available as Linked open Data in ANANSI. ANANSI is the central data connection between the three primary CLARIAH-Netherlands domains (Linguistics, Social & Economical History and Media Studies). ANANSI facilitates the connectivity of structured (meta-)data served by the research infrastructures constructed in these domains. ANANSI is far-out the best performing infrastructure that can be adjusted in a tailor-made way taking into account the particularity of datasets that characterizes research in the humanities. Due to technical constraints, linking across subsets is still largely a manual exercise. We have taken action to improve this. The 2TBI project is a research pilot carried out in 2017-18 in the framework of a funding scheme of CLARIAH to help shaping and testing ANANSI. During this project, the workflow and the semi-automated mapping of the different "vocabularies" that are being used has been enhanced. However, much still needs to be improved. Currently, the schema.org vocabulary is used extensively as an ontology for the mapping of the TIC data that is managed in Nodegoat to linked datasets in ANANSI. This vocabulary is unfortunately not a perfect fit to the particularity of the design of Nodegoat data models. A better fitting vocabulary will need to be created to match all particularities of each of the subsets of the TIC data. This will not only enable us to publish all of TIC's data as LOD, but this will also facilitate the publication as Linked Open Data of other projects using Nodegoat (like WeChangEd, Pyramids and progress, ERNIE, NISE, etc.).

WP 3 public humanities valorisation: All maps, graphs and other visualisations made by TIC and collaborating external researchers will be integrated on TIC's public website. Two exhibitions will be staged: 1) a virtual exhibition on the transnational mobility of Belgian social reformers and 2) an exhibition on 19th-20th century international organisations and global civil society centuries. We will do so, in close collaboration with the Instituut voor Publieksgeschiedenis (IPG), a public history centre experienced in the translation, valorisation and evaluation of academic historical knowledge to education, museums, historical exhibitions, commemorations, public books, media, heritage communities, etc. These exhibitions will be guided by the book project "International Organizations and Global Civil Society, Histories of the Union of International Associations", the *Union of International Associations* (UIA) and the PhD dissertation of Thomas D'haeninck entitled "*Social reformers in search of a moral revival. A social historical and transnational study of the attendance of Belgians at international reform congresses, 1850-1914*". The two exhibitions will be launched during event 2 at the occasion of the presentation of the book "International Organizations and Global Civil Society, Histories of the Union of International Associations", published by Bloomsbury Academic and an important deliverable of TIC Belgium. The event will take place in the 'Maison des Associations Internationales', in Brussels and is facilitated by the UIA. Targeting a multiplier effect towards specific heritage communities, the exhibitions will be distributed on social media, announced on websites/blogs and newsletters of cultural heritage institutions (Liberaal Archief, Amsab, Mundaneum, etc.). An international community will be reached via the Union of International Associations, its members and its partners, including UNESCO, ECOSOC, ILO. Elements of the exhibitions could also be re-used by The Regional History Centre Limburg (Maastricht, Netherlands) who want to stage an exposition on "The Provincial Dimension of Internationalism", focusing on reformers who engaged in transnational networks and were also active in peripheral regions of nation states.

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