

Trond Aalberg Christos Papatheodorou
Milena Dobрева Giannis Tsakonas
Charles J. Farrugia (Eds.)

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Volume Editors

Trond Aalberg
Norwegian University
of Science and Technology
7491 Trondheim, Norway
E-mail: trond.aalberg@idi.ntnu.no

Christos Papatheodorou
Ionian University
49100 Corfu, Greece
E-mail: papatheodor@ionio.gr

Milena Dobрева
University of Malta
MSD2280 Msida, Malta
E-mail: milena.dobрева@um.edu.mt

Giannis Tsakonas
University of Patras
26504 Patras, Greece
E-mail: john@lis.upatras.gr

Charles J. Farrugia
National Archives of Malta
RBT1043 Rabat, Malta
E-mail: charles.j.farrugia@gov.mt

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e-Infrastructures for Digital Libraries □ the Future

Wim Jansen¹, Roberto Barbera², Michel Drescher³, Antonella Fresa⁴,
Matthias Hemmje⁵, Yannis Ioannidis⁶, Norbert Meyer⁷,
Nick Poole⁸, and Peter Stanchev⁹

¹ DG Connect, European Commission

² Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia & INFN Sezione di Catania, Italy

³ European Grid Infrastructure (EGI), The Netherlands

⁴ PROMOTER, Italy

⁵ FernUniversität Hagen, Germany

⁶ University of Athens, Greece

⁷ Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center, Poland

⁸ Collections Trust, UK

⁹ Kettering University, USA

1 Background

The digital ICT revolution is profoundly changing the way knowledge is created, communicated and is being deployed. New research methods based on computing and "big data" enable new means and forms for scientific collaboration also through policy measures supporting open access to data and research results. The exponential growth of digital resources and services is supported by the deployment of e-Infrastructure, which allows researchers to access remote facilities, run complex simulations or to manage and exchange unprecedented amounts of digital data.

This panel will bring together leading e-Infrastructure experts coming from different subject domains addressing a range of different types of digital materials, services and collaborative tools supporting a variety of research communities to discuss with the Digital Libraries community the challenges modern research brings in terms of efficiency and relevance for an open research society.

2 Cultural Heritage Perspective

The numerous digitisation initiatives carried out by memory institutions (museums, libraries, archives) in Europe and world-wide have produced a large amount of cultural content\data, which is continuously growing. The existing services – e.g. the metadata aggregators, such as Europeana and the national cultural portals, play a key role to mobilise attention and resources on the general theme of the digitisation of cultural heritage. On the other hand, the research infrastructures (like DARIAH) are currently missing most of the cultural heritage data, including the data that are held by local institutions.

The idea of a digital cultural heritage e-Infrastructure is to set-up a "common pot", where institutions can deliver safely their content, which can be seen as a

“continuum” by the users. On the cultural heritage side, the panel will showcase such initiatives as DCH-RP (Digital Cultural Heritage Roadmap for Preservation). It will also benefit from the analysis of evidence done within the ENUMERATE project which is gathering evidence and analysing the current state in digitisation, accessibility online and preservation across the cultural heritage institutions in Europe.

These examples will provide a basis to discuss how cultural institutions could be more proactive in expressing their needs in terms of e-Infrastructures, and how they could benefit in a bigger extent from the already established e-Infrastructures.

3 Research Data Perspective

The panel will also discuss recent development within e-Infrastructures targeting support for the research communities. It will look into EUDAT, a project that brought together data infrastructure providers and practitioners to discuss current data infrastructure challenges and solutions, with a focus on interoperability, cross-disciplinary and cross-border collaboration; OpenAIREplus project which aims at bridging the missing link between the research articles, the data and the project funding. Building on the OpenAIRE portal and OpenAIRE compatible repositories, and EGI.eu which is a not-for-profit foundation established under Dutch law to coordinate and manage the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) federation on behalf of its participants: National Grid Initiatives (NGIs) and European International Research Organisations (EIROs), as well as the “Coordination & Harmonisation of Advanced e-Infrastructures for Research and Education Data Sharing” (CHAIN-REDS) project and its activities to foster and support worldwide data infrastructures. Furthermore, Projects like APARSEN and SCIDIP-ES are bringing the perspectives of research data and cultural heritage infrastructures together.

4 Key Questions

The experts in the panel will provide their perspective on the following matters:

- What is the relation between the e-Infrastructure they are involved in and digital libraries research and development?
- What is their expectation on the capacity building impact of their e-Infrastructure?
- What support is needed for various stakeholders in relation to future e-Infrastructure developments?
- Which are the most critical factors for the success of e-Infrastructures’ deployment?