

After the STSM

A short report on my Short Term Scientific Mission at Universität Trier in September 2014

Gerbrich de Jong | October 6th 2014

Purpose of the STSM

From September 1st until September the 25th I worked at Trier Center for Digital Humanities at the University of Trier to perform a Short Term Scientific Mission. The goal of this mission was to make an inventory of online scholarly dictionaries of European languages. This inventory had to be made in order to meet goal 1 of Working Group 1, which is to set up a European dictionary portal. At the same time it meets one of the goals of Working Group 2, which is to provide an overview of existing retro-digitised dictionaries and dictionaries that should be retro-digitised. I was hosted by Dr Vera Hildenbrandt (WG2) of Universität Trier, who was my supervisor. The other responsible for this action was Dr Anne Dykstra (WG1) of the Fryske Akademy, Leeuwarden, who functioned as an assistant supervisor. My Short Term Scientific Mission had the duration of seventeen working days. During these days I was a member of the Trier Center for Digital Humanities.

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

I started listing all languages of Europe in an Excel sheet. Ursula Schultze, student assistant of Vera Hildenbrandt, helped me on this, using databases and bibliographical information of libraries. The second thing I did was searching the internet for online scholarly dictionaries of these languages. Thirdly, I searched whether there were other high-quality dictionaries for these languages. Fourthly, I tried to describe the internal structure of the individual dictionaries, if possible. Sometimes this was an easy task, in case the dictionary explicitly states on the website what an entry looks like. Sometimes it was more difficult, for example for languages using a different script. If there was no scholarly or other monolingual/high-quality dictionary online available, Ursula and I searched for the title of a printed scholarly dictionary. This was the case for most of the smaller languages, like Sardinian and Aromanian. If I came across etymological dictionaries during my quest for online dictionaries, I recorded the titles and URLs of these as well, in order to meet the goals of WG4.

Description of the main result obtained

The main result obtained is an Excel sheet with a detailed overview of online available European (scholarly) dictionaries and their features. The excel sheets contains 151 rows and more than twenty columns, in which I recorded several features of each individual dictionary. The members of the Management Committee of the COST Action will check whether the dictionaries in my list are the best ones available and whether the internal structure of the dictionaries is correctly described.

Publications resulting from the STSM

I reported on my STSM during the ENeL workshop on 30th September in Bled, Slovenia. People reacted positively on my work and gave useful suggestions. I hope my Inventory is a step into the direction of making a European dictionary portal and I hope the results of this mission will be of good use for following STSM's.

Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM

Dr. Vera Hildenbrandt:

"From September 1st until September the 25th Gerbrich de Jong from the Fryske Akademy, Leeuwarden, was hosted at Trier Center for Digital Humanities (TCDH). Her STSM with the goal to inventory online and not yet online available dictionaries of all European languages builds a good basis for the development of the planned dictionary portal. The work of WG1, WG2 and WG4 will highly benefit from Gerbrich's STSM which she, working efficiently and excellently, finished successfully during her time at TCDH."