Citizen Science in the context of recent Digital Humanities projects – an overview and outlook

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Citizen Science in Digital Humanities (DH)

Overview
Evaluation and analysis of recent DH projects and studies concerning Citizen Science

Outlook
Citizen Science in exploreAT! - expectations and possibilities
Citizen Science in Digital Humanities

Overview – evaluation of 32 recent projects and studies

• DH2015 (Digital Humanities) [24]
• DHd2015 (Digitial Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum) [4]
• Dhb3 2015 (Digital Humanities in Berlin) [3]
• other [1]
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Overview – evaluation topics

- lexicography
- visualisation
- infrastructure
- citizen science
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- 9 out of 32 projects contain CS elements

Mode of CS integration
I. interactive use of social media (facebook, twitter, flickr)
II. crowdsourcing → nichesourcing
III. apps
IV. collective annotation
Interactive Use of Social Media


• Social Media-Geographical Information System mapping of Bloomsday (annual celebration of Joyce’s novel Ulysses)

• map Tweets from Twitter, and postings from Flickr and Youtube locally (Dublin) and globally (Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia-Pacific, North and Latin America) to specific locations from the novel

• surveys taken on social media activity on Bloomsday: highest activity around Davey Byrne’s Pub and Martellow Tower.

• surveys taken on social media activity before and after the event: Flickr and YouTube posts exhibited the highest activity in Dublin outside of Bloomsday → digital eco-system maintains a virtual Joycean Dublin on a sustained basis.
Interactive Use of Social Media

Scots words and place-names (SWAP) project (cf. Hough, C. et al.)

- SWAP project - Scots Words And Place Names
  - Aim: engage the Scottish public in talking about the Scots words they use and hear around them
  - collect information on names of places which use Scots words: how they were pronounced; if people knew what they meant; whether they appeared on maps or were known through word-of-mouth; even how they looked (through uploading pictures).
  - use of Facebook and Twitter to collect data and build communities
  - social media as a fast, broad-reaching and efficient medium for engaging the general public
  - collected words were added to collections of Scottish Language Dictionaries and to a comprehensive online glossary of Scots place-names
Crowdsourcing/Nichesourcing


• Project: digitisation of monographs and newspapers for endangered Uralic languages
• citizen science as a means of integrating the language community in linguistic research
• ‘nichesourcing’ – distributing tasks among small groups → better for qualitative than quantitative results
• Typical CS task: edit and collect word for fields of vocabularies where researchers require more information → by means of an OCR editor
Crowdsourcing/Nichesourcing


• Description of different approaches and communities across 3 projects

• Distinction between ‘crowd‘ → perform autonomous, simple tasks and ‘knowledge communities‘ → require collaboration, coordination and a more social element

• engaged 3 different types of crowds: the general public ; the expert community and the paid community .

• All 3 were only partially successful in terms of the research questions initially posed

- understand how users analyse text through mobile devices
- visual style: word clouds
- allows users to explore data behind the word cloud by touching individual words
- brings together tools and workflows for use by researchers to analyse unstructured text as well as giving the general public a tool to easily create word clouds.
- insights gained from the usage data of the application’s global user base and the textual data crowdsourced from users of the application.
Apps


- online archive of Indigenous Aboriginal languages
- wealth of written and illustrated texts in endangered languages
- browse and search interface by language and location
- bulk download and offline access through mobile app
- schools use app to create libraries on iPad's of sources in local languages
- social media to engage different users in schools, remote communities and academic contexts.
Collaborative Annotation


- active scholarly reading involves annotating text with comments, highlights or underlining.
- increased reading online – annotate digital sources
- mixed-initiative annotation – by users and automated services
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Summary

Mode of CS integration
I. interactive use of social media (facebook, twitter, flickr) [2]
II. crowdsourcing $\rightarrow$ nichesourcing [2]
III. apps [3]
IV. collective annotation [1]
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Outlook

• current digital humanities project and the Austrian Academy of Sciences

• basis: vast collection of dialect words (~2.5 million entries) from the Bavarian dialects in region of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy

• multi-faceted: elexicography | infrastructure | visualisation | citizen science
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Outlook

Citizen Science in exploreAT!

- putting together specialised focus groups
- thematic topics: bread & pastries, colours
Citizen Science in DH **Outlook**

**Citizen Science in exploreAT!**

- bread → concepts: different types of bread (Schwarz-, Grau-, Weißbrot)

- colours → concepts: historic vs current (social tagging) (*allrot vs zinoberrot*)
Citizen Science in DH Outlook

Citizen Science in exploreAT!

Considerations

• effective ways of integrating CS in exploreAT! ?
• most practical way of contributions?

• citizens as possible addressees of scientific output
• collecting experiences (+/-) with CS from other projects
Thank you for your attention!

... time for questions, comments, suggestions....
References


