

MCT Prato Meeting Theme 4: Supporting Research using Technology and Tools

Date: Thursday 5 October

Theme Leaders: Andrew Treloar, Sheila Anderson

Aims and Objectives

- To enable researchers to present and discuss research problems and aspects of the research process where new tools and technologies might be applicable
- To enable humanities computing professionals and technologists to present and discuss the role that new and existing tools and techniques might play in researching and understanding communities and memories
- To identify areas of common interest and future development
- To develop and agree an outline for a shared e-framework for researching and understanding communities and memories

Morning

The first half of the day will consist of 5 by 30 minute sessions from research practitioners (20 minute presentations followed by 10 minutes for discussion of issues raised). Researchers will be asked to present their research area and to reflect on their research processes and methods, identifying the areas in which the use of tools and technologies might be, or are, most usefully employed. Researchers can focus on things they can't do now or things they would like to be able to better. The research areas discussed will depend on final registrations. The following researchers will be presenting:

- Arianna Ciula, King's College London
- Richard Beacham, King's College London
- Patsy Cullen, York St John University
- Poia Rewi, University of Otago
- Helen Morgan, University of Melbourne

Afternoon

The afternoon will consist of 5 by 30 minute sessions (20 minute presentations followed by 10 minutes for discussion of issues raised). Humanities computing professionals and technologists using and/or developing e-research tools and technologies will respond to the morning presentations by outlining their field and discussing how it might be applicable to the research challenges already presented. The precise technology areas discussed will depend on final registrations, but will be selected from among the options listed below for each of the categories 1-6 listed below.

The following technologists will be presenting:

- Richard Marciano, San Diego Supercomputer Center
- Stefanie Kethers, Monash University
- Stuart Dunn, King's College London
- Tobias Blanke, King's College London
- Julie Tolmie, King's College London

1. Capturing and Creating Digital Content

- a. Methods
- b. Formats
- c. Structuring and modelling
- d. Ownership and permissions - ethics and cultural requirements
- e. The role of standards

2. Describing Digital Content

- a. Technical metadata
- b. Provenance metadata
- c. Objects and surrogates

3. Curating and Sustaining Digital Content

- a. Versioning
- b. Ownership and provenance
- c. Preservation
- d. Democratisation - folksonomies, shared annotation etc.
- e. The role of standards

4. Discovering and Accessing Digital Content

- a. Who and how - the role of authorisation and authentication
- b. Permissions and ownership
- c. Engaging research subjects as co-collaborators
- d. Discovery and browse mechanisms
- e. Ontologies and the semantic web
- f. Methods for use

5. Sharing and Collaborating on Digital Content

- a. Who and what
- b. Wikis and blogs
- c. Virtual communities and VRE technology
- d. The role of the grid
- e. The role of standards

6. Connecting Publications to Digital Content

- a. Dataset deposit
- b. Accessibility issues
- c. Hybrid Publications

Rapporteur - Lorna Hughes, King's College London

Technology watcher – Andrew Treloar, Monash University

Research watcher - Helen Morgan, University of Melbourne