e-Research Infrastructures in the Humanities

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Focus of my presentation

- <u>Virtual</u> access

- User definable <u>presentation</u> of data

- User definable <u>filtering</u> of data

The traditional way of running Humanities Research Infrastructures

- Offers access <u>on location</u> ("my desk in the library")

- Seems little focused on and aware of possible <u>user participation</u> in the construction of the research objects ("this is the standard edition")

- Typically, <u>separates</u> users' working spaces and does not encourage collaborative research and sharing ("the lonely Humanities scholar")

Vision of Humanities e-Research Infrastructures

- To give <u>virtual access</u>, incl. to Humanities primary sources and *Nachlass* materials ("Back to *Ad fontes*!": facsimile and editions).

- To offer the user a range of options on how to present the underlying data, and to offer the user to <u>participate in the presentation</u> of these data ("Interactive dynamic editing", "Play editor yourself").

  ➢ The user can thus better focus on the data which are key for his/her *hic et nunc* <u>research</u> needs.

- To encourage <u>collaborative</u> research and to help develop a culture of sharing content, methods, tools and good practices.

Example: The Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB)

- Builds in the frame of two EU projects an e-Research Infrastructure for collaborative Wittgenstein research, learning and publishing:
  - *Open Scholarly Communities on the Web* (COST Action A32, 2006-10)
  - *Digital Semantic Corpora for Virtual Research in Philosophy* (DISCOVERY, 2006-2009)
- Functions also as a "physical" Research Infrastructure:
  - Has had a *EU Transnational access to European Research Infrastructure* project (EU ARI WAB, 2002-04), with 32 projects, 30 users, 1000 user-days, Users from 14 different European countries.

User definable presentation of data

– The user is offered a range of options on how to <u>present</u> the underlying data, and can participate in the presentation of these data.

- This presupposes separation of *representation* and *presentation* of the data in the underlying electronic text archive.

- At Unifob Aksis (which includes WAB), the separation of representation and presentation of the data is performed through TEI(P5) XML-markup.

User filtering of data

- The user can direct the presentation of the data according to his/her <u>research</u> needs, and focus on
  - mathematical or logical or other notation
  - graphics
  - text genres
  - philological aspects
  - ...
  - any textual or metadata element which is recorded in the underlying XML transcription

Demo: "User defined XML transformation"

http://wab.aksis.uib.no/transform/wab.php