Humanities and Open Science. Austrian Data on DaSCH and SSHOC

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https://internationaldataweek.org

Do Humanities data have specific requirements or needs in the ocean of multi-disciplinary FAIR data? The question is obviously a sensitive one, since a positive answer means that research infrastructures should devote specific attention to Humanities data. Based on two cultural examples that relate Austria and Switzerland, this poster highlights some characteristics of the Humanist data and metadata, that play their own role in the FAIR data cyberspace.

A major part of the produced Humanities data concerns cultural objects from all centuries: images, photos, paintings, manuscripts, printed books, sculptures, archeological objects, etc. when they are digitalized, edited or/and annotated. The metadata that describe these cultural objects are the first step of their interpretation. As argued by the French thinker Yves Citton (2010), interpretation is the core-skill of the Humanities work. For a Humanist scholar, metadata matter as much as the data themselves since no data exists beyond its description in the scholarly discourse. The simple reading of an ancient manuscript requires strong interpretative skills. It means that the metadata must be preserved on a long term for the future generation for the fundamental research itself. It is even more true that Humanist scholars traditionally pay attention to details, small cases, strange languages – all particularities that build a culture. When a musical partition or an ancient manuscript is studied, it may happen that decades pass before their next study.

This long-term aspect of Humanities data requires attention to interoperability of the data between the diverse stakeholders implied in their transmission. Our first example is material related to the Austrian music composer Anton Webern (e.g. Peter Andraschke, 1999). The project team intends to create a complete edition of Webern’s work and the data is available on the public open repository of the Swiss National Data and Service Center (DaSCH; https://www.dasch.swiss): http://data.dasch.swiss/webern. One can see partitions on a IIIF viewer, including annotations that can be commented:
A separate Archival Resource Key (ARK) identifier refers to each object within the data set which allows for precise citations; for the example above: https://ark.dasch.swiss/ark:/72163/1/0806/03H84C4MRsyT8y=pwO=19gj.20200128T221819Z.

This applies to all data sets: another example is the transcription and translation of the last chapter of the Gospel of Mark in the Coptic manuscripts sa 612.14 (K 9075, Schuessler 2007) or sa 102 M. Photos of this manuscript are available on the website of the Austrian National Library:


The images are in the public domain and can be reused for non-commercial purpose. The folios of Mark 16 in sa 102 are also available on DaSCH with their transcription, translations in English and French, and detailed metadata:

https://ark.dasch.swiss/ark:/72163/1/0844/DbU=6jogQU2jKkGCed6R1wq.20230524T114443483237747Z
DaSCH is the DARIAH-CH national node and thus point of contact. It stimulates researchers to put their APIs, tools and data on the European SSH marketplace, SSHOC, that will allow to participate to the visibility of the European Open Science Cloud: https://marketplace.shopencloud.eu. SSHOC creates an important synergy with the main ERIC and stakeholders in SSH research infrastructures. It helps to make theses domains visible until the EOSC general marketplace. Humanities and art have their own entry on the EOSC marketplace, in which they will hopefully continue to transmit their millennial knowledge, with the support of SSHOC:

https://search.marketplace.eosc-portal.eu