

Protocol of Workshop 2: Annotated Corpora: Trends and Challenges

By Franziska Naether and Svenja A. Gülden

Chair: Svenja A. Gülden

Observation: This workshop attracted a great number of people working with texts. The discussion was centered on a structure of issues and the participants tried to find solutions for common problems.

As a guideline served keywords building upon the papers given the days before:

- databases for texts (mostly) and signs
- systems/tools for the encoding of texts.
- standards in development of software and digital tools
- standards for export formats and long-term data storage/usability

Working with databases (different systems) as important tools for organizing data haven been universally accepted, as well as different systems for the encoding of texts. The most discussed aspects had been standards in development of software and digital tools, standards for export formats and long-term data storage/usability.

Export formats / long-term storage of data

Outcome of the discussion: a unique export/storage format should be used – independent from the database system or the tool for text encoding. The most common at the moment is the XML-format. Some participants recommended to use TEI as well.

The problem that all digital projects in Egyptology/Papyrology and in Digital Humanities in general face is the question: who/what institution is able to host databases and store data now and in the future. Who funds those endeavors?

Some participants proposed libraries as such institutions.

What is the role of libraries?

They could host data such as databases. Libraries also get more and more the function of important hubs with open access repositories of research data and publications (e.g. Heidelberg, Propylaeum portal) and teaching facilities.

Teaching – Svenja A. Gülden et al.

It will be more challenging in the future to grade papers, class assignments and dissertations. The classical book, essay, *Hausarbeit* will be complemented by other media and next to the gain and analysis of data, steps in the development of the methodology to tackle the research questions will have to be taken into consideration.

What about the ,non DH people‘?

We need tools and software (beyond MS Office & Co.) that could easily be used by the scholars who want to use more elaborated systems rather than developing them.

Strategies – Franziska Naether

- Top down – some issues such as guaranteeing the sustainability of data is an urgent need, i.e. a national task (e.g., providing and supporting infrastructures for research data)
- Bottom up – we as scholars need to define and agree on standards and methodologies

Outreach – Usama Gad

Our research has two levels:

- 1) to address colleagues with our findings
- 2) to communicate the end results of a project to the public and also in teaching – students often lack the connections between culture and heritage

Asking for the Benefit

- Usama Gad: projects think about their benefits for the society
- Tom Gheldof: it should be also possible to conduct projects which at first sight don't have a direct benefit for society but prove to be Grundlagenforschung
- Frank Feder: One can ask about the benefit for society of hedgefunds and fracking – this is a tough issue, especially in the humanities

Issues in Egypt and the world of 2015/2016

- Frank Feder: more scholarly information should be communicated in Arabic
- Usama Gad: the infrastructure in Egypt is not comparable to Europe/USA, especially electricity cuts during the revolution pose tough challenges; there are lootings, social concerns, awareness of cultural heritage has to be raised and we can all work towards this hard task to convince people, students, scholars ...

The wish of the most of the participants was to have more meetings like this and small meetings with a specific topic especially for Egyptology should be organized, preferable with changing venues.