Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) BoF

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DESCRIPTION
This BoF session will focus on the Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) Virtual Laboratory, which has been funded under the NeCTAR programme from June 2012 to December 2013. The session will look at issues connected with HuNI’s use of Linked Data technologies to integrate data from a variety of Australian humanities collections. It will also discuss how HuNI aims to add value to these data sets through the use of eResearch tools, including richer metadata, annotations, mash-ups, visualizations and so on.

OUTLINE
1. **Introduction to HuNI.** Deb Verhoeven (Deakin)
   - **5 minutes**

2. **Linked Data for the humanities.** A look at how HuNI is using Linked Data to integrate data sets, and discussion of the issues specific to the use of Linked Data in the humanities. Conal Tuohy (VeRSI), Ingrid Mason (Intersect), Toby Burrows (UWA)
   - **15 minutes**

3. **Adding value to humanities data sets through eResearch tools.** Discussion of the ways in which HuNI is adding value to individual and aggregated data sets by its use of eResearch tools. Jane Hunter (University of Queensland), Steven Hayes (University of Sydney), Paul Arthur (Australian National University)
   - **15 minutes**

4. **Discussion.**
   - **20 minutes**

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

This BoF session looks at issues relating to the design and architecture of the Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI), a national “Virtual Laboratory” which is being developed as part of the Australian government’s NeCTAR (National e-Research Collaboration Tools and Resources) programme. NeCTAR is funding several discipline-based “Virtual Laboratories” to integrate existing capabilities (tools, data and resources), support data-centred research workflows, and build virtual research communities to address existing well-defined research problems.

HuNI has been funded from June 2012 until the end of 2013. It is being developed by a consortium of thirteen institutions, led by Deakin University in Melbourne. It aims to cover the whole of the humanities (defined as the disciplines covered by the Australian Academy of the Humanities) as well as several creative arts disciplines and is designed to bring together the content from numerous digital services which have already been developed by collecting institutions (libraries, archives, museums and galleries) and academic research groups. These include Design and Art Australia Online, the Australian Dictionary of Biography, AustLit, AusStage, the Dictionary of Sydney, PARADISEC and the AUSTLang database produced by IATSI.

The Linked Data framework will be used as the basis for combining the content from these different collections. This session will look at the ways in which HuNI is using Linked Data to integrate data sets, and will identify and discuss some of the specific issues arising from the use of Linked Data in the humanities.

A range of different Open Source tools have already been developed for working with Australian digital humanities collections. These include LORE (developed at the University of Queensland), Heurist (developed at the University of Sydney), MaVRec (developed at RMIT University), OHRM (developed at the University of Melbourne) and OCCAMS (developed at the Australian National University). HuNI will adapt a selection of these tools to work within the Linked Data environment and will supplement them with tools developed internationally. The tools will enable researchers to find and analyse data across a range of humanities disciplines, and to save the outputs of their analysis in a variety of forms, including compound digital objects, annotations, maps, timelines, and graphs. They will be able to share their results and outputs with other researchers.
This session will discuss the ways in which HuNI is aiming to add value to individual and aggregated data sets by its use of eResearch tools. These issues will be examined from two different perspectives: the viewpoint of the content providers and data custodians as well as the viewpoint of the software development teams.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**Deb Verhoeven** is Professor and Chair of Media and Communication at Deakin University. She is the Project Director of HuNI (funded by NeCTAR) and was CI of the MaVReC project (funded by ANDS).

**Toby Burrows** is Manager, eResearch Support, at the University of Western Australia. He has extensive experience in developing and managing digital services for humanities researchers, including the ARC Network for Early European Research (2005-2010). He has also managed specialist library facilities and collections for the humanities, as well as maintaining an active involvement in medieval manuscript research.

**Ingrid Mason** is eResearch Analyst, Intersect Australia. She has twenty years experience in diverse roles (project manager, repository manager, business analyst, librarian) working with technology in the university, cultural and government sectors in New Zealand and Australia. Ingrid is establishing a programme of activities targeting eResearch support for humanities, arts and social science researchers, and learning and development. She is also a liaison for ANDS for NSW universities.

**Conal Tuohy** is Business Analyst at the Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative (VeRSI). He has also worked for the University of Melbourne and the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre. His recent projects include “Archaeological Database Development: The People and Place Project”, a collaboration between ANDS and La Trobe University.

**Paul Arthur** is Deputy Director of the National Centre of Biography and Deputy General Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography at the Australian National University. He is President of the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities, and a member of the NeCTAR project board.

**Steven Hayes** is Project and Business Development Manager at Arts eResearch at the University of Sydney. He has worked on the development of a range of tools and Web sites, including Field Helper and the Dictionary of Sydney.

**Jane Hunter** is Professor of eResearch and the Director of the eResearch Lab at the University of Qld where she manages a team of software engineers, Post-docs and PhD students developing innovative software solutions for a broad range of disciplines. She is Vice-President of the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities (aADH) and has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in the fields of e-Research, Information Systems, Semantic Web and Digital Libraries.