EVEille Days (exploration et valorisation Electroniques des corpus en Sciences Humaines et Sociales)

Numesthesria. The screen to capture the sensible?

Led by Anne Réach-Ngô, Marine Parra and Benoît Roux

with the collaboration of Régine Battiston

January-June 2023

Organized over five days from January to June 2023, the EVEille colloquium organized by the Institute for Research in European Languages and Literature of the University of Haute-Alsace (UR 4363) aims to develop, within the ILLE and in collaboration with other players in the world of HSS and digital humanities, a collective reflection on the uses of digital technology, the advantages and innovations but also the obstacles to its implementation, as well as future developments in research practices. The EVEille project intends to distance itself from the «all-digital» discourse and return to a reflection on a digital humanism based on the pooling of intellectual experiments, computer explorations and their appropriation by users, whether they are researchers, librarians and documentalists or managers of cultural centers.

The objective of this place of reflection is not to defend a necessary shift in the HSS towards the digital humanities, despite the strong encouragement from research funding and evaluation bodies which, through the pressure imposed, distort the methods and the questions. On the other hand, it is a question of giving participants who wonder about the interest of the digital humanities the means to examine whether such an orientation can – or not – be relevant in the context of their research or in the treatment of heritage and cultural assets for which they are responsible. It is also about allowing digital humanities project leaders to present their work and discuss the interactions between these different projects, which are still sometimes poorly integrated into team dynamics or the local cultural environment.

How can certain research projects or heritage and cultural promotion projects benefit from veering towards digital technologies? To what extent are the methodologies used rooted in older practices that have proven their worth? Do all projects lend themselves to such an approach? How to go about initiating, pursuing, relaunching or enriching a research project using the digital humanities?

Contacts

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Registration on Sciencesconf
Blog EVEille
Video channel on Uha.pod
Day 3. Enriching reality
Friday March 10, 2023 | Colmar

10am | Welcoming of participants

10:15 a.m. | Session 1 - Immersive Excursion

During this session, participants are taken to a space designed and then built with digital technologies. The session is introduced by specialists, both face-to-face and virtually, and it allows you to examine the various valorization endeavors undertaken by heritage and cultural institutions.

The Colmar’s Dominican Library

Housed in the former convent of the preaching brothers (13th-14th centuries), the Dominican Library houses exceptional heritage collections. It was recently inaugurated after an ambitious restoration and restructuring project. In particular, a 500 m² museum space has been created which presents an overview of the long history of books and images in Haute-Alsace. A hundred original documents are presented in an itinerary punctuated by various audiovisual and digital devices: talking books, turning pages, didactic and fun animations.

10:15 a.m. | Exploratory Visit of the Museum Itinerary

During the immersive excursion, participants will take a deliberately unguided tour of the museum space, accompanied by a questionnaire for observing the digital devices and their impact on the access to the works on display.

11:15 a.m. | Round table “Digital mediation and sensitive access to the exposed collections of the Dominican Library”, moderated by Anne Réach-Ngô

The round table will lead the Library managers and the digital design actors of the new museographic devices to expose the museographic challenges of the itinerary and the role of digital technologies in the animation of the place.

Remy Casin is the curator in charge of the Library.
François Guillou Fontaine is the mediation manager for the network of libraries in the city of Colmar.
Cédric Grebeneff is the person in charge of heritage collections, books and manuscripts.
Marina Martinez is a screenwriter and museographer at Motion agency.
Fabienne Montchaud is the person in charge of the graphic collections and the museum gallery.
Loïc Robine is the production director of Motion agency.

12:15 p.m | Lunch break

1:15 p.m. | Institutional Interventions

Éric Straumann, Mayor of Colmar (or its representative).
Michel Spitz, Deputy mayor in charge of culture, arts and heritage.

1:30 p.m. | Scientific Introduction

1:45 p.m. | Session 2 - Scientific Mediation and Exploration

Sabrina Corbellini and Margriet Hoogvljet, “Discovering medieval space: the use of geolocated applications for research and public history”

Sabrina Corbellini is a professor, holder of the chair “History of Reading in Premodern Europe” at the University of Groningen.

Margriet Hoogvljet is a postdoctoral researcher on the “Cities of Readers” project.

The presentation will take its start from the series of app “Hidden Cities”, produced within the framework of the HERA JPR project “Public Renaissance” (2019-2022). It will discuss to what extent “hybrid spaces” can be created by the merging of physical and digital and thus producing a new type of socially constructed space.

The concept of digital placemaking will be at the center of the presentation, which will enquire how the “augmentation” of physical places with location-specific digital services, products and experiences influences the reconstruction of medieval spaces.

Adrien Fallot, “Valoriser l’héritage culturel hors des murs des institutions : expérimenter le patrimoine vitré aubois”

Adrien Fallot is a Ph.D. student in computer science at the University of Technology of Troyes (LIST3N / Equipe Tech-CICO).

The documentation of the socio-cultural heritage allows its conservation and enhancement. In a museum, the highlighting of collections is done through exhibitions. However, today there are many elements also present in situ (architectural heritage, mural frescoes, statuary, etc.) barely concerned by cultural mediation devices. For example, only a small part of the stained glass windows of Aube is valorized by tangible, human or digital mediation systems.

Documentation of these works is available on open data platforms. Despite this openness, we note their inaccessibility and unsuitability for use during an independent visit. With this documentation, we propose to assist the visit in a generic way while approaching the precision of a per site specific service.

We thus make the hypothesis that the appropriation of the knowledge and practices of an expert is possible on the condition of a fair balance between freedom and support for the visitor.

3:30 p.m. | Break

3:45 p.m. | Session 3 - In Search of Tools

Clarisse Bardiot and Jacob Hart, “MemoRekall : un outil pour la création d’un appareil critique des sources vidéo”

Clarisse Bardiot is a professor of theater studies at Rennes 2 University (Arts: practices and poetry).

Jacob Hart is a postdoctoral researcher on the “MemoRekall” project.

Hosted by Huma-Num, MemoRekall is a free and open source video annotation web-app. It makes it possible to link other digital traces to a video (photographs, sounds, texts, web pages, etc.). The arrangement of documents creates a “capsule”, a new document that can be shared and embedded into a web page. Two complementary strategies make it possible to enrich the video: intra-documentary (annotating the video) and inter-documentary (connecting the video to a larger documentary corpus).

Originally born in the field of the performing arts, in order to explain this major document for the analysis and history of contemporary theater that is the recording of performances, MemoRekall is an operational scientific environment, used by researchers from various backgrounds in the field of human sciences. Furthermore, well beyond the academic sphere and the performing arts, MemoRekall is used not only by artists, cultural institutions and publishers, but also by secondary and higher education teachers for media and information education.

We will present several European projects that have recently used MemoRekall as well as current developments to make the application compatible with IIIF and to make it evolve into a tool for enriching any type of digital document.

5:15 p.m. | Closing remarks
After the first two editions devoted to the constitution of research data (2021) and their ethical foundations (2022), the EVEille project wishes to explore the place of sensoriality in digital representation, by questioning the participation of the five senses in the processing and transmission of scientific corpora and cultural objects. While the field of museography has long invested in digital devices for heritage valorization, the humanities have only recently taken up the question in the conduct of research projects.

By coining the neologism of *numesthesia* - born from the contraction of *numérique* (digital) and the Greek term *esthesia* which designates apprehension through the perception of the intellect and the senses – the EVEille project presupposes that in the field of Humanities, sensory apprehension is not only called upon to restore to large audiences the phenomenological reality of a scientific object that is offered to the intellect of the expert. The notion also suggests that the epistemological approach engages sensible devices of digital mediation to access, through the senses, the thickness of the scientific object and this, from the phase of investigation of the data itself.

The five days will follow a progressive path, from the most minimal digitization to the most advanced exploitation, in order to question the regimes of sensoriality that intervene in the digital communication of the scientific, cultural and patrimonial object. It will be a question of examining the way in which the five senses are solicited in a variety of ways, from the initial apprehension of the object of research to the production of a new scientific artifact, henceforth dematerialized, while passing by the various devices of its conversion to the digital format. We will study in particular the sensitive mechanisms implemented by the digital devices examined during the presentation of case studies, which could be from literary, linguistic or historical studies, as well as from the fields of musicology, art history, archaeology and more broadly from cultural studies.

**D3. Enriching reality**

During the “Enriching reality” day, we will emphasize the production of metadata of various natures which, similar to a critical apparatus, affix to the restored object an additional layer of expertise. This enrichment orients and accompanies the viewer’s gaze around the noticeable characteristics of the original sources and documents, and even fills in some of the gaps produced by the digitization. Thus, when the volume of the object is not perceptible, it can be indicated by means of a reference frame often familiar to the users. The schematic representation of a body or a hand, for example, can give a sense of scale as to the real dimension of the object.

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**Practical information**

The colloquium will be held at Colmar. To attend:

*In person* | Scriptorium room, 1st floor
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Address: Dominican Library, 1 Place des Martyrs de la Résistance 68000 Colmar

*Online* | the connection link will be sent after signing up on the Journées EVEille 2023 sciencesconf website.

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**Scientific committee**

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