Project: Digital Humanities Tools

Project overview

Due to the relatively new and vaste nature of the Digital Humanities and of its tools, no unique catalogue has yet been realized to navigate through the multitude of resources available. Even though I have encountered various lists of tools (I have listed them down here), it seems their only scope is to purely list them, without organizing them into a database. The scope of my project is, therefore, to create a publicly available database that allows users to navigate through the world of DH tools, thanks to mechanisms of cataloging and various applicable filters.

- https://guides.nyu.edu/dighum/tools
- http://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=815192&p=5898105&fbclid=lwAR2rlB1zJWQxM lyGOedXaWTLBrOYldJ6ju0bXl1_5PnuMQyb9KgJphgLqMU
- http://quides.library.ucla.edu/c.php?q=180354&p=1186136
- https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/publish/dh/dh-guide/tools

High level description

The project entails the realization of a database which allows users to research by category the needed tool based on filtered researches.

To realize the database and to allows the use on the Web, I will use a CMS. For every tool, a brief descriptive tab containing title, description, pictures if available, link or further external attachments will be realized, as well as the possibility to catalogue them into different categories. Tools will therefore be easily researched using keywords, which will considerably shorten browsing times.

Realization (phases)

The project will be realized through three phases:

Analysis

I will here identify and analyse the resources (such as the above-listed ones) that already elencate Dh tools. I will thus try to create macro categories of the kind of tools available and a primitive data model.

completion time: less than a month

Cataloguing

I will thus formally catalogue the various DH tools to then use for the CMS.

Types of cataloguing:

- [TYPE OF TOOL] {software | WEBSITE | Open Data | more }
- [FIELD OF ACTION] {GIS | Content management | epigraphy | statistics | more }
- [ACCESSIBILITY] {free | open source | with fees | more }

Completion time: 15 days

Setting up the CMS

The online database will thus be constituted, using a CMS (a free hosting, Drupal). I will be assisted by a professional who will help me understand the workings of it; meanwhile, I will be the content manager.

The CMS will hold these characteristics:

- a "tool tab", containing:
 - title
 - o description
 - o pictures
 - external links
 - o further external references
- users:
 - certified publisher, with the ability to modify the tool tabs
 - simple user: ability to check the tabs (public)
 - o admin (software manager)
- categories: as listed before
- lists:
 - one for each category
 - last addings
 - more researched tools
 - o more
- research:
 - through keywords
 - o with research filters

The user will thus be able to:

- consult the list of the existing DH tools in a particular field
- search with keywords and thus narrow the research thanks to filters
- search through the devices the tools are available on (website, smartphone, ecc)

Hosting: initial hosting on: http://digitalhumanitiestools.altervista.org/
the initial setting up of the CMS will be starting soon. A sufficient number of tool tabs will have to be realized (and checked for reliability)

completion time: the resting available time