

The Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation has the pleasure to announce the recent publication of a **Science Policy Briefing (SPB) on "Research Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities"**

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The briefing was produced following the decision of the Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH), in early 2009, to make Research Infrastructures (RIs) in the Humanities one of its top priorities. An SCH Expert Group on RIs was then set up and, under the chairmanship of Professor Claudine Moulin, has led the work towards the production of the briefing. The SPB builds on already existing documents, and in particular, on a report compiled by an earlier SCH "Vision Group on RIs" which met during 2007. It also incorporates views put forward by members of different communities involved in Humanities RIs that were expressed at the Strategic Workshop on Research Communities and Research Infrastructures in the Humanities that was organised by the SCH and the RI Expert Group in October 2010 in Strasbourg.

As highlighted in the foreword, the briefing argues that without Research Infrastructures (RIs) such as archives, libraries, academies, museums and galleries, significant strands of Humanities research would not be possible. By drawing on a number of case studies, it also demonstrates that digital RIs offer Humanities scholars new and productive ways to explore old questions and develop new ones. The report focuses on developing a common strategy on RIs in the Humanities at a European level and identifies seven key areas of priorities and future research directions aimed at researchers and information professionals, as well as the institutions which make decisions of importance to them, such as funding bodies, those responsible for management and administration of research organisations and RIs, selection and promotion committees.

This ESF Science Policy Briefing has been prepared under the responsibility of the Chair of the Standing Committee for the Humanities Professor Milena Zic-Fuchs, the Head of the Humanities and Social Sciences Unit, Dr Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman, the ESF Science Officer Dr Arianna Ciula, with editorial support from the Science Officer Mr Diego De La Hoz Del Hoyo..

The PDF of the publication can be accessed at <http://www.esf.org/research-areas/humanities/strategic-activities/research-infrastructures-in-the-humanities.html>