The Open Humanities Hack was the first Digital Humanities hack organised jointly by the Kings College London Department of Digital Humanities
,
DARIAH
, the
Digitised Manuscripts to Europeana (DM2E)
project and our
Open Humanities Working Group
.

A group of 15 people gathered in the grand confines of the Large Committee Room at Kings College London, Guys Campus.

The principle of the day was simple: bring a mix of researchers, data providers and coders together to hack on new open-source applications developed by the Open Knowledge Foundation, the DM2E project and the Kings College Digital Humanities Department.

Results:

RecklineJS Timeliner EHRI

The Timeliner is an open-source tool based on the JavaScript Library ReclineJS . It makes it easy to create visually compelling timelines from Google Spreadsheets. An example of the kind of timelines is one I made earlier this week on Medieval Philosophers is
here
. If you're a medievalist, and you think we've missed anyone, update the
Google Spreadsheet
here to update the timeline.

The Timeliner group, led by Mike Bryant, were working with the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Project {EHRI)
database currently with 700 test records in it of Neo4J database that contains harvested archival collections descriptions about the Holocaust.

Semantically annotating the Walters Museum Manuscripts

The second group used Pundit , a powerful annotation tool being developed as part of DM2E , to semantically annotate facsimile images of manuscripts. Simone Fonda a developer from Net7 the company behind Pundit, opened the hack with a presentation on the current state of the tool.

The group set out to annotate a number of digitised facsimile images from the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore by dividing up each written line of the manuscript regions defined by automatically generated polygons.

The polygons that were generated then needed to be associated with a JSON annotation giving the line number, to which comments and transcriptions could then be attached in Pundit. On Day 2 the group also experimented with using OCR for the regions of the image that were picked out further.

Visualising Dark Star

The final group formed around the idea of analysing and visualising narrative in works of art. They used Contextus the front-end of a triple-store that stores data about events in literary works and the characters involved.

The first task was to pull the data out of the triple-store via a SPARQL query, this data was then loaded into a database by one of the team. The group chose John Carpenter's film "Dark Star".

The team then used D3 JS to visualise the events as a scatter graph. Along the X-axis you can see the numbered events of Dark Star, and along the Y-axis the characters involved in the play.

More detailed information is available here http://okfn.org/events/humanities-hack-november-2

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