Visual Analytics of the DARIAH in-kinds contributions

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One of the main products of the *Humanities at Scale* project was a profound (re)-conceptualisation of the DARIAH in-kinds and a web-based service [2] to collect, review and display in-kind contributions, in short DARIAH contributions. [1] This paper looks at the results of the implementation phase of this new service, and in particular focus on baseline statistics and visual analytics of the content submitted (about 300 contributions for 2017 and 2018).

In general, for European Research Infrastructures, so-called in-kind contributions are a way for the members to account for their national efforts under the umbrella of the ERIC. They can represent contributions available for all ERIC members (e.g., central services executed by an institution in a member country) and/or contributions which nationally embody, complement, or enhance the mission and strategic actions of an ERIC.

DARIAH’s reference model on the basis of which contributions are defined, introduces two main categories: ‘services’ and ‘activities’. For each of them a detailed metadata scheme to document a contribution has been devised. Submitted contributions are further subject to a detailed self-assessment and reviewing process, one part of which is dedicated to determine those contributions which are put up for the financial accountability of a member’s contributions.

The web-based service replaces earlier forms of template-based and data-based submission of in-kinds, and enables immediate comparison of the submissions - also by a couple of visual interfaces (map, tables).

The aim of this paper is manyfold.

1. The DARIAH contribution tool relies on the tedious and comprehensive work of the National Coordinators which are in charge of the submission process. To make their often invisible work more visible is one motivation.

2. The submitted content as such forms an interesting empirical base for reflection on what by DARIAH community is seen as a DARIAH contribution. To contribute with this first analysis of the content to further discussions inside of DARIAH on strategies, actions, and monitoring measures is the second motivation.

3. As for each system which bases on user-generated content, despite of the formal data model in place submissions can still vary in form. The analysis by making variation and possible flaws visible will also inform the implementation process itself and further steps in data curation around the tool.

We conclude our paper with reflections on the future use of the tool and its connection to other DARIAH strategic actions, as designed in the STRAPL.


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