

Informal Meeting Notes

RESAW seminar, London 4 December 2014

Institute of Historical Research (University of London), Senate House

Programme

9.30 – Registration

10.00 – Welcome (Professor Lawrence Goldman, Director, Institute of Historical Research)

10.05 – Update on progress of RESAW activities, including lobbying (Niels Brügger)

10.30 – Status updates on pilot projects

Archiving the .eu top level domain (Ditte Laursen/Helen Hockx-Yu)

National web spheres within the European Union (Niels Brügger)

The Eurovision Song Contest (Eld Zierau)

The history of commemoration on the web (Jane Winters)

11.30 – Tea/coffee

12.00 – Project presentation – The ALEXANDRIA project (Elena Demidova)

12.30 – The June 2015 conference (various)

12.45 – Discussion: possible new activities

1.30 – Horizon 2020 and innovation (Niels Brügger)

1.45 – Lunch

2.45 – Project presentation – Thoughts on tools for selecting and isolating (Niels Brügger, Ulrich Have and Janne Nielsen)

3.15 – Project presentation – French Web90 project (Heritage, Memories and History of the Web in the 90s in France) (led by Valérie Schafer)

3.45 – Public engagement with web archives: the Being Human Festival (Jane Winters)

4.00 – Tea/coffee

4.15 – Discussion: how to proceed in 2015

5.00 – Close

Update on progress of RESAW activities, including lobbying

Niels's time has been bought out by Aarhus University so that he can coordinate all activities.

Since the last meeting the following planned activities have been completed or are in progress:

- The website, <http://resaw.eu/>, has been updated
- A mailing list has been created
- Several newsletters have been written and circulated
- A December seminar in London occurred
- A PhD course was held in Aarhus
- A number of different pilot projects (presented at the seminar) were ongoing

There are also several 'spin-offs' of RESAW, or allied projects: BUDDAH, Web90 and WIRE (Working with Internet Archives for Research).

Lobbying activity divides into three areas: funding, strategy and legal.

Horizon 2020 has an 'excellent science' area, where we are placed. However there is also a 'growth agenda' from two other parts of the structure to which we must pay attention.

ESFRI advises the Commission on new research infrastructures, which then pass on to national roadmaps.

ERIC status is a legal framework: European Research Infrastructure Consortium.

It is important to lobby nationally too, and a national coordinator has been appointed in each member country.

Niels has drawn up a lobbying strategy, a position paper, and concrete action plans.

A new opportunity has arisen, which is that Science Europe has to suggest two research infrastructures to the EU Commission as worthy of support; we may be able to be one of those suggested.

The themes will almost certainly be dropped at a Programme Committee meeting on 16 December. This may seem disappointing, given the work undertaken to get added to a theme, but that work has made our presence known. This does, though, mean that we are now in competition with everyone.

There will probably be an open call next spring, which means we will go into application mode sooner than expected. We can probably start applying around May 2016 but we want to see early drafts of the call in the autumn of 2015.

Niels' presentation can be found on resaw.eu.

Status updates on pilot projects

The pilot projects were presented by Ditte Laursen, Niels Brügger, Eld Zierau, and Jane Winters. All presentations can be found on resaw.eu.

Project presentation – The ALEXANDRIA project

The ALEXANDRIA project was presented by Elena Demidova. Her presentation can be found on resaw.eu.

The June 2015 conference

Niels briefly presented the status of the RESAW conference in June 2015.

Discussion: possible new activities

The group agreed to a winter seminar in Paris in 2015. We will try to keep roughly to the dates of the London event in order to try to make this a regular slot.

Niels raised the question of whether we should turn the conference in Aarhus into the first in a series of conferences, perhaps biannually.

Members of the group were interested in the idea of work across files from different countries, using the CDX files in the first instance.

Niels said that if anyone wanted to apply, on behalf of the group, to HERA's 'Uses of the past' call, for which pre-proposals are due in May, he has a copy of a successful application which can be used for reference.

Members were asked to consider whether we should create joint collections, either based on planned or unplanned events.

The group discussed what to do to put ourselves in the best position for the Horizon 2020 application and it was suggested that we should publish more. Various forthcoming publications were mentioned.

Horizon 2020 and innovation

We will have to address the question of growth and innovation in the application (see Niels' paper, circulated before the meeting). Members suggested the possibility of a commercial application relating to families trees and genealogy, or the possibility of working with museums, advising on how they can handle web artefacts. Another view was that only derived data had commercial value.

Project presentation – Thoughts on tools for selecting and isolating

A project initiated by NetLab about a tool for selecting and isolating web material in a web archive for subsequent use was presented by Janne Nielsen and Ulrich Karstoft Have. The presentation can be found on resaw.eu.

Project presentation – French Web90 project

The French research project 'WEB 90: Heritage, Memories and History of the Web of the 90s' was presented by Valérie Schafer and Francesca Musiani. The presentation can be found on resaw.eu.

Public engagement with web archives: the Being Human Festival

The BUDDAH Project's participation in the 'Being Human Festival' was presented by Jane Winters. The presentation can be found on resaw.eu.

Discussion: how to proceed in 2015

The bursary process used for BUDDAH was widely thought to be useful, and the question was raised as to whether this could be repeated. It was suggested that

the IIPC might be the best place for that; currently the IIPC is focused on developers and technicians, but could perhaps be persuaded to add a focus on researchers.

Participants

Susan Aasman
Anat Ben-David
Jonathan Blaney
Niels Brügger
Josh Cows
Elena Demidova
Melanie Dulong de Rosnay
Helen Hockx-Yu
Hugo Huurdeman
Ioan Isaac-Richards
Ulrich Karstoft Have
Ditte Laursen
Eric Meyer
Francesca Musiani
Claude Mussou
Janne Nielsen
Valérie Schafer
Jaspreet Singh
Peter Webster
Jane Winters
Eld Zierau

Jonathan Blaney & Niels Brügger, December 2014