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SEMINAR ESTONIAN DIGITAL HUMANITIES ANNO 2013: IT-APPLICATIONS IN HUMANITIES

On October 25, 2013, the first seminar of digital humanities in Estonia took place at the Estonian Literary Museum. It stemmed from the idea that although the disciplinary developments in Estonian humanities were intertwined with the use of digital resources and research methods, no attempt had been made to bring together the humanities scholars who work with digital technologies. Even the term ‘digital humanities’, although widely used in North America and Western Europe, had not been used in Estonian. The number of participants and the extent of eager discussions throughout the day showed the need for experience exchange. The one-day seminar was surprisingly popular: it was filled with 20 papers and, additionally, two poster presentations. The framework was interdisciplinary; in this review, I will give a short overview of the main topics with somewhat longer notes on folkloristic presentations.

Linguists have a long tradition of collaboration with computer scientists. The four papers by linguists (Pille Eslon, Grethe Juhkason, Kadri Muischnek, Kadri Vider)

presented different language resources and databases and demonstrated the usage of such technologies for research purposes. Digital methods have long been used in archaeology as well. At the seminar, Mari-Liis Posti introduced the archaeological information systems of Tallinn University, Hembo Pagi's paper was dedicated to the usage of new visualisation technologies, and Allar Haav described the results of his research on settlement pattern analysis with the help of various software. Therefore, very different aspects of the use of digital technologies were covered – from databases and development to actual research. A similar pattern emerged in literary studies: while Marju Mikkel introduced the general possibilities of a literary historical web project *Kreutzwald's Century*, Elle-Mari Talivee had carried out research into Estonian literary classics, using the materials that had been digitised for the same particular project. The various cultural and mental changes that are the side-effect of digitalisation of literature were described and analysed by Vallo Kepp.

However, memory institutions are in the midst of many large-scale digitalisation projects, some of which were introduced at the seminar. The Estonian Pedagogical Archives-Museum had just started creating a web information system and repository for their collections, and Veronika Varik introduced the project. Jaanus Kõuts from the Estonian National Library spoke about the Estonian Web Archive and the plan to archive the whole Estonian (.ee) web domain. There were two presentations about the usage of open data in different institutions. Priit Laanoja had compiled an overview of the changes that had taken place in Estonian school network, and his application had links to photos or Google Maps street views on the locations of the schools. Vahur Puik introduced a webpage on which users can add metadata to historical photos. The photos are from archive collections, and geotagging is done by crowdsourcing.

For an institution in need of displaying a part of its collection, online exhibition web virtuaalmuuseum.ee, introduced by Andres Uueni, could be an opportunity. The current online exhibitions mainly display the collections of different memory institutions. Artists have used digital technologies in different ways. For instance, Hilikka Hiiop and Meelis Pärjasaar introduced technologies for graphical documenting and archiving the information of a visual representation of a piece of art for restoration purposes. One of the highlights of the seminar was the introduction of an interactive database documentary, *The East*, by Raivo Kelomees and Hille Karm, a movie with an audience participation solution. The movie had not been screened yet.

Several Estonian folklorists participated in the seminar. Kaisa Kulasalu and Mari Sarv gave an overview of the digitalisation goals at the Estonian Folklore Archives. The archives, founded in 1927, have a system of different indexes. Already in the early 1990s, the new materials were not described on index cards; instead, there was a set of different files. Only in the past couple of years, all the archival data were gathered into one web-based archival information system *Kivike*. The transcriptions of folklore texts give numerous opportunities for the researcher. Andres Kuperjanov described the advantages of automatised bulk editing of large folk text corpora that are not presented in a database-format. Mare Kõiva gave an overview of sacred texts corpora and the possibilities of combining the collection with other similar folklore collections in Europe. The two poster presentations were also by folklorists. Piret Voolaid introduced a database of paremiological graffiti, which, with its search engines and statistical data processing, is a useful tool for a scholar. Liisi Laineste had participated in the creation

of a MediaWiki-based Eastern European jokelore database that contains jokes of three nations. MediaWiki combines the encyclopaedia format with the opportunities for collaboration, being a good tool for international projects.

The seminar ended with a discussion in which most of the participants expressed their hopes for a further collaboration and a common board for discussion. Most of the digital humanities projects in Estonia have been connected with the digitalisation of materials and creation of infrastructure – this is what most of the papers represented. But already now digital material could be used for answering different kinds of research questions and these were present in the papers as well. There are also projects that use open data and crowdsourcing, and in this vein applications could be created on the basis of very many digital collections. Digital humanities will therefore help to bring the humanities – among others, the usage of folklore materials and research conducted by folklorists – closer to the general public.

Kaisa Kulasalu

PAREMIOLOGISTS AT THE 7TH INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM ON PROVERBS IN TAVIRA, PORTUGAL

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs is an annual conference organised by the Associação Internacional de Paremiologia¹ (International Association of Paremiology – AIP–IAP). The conference is an important international event in the field of paremiology both for academics and people interested in proverbs. The home town of the colloquium as well as for the association is Tavira, a small town in southern Portugal. In 2013, the 7th colloquium took place from November 3rd to 10th. Once again Tavira welcomed the conference with various paremiological presentations. The conference does not have any special theme for each year. Yet, every year there is a person to be honoured at the conference; in 2013 it was Finnish paremiologist Outi Lauhakangas.

The programme consisted of plenary sessions, papers, book exhibitions, presentations of some projects and poster presentations. As is usual, the participants come from various academic and non-academic backgrounds, and their papers feature a wide range of perspectives. The motivation of papers might be based on research, practical activities focusing on proverbs, or purely interest in proverbs. The year 2013 was not an exception. The key themes at colloquiums have been and are the teaching of proverbs, educational functions of proverb usage, collections, dictionaries and databases of proverbs, and material from the media, including also novel sources like the Internet. The latter has been of special interest for Estonian and Finnish researchers.

The main speaker at the opening session was the regional director of the Culture of Algarve, Dália Paulo, who spoke about intangible heritage and its importance. The support of the cultural and regional office is important for the work of the association in Portugal. Tavira has named itself “the world capital of proverbs”.