Toward a Digital Philology.

Creating, Spreading and Appropriating Knowledges through Digital Scholarly Platforms in Humanities (A Case Study of OpenEdition)

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This contribution aims to present and discuss my thesis project. I plan to study the concrete conditions of production, diffusion and reception of knowledges on digital scholarly platforms in Humanities. This work will especially focus on the four platforms of the portal OpenEdition: OpenEdition Books, Calenda, Hypothèses and Revues.org. The main problematic is: what are the uses of those platforms, and in what concrete way are they influencing the modes of scientific communication?

To start with, I need to highlight the frameworks that structure the digital scholarly texts, that Jeanneret named ‘architexts’ (Davallon & al. 2003, Jeanneret 2014). Such frameworks contribute to configure the digital texts (e.g. with hypertext, flows aggregation), and their uses. Three aspects will then be taken into consideration in my analysis: (i) the articulation of temporal stratum within the plateform: how do archival materials deal with actualities (scientific monitoring, work in progress as grey literature)? What means of contextualization (Treleani 2013) or editorialization (Vitali Rosati 2016) could be given when an old document is used again (e.g. in “epi-revues” that collect scientific papers)? (ii) What are the genres and formats conveyed on the plateform, proper to the Web as blog post, commentary, etc., or still used in other medias as scientific article, advert, etc. (Maingueneau 2013)? (iii) Who are the users of those plateforms (researchers, groups, professionals, etc.)? How do they deal with their digital identities? How can they appropriate and diffusing knowledges, by citing, reusing and discussing? How are emerging new ways for research in Humanities, through collective negotiation or evaluation, interdisciplinarity – such actions that could be promoted by the technical device of the plateform? This last point will be treated by a philological approach concerning paratexts and quotations (Genette 1982, Compagnon 1979). Other indicators (users’ itineraries, interactions between members, etc.) could also be used, and treated with network’s visualization tool.

In summary, this research project aims to explore the means of a digital philology (Crane, Bamann and Jonesin Schreibman 2008; Rastier 2011), not only based on making traditional philology with digital tools (i.e. semantic enrichment of antics or medieval texts), but also on a critical approach of the digital textuality and on an active as well as reflexive contribution from the users in building knowledges.
References


