“Research infrastructures play a vital role in the advancement of knowledge and technology.”*

CLARIN makes digital language resources available to scholars and researchers of all disciplines, in particular in the humanities and social sciences. It provides a single online access point for data and tools, requiring only one identity and sign-on.

Executive Director: Steven Krauwer (Utrecht University)
Vice Executive Director: Bente Maegaard (University of Copenhagen)
Director for User Involvement: Martin Wynne (University of Oxford)
Director and Chair of National Coordinators’ Forum: Erhard Hinrichs (University of Tübingen)
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CLARIN is an infrastructure for researchers in the humanities. Originally developed by linguists and computational linguists, it is concerned with all aspects of research related to language, and provides the technology to assist individuals to carry out their research. CLARIN bridges the gap between the technology and the humanities scholar.

Expertise

Questions of procedure, ethics, technology, licences – every project has its own specific requirements, but there are common aspects. CLARIN provides expertise to humanities scholars in each of these areas. CLARIN centres share their expertise through printed guides and handbooks, workshops, and via collaborative projects and the provision of individual support. The aim of these support activities is to significantly lower the barriers to digital scholarship and to allow the scholars to focus on their research questions.

Resources

In addition to preserving material, resources can be made available so that communities of scholars can access material to support their research. CLARIN provides a gateway to resources contributed by its partners, and makes it easier for humanities scholars to share their outputs.

Tools

The identification of names, finding specific patterns in texts, enriching sources with lexicographic information: highly specialized software tools are available for such tasks, and are available to be applied to reusable resources in the CLARIN infrastructure.

The tools can be tailored to the needs of individual projects, and provided with expert support. This opens the possibility of new forms of research and the posing of new research questions in the humanities.

Archive

Collections of texts, audio and video recordings, even experimental data: in the humanities scholars work with a lot of primary research data. CLARIN provides access to repositories which can archive these resources so that they can be kept safe for the future.