

# **COST Action IS0904**

## **Working Group 4 Minutes**

### **Friday, February 4th 2011**

#### **Attendees :**

Anne-Laure Brisac-Chraïbi  
Juliette Hueber  
Thierry Lochard  
Antonio Mendes da Silva  
Delphine Morel-Vacher  
René Pelfresne  
Claudine Piaton  
Pauline van Roosmalen  
Dov Winer

#### **Tools :**

Presentation of an ensemble of research tools:

**René Pelfresne** presented Halimède, a collaborative platform currently in development, based on Alfresco, intended for the research unit InVisu to permit a crossover process of construction agents, buildings and the collection of the associated resources.

**Pauline van Roosmalen** presented a project lodged with the NWO (the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research) on "building of a digital research environment for European colonial-built heritage in the period 1870-1970". This project is closed to the Halimède platform : TUDelft Library uses Fedora Commons repository software and SOLR/Lucene from the Apache Foundation for indexing and searching. The website will use a web content management system. This can be Typo3, used by TUDelft.

**Thierry Lochard et Antonio Mendes da Silva** presented two methods of working and operations on results of research in

journals in connection with the objectives of WG2.

Thierry L. showed the possibilities offered by a database File Maker Pro. Antonio M. presented the open source software Mendeley. This software is used for managing and sharing research, allows the manipulation of pdfs with the possibility of a search body text. It offers the additional option of creating groups of people associated with the same research project, while allowing them to share, in a private area, online documents.

**Anne-Laure Brisac-Chraïbi** in charge of the digital journal ABE, Architecture Beyond presented the future journal which will be held on the humanities journal platform [revues.org](http://revues.org).

**Antonio Mendes da Silva** presented the latest updates on the COST Action website [www.architecturebeyond.eu](http://www.architecturebeyond.eu), including the possibility of creating a gallery of images on a dedicated subfolder "Images Treasury", under the folder "Resources". This additional option will be offered to researchers involved in the Action.

We need to encourage Cost Action members to share pictures on the website. This pictures are published on a dedicated folder "Images Treasury" ("Resources" subfolder). Recommendations explaining how to prepare images for online publication will be emailed to the participants of the Action.

The condition of the images received so far made us understand the need to make these recommendations. Thus we will also create a best practices guide for managing images.

**Dov Winer** gave a presentation on interoperability, starting with a concrete example : an [Openlibrary.org](http://Openlibrary.org) query in English that made a series of answers in French, with the conclusion that beyond the specific content published on the web, the important thing was that the information was always structured in the same way. This is made possible by the use of protocols and international standards for structuring data such as the OAI-PMH (Dublin Core), together with technologies from the

Semantic Web, Linked Open Data formally describing all resources and metadata using the RDF (Resource Description Framework) model. The use of these technologies makes possible the automation of all computer processing of the data, regardless of the computer systems and applications that are used.

In this sense it's unnecessary to imagine platforms that can "do everything" because, with interoperability, it becomes possible to connect together all kinds of different and specialized applications.

He then addressed the following questions:

- the question of annotation in Alfresco,
- the issue of sharing,
- the question of vocabulary: Europeana uses the vocabulary from Getty (TGE Adonis uses geonames for toponyms),
- define precisely the need for a "concrete" experimentation with Mendeley.

Dov Winer also strongly recommended contact with:

- people involved into Cost Action 32
- Philippe Loublot

DW pointed out the following article :

<http://dh2010.cch.kcl.ac.uk/academic-programme/abstracts/papers/html/ab-860.html>

Pauline van Roosmalen insisted on the necessity for our working group to make contact with persons, groups or institutions involved in similar projects.

### **Surveys toward researchers :**

WG4 positioning requires knowledge of the practices of all researchers at the COST Action. That is why we initiated a survey. The original plan was to interview every member of the COST Action individually and in their presence (that is to say either by mail or by phone).

The travel rules in the Cost Action framework make individual

meetings with researchers difficult. Indeed, we are able to travel just for the program meetings.

So far we had been able to complete only two interviews and have started but not finished a third one. These early results, though incomplete, have highlighted the widespread use of desktop applications in the scientific community such as FileMaker Pro. These kinds of software are proprietary and locally used, they make data migration and sharing projects complicated.

This shows already that the issues of interoperability and data continuity and the issue of data sharing must be better addressed in the context of the Action and to researchers.

It's therefore important to warn about these issues in the framework of the development of guides and workshops.

Insofar as it is difficult to complete the individual interviews it seems important that representatives of WG4 participate in meetings of other working groups. The information gathered during these meetings will help us better understand the real uses and needs and to orient the direction of our working group.

### **Good practices guides :**

We identified three documents to create :

- Preparation of PDF documents for online publication,
- Image formats for online publication,
- Standards for bibliographic online publication.

### **Round Table :**

The discussion focused on the positioning of WG4 compared to other working groups:

- WG1 : if the demand remains to be defined, Johan Lagae still would like that we disseminate standards for bibliographic references on the website (to establish according to the bibliographic standards of the journal of the Action, ABE,

Architecture Beyond, which are being developed). The Zotero presentation made by Antonio Mendes in Marseille was not sufficient for researchers to adopt this tool for managing bibliographic references. We need to consider other training sessions.

- WG 2 : the specific request of this Working Group for the development of a tool for collaborative management of a list of journals gives us the opportunity to consider solutions to be tested (Mendeley). The deployment of Mendeley, as an experiment, will allow us to see if it's an answer to the needs of the WG2.

- WG3 : this working group took back the descriptive forms, defined in the development of Halimède, and has made some changes and then validated them. This working group also needs to enter data in a collaborative platform and has expressed interest in Halimède.