

Potentials for e-Science in the Arts and Humanities — a UK perspective

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This presentation will explain the role, activities, and context of the Arts and Humanities e-Science Initiative in the UK, which is funded by the AHRC, EPSRC and JISC. The work of the so-called early adopters of arts and humanities (A&H) scholars suggests that the benefits of integrating this very unique group of researchers into the wider e-Science community are mutual. A&H researchers face a mushrooming of the size of digital information for their research, as a result of the general availability of digital information and specialised digitization programmes that preserved artistic and cultural assets in a digital format. This makes it necessary to find tools and methodologies that allow the exploitation of the digital information. The e-Science community itself can benefit from the unique challenges of A&H data. Relative fuzziness of the data and the interpretive character of research in the A&H will enable a further advance on other e-Science projects. The presentation will firstly present last year's pioneering phase with ad hoc experiments by the early adopters. Secondly, the award holding projects for the major funding scheme for A&H e-Science will be described, as they start their work in autumn 2007. This second phase can be seen as one of systematic investigations where specific experimentations will deliver parts of an e-Infrastructure for the A&H. Thirdly, some European projects will be presented that plan to create an integrated research infrastructure for A&H research.