Organisation and coordination of the VCC 4-activities and DARIAH-DE

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VCC4 Working Plan
October 2015

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1. Executive Summary

This is a continuous document that will be updated every 6 months. It lists the activities planned within the Virtual Competency Centre 4 (VCC4 - Advocacy, Impact and Outreach).

2. Goals

One of the main tasks of Cluster 1 in DARIAH-DE is the coordination of the German contribution to the VCCs. Germany and Italy are leading VCC 4 with the goal to develop a strategy for DARIAH-EU in this area of expertise. This document reports on the planned work within VCC4 and how goals will be reached and how solutions can be collaboratively implemented.

3. Structure and tasks of VCC 4

3.1. Management and Coordination

DARIAH-DE acts as an operator for the DARIAH-EU VCC4 and contributes one of the two chairs. The German chair is Dirk Wintergrün based at the Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.
There are regular telephone conferences between the VCC chairs and work is documented in the wiki[1]. VCC4 communicates and organizes via the project management software Basecamp.

VCC 4 will mainly work on determining the influence and impact of digital tools, infrastructures and methods on the research and educational process in the humanities. VCC4's work used to be centred around three tasks: "High Level Advocacy", "Assessing the impact and value of DARIAH-EU" and "Outreach to a wide group of stakeholders". With the new structure of the VCCs, these tasks will be undertaken with a more transversal approach. The activities will be reworked into cross-VCC and cross-national working groups. For these working groups three themes emerge:
  • Impact and sustainability
  • Knowledge exchange/visibility
  • Communication (internally)
With these themes the tasks of VCC4 are in line with the other VCCs.
The different themes, proposed working groups and planned activities are outlined in more detail below.

3.2. Structure and tasks

Over the course of the last six months, DARIAH-EU underwent some big organizational changes with the introduction of working groups and their relation to VCCs. The main focus was the establishment of the working groups and their attachment to the respective VCC. The responsibilities of VCC4 (and the other VCCs) with regard to the management of Working Groups are:

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[1] https://dev2.dariah.eu/wiki/display/DARIAH/VCC4+Advocacy%2C+Outreach+and+Impact

- Quarterly report of the progess of the respective Working Group[2]
- Act as liaison between the Working Group chair(s) and the other bodies of DARIAH

Furthermore, the responsibilities of VCC4 will center around determining impact criteria for Working Groups and their results.

From Oct 15-16, the Joint Research Committee (JRC) meeting took place in The Hague. The VCC heads and representatives of the Board of Directors and the Coordination Office were gathering to discuss the role of the JRC, its structure and its tasks in the coming months. The tasks determine for the VCC heads are:

- Be a coordination point for specific Working Groups and report on their progress to the JRC
- Approve once a year the in-kind contributions of the DARIAH members
- Develop, write and discuss VCC communication and policies, themes and items.
- Work closely with the DCO and the communication officer communicate policies and news to the working groups and outside of DARIAH

4. VCC4 mission and description

For presenting the work of VCC4 externally, the heads came up with a detailed description oft he VCC4 tasks and their relation to the DARIAH principles.

4.1. Advocacy, Outreach and Impact (VCC4)

To understand the extensive consequences of digital services and their inherited methods on research within arts and humanities, one needs to have suitable measurements in hand. Basing measures of effectiveness of a service for a given community only on quantitative usage statistics would be inadequate disregarding the characteristics of humanities' research. Meaningful claims about impact need to be linked to the specificities of certain domains balancing the interests of different stakeholders.

4.2. Vision and Mission

VCC4 reflects on the impact of virtual research environments and digital services in the arts and humanities. It promotes measures for impact adapted to the requirements of humanities research enabling various stakeholders to assess the value of a given service and its distribution across various disciplines.
VCC4 is integral to implementing strategic decisions within DARIAH and communicating them to a wider audience. Our overarching objective is to increase the impact and visibility of DARIAH through the development of strategies, best practices and guidelines.

4.3. Goals and activities

The main emphasis in VCC4 will be to determine quantitative and qualitative indicators for tools, services and infrastructures developed in the DARIAH context and beyond. The goal is to relate impact factors and key performance indicators accepted in

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[2] https://wiki.de.dariah.eu/display/DARIAH/Quarterly+reporting+template+-+working+group

the scientific community with impact measurements required by funding agencies and other stakeholders – approaching the topic from different perspectives.
VCC4 also wants to promote DARIAH by reaching out to different communities illustrating the benefits of joining the DARIAH community.

4.4. Focus for 2015/2016

In 2015 and 2016, VCC4 will focus on defining impact and success criteria for DARIAH, affiliated projects and digital humanities in general.
Furthermore, it will foster communication within DARIAH through:
- collaboration with the other VCCs and initiating cross-VCC discussions around impact, knowledge exchange and advocacy
- setting the programme for the next General VCC-meeting

VCC4 will also advocate the publication of DARIAH-related results in open archives such as the DARIAH-collection in HAL.

Impact measures for Digital Humanities will be collected and analysed focusing on the implications for humanities, the research process and society from different stakeholder perspectives.

We would like all working groups and VCCs to include outreach activities. The work plans of every working group should include a proposal of how the success and performance of the working group can be measured. VCC4 would like to promote standards and best practices for knowledge exchange and impact to define a coherent picture of DARIAH internally and externally.

4.5. Relation with the DARIAH principles

VCC4 takes the DARIAH principles and applies them as follows:

1. **Community-driven**
The impact measures aggregated and collected by VCC4 will originate from the different communities. Developed measures and impact indicators will be approved by communities active in DARIAH.

2. Integrate existing resources
VCC4 will draw on existing measures in science and humanities and reflect on their suitability for the given task.

3. Promote digital methods
The measurements for the impact of digital methods determined by VCC4 will be the most important tool for promoting digital methods. It will guide digital humanists in choosing suitable methods and help others to assess the value of provided methods.

4. DARIAH is an open infrastructure
VCC4 promotes an open access publication strategy for the humanities. VCC4 invites participants in joining the discussion on impact and its rationale for the humanities.

5. DARIAH is a trustworthy infrastructure

VCC4 promotes impact factors for infrastructures and will therefore promote the benefits of joining DARIAH for researchers, institutions and funding agencies.

4.6. Relations with other VCCs

VCC4 wants to work closely with all VCCs to communicate strategic developments internally and make results available to a wider audience.
In close cooperation with VCC2, the impact of DARIAH in teaching activities will be systematically investigated in order to determine what consequences knowledge of DH techniques has on the students' carrier path. This could also address the merits and peer reviews for teaching material and tools in line with the recommendations of the European Union[3].
Additionally, community-building indicators that measure the extension of the network need to be developed. VCC4 will work close together with VCC3 on this point.

5. Working groups

So far, one active working group is affiliated with VCC4. The working group on impact factors and success criteria started its work in July 2015, has regular calls and communicates via Basecamp.[4] The following Working Groups are planned under the umbrella of VCC4:

- Sustainability[5]

- Social Innovation[6]

- DARIAH futures[7]

6. Dependencies with other DARIAH-EU-boards

Within the DARIAH-EU organisational structure, VCC4 is in line with the other three VCCs and will organise its work mainly in cross-VCC working groups. Due to the nature of the themes VCC4 that is tackling, there will be a close collaboration with the Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team. VCC4 will also work closely with the NCC to collect the necessary information on impact criteria across all DARIAH-EU member states.
VCC4 will collaborate with the other VCCs and their working groups to ensure key performance indicators are used to measure the progress of work.

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[3] http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/reports/modernisation_en.pdf
[4] https://wiki.de.dariah.eu/display/DARIAH/WG+Impact+factors+and+success+criteria
[5] https://wiki.de.dariah.eu/display/DARIAH/WG+Sustainability
[6] https://wiki.de.dariah.eu/display/DARIAH/WG+Social+Innovation
[7] https://wiki.de.dariah.eu/display/DARIAH/WG+DARIAH+Futures