AHRC ICT Methods Network Expert Seminar

EVIDENCE OF VALUE: ICT IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), 17 Mill Lane, Cambridge

11am Thursday 11 January – 4.30pm Friday 12 January 2007

PROGRAMME

Convenors:
> Professor Mary Jacobus (Director, CRASSH)
> Dr Alan Blackwell (Computer Laboratory, Crucible)
> Professor David Robey (Director, AHRC ICT in Arts and Humanities Research Programme)

Researchers in the Arts and Humanities increasingly apply (or are urged to apply) ICT methods to pursue their research or to enhance research materials in order to make them available to researchers. Many of the technologies now available - whether linguistic corpus analysis or data analysis, text editing, musical or image analysis, or GPI - use techniques at the boundaries of computer science.

The use of new research methods raises questions about their value to the Arts and Humanities domain. What difference do they make, what do they enable that could not be done before, and what evidence of value do they provide? The application of ICT methods also raises larger questions, including attempts to address the value of the Arts and Humanities more generally, as well as questions involving monetary measurement, or value for money: for instance, the potential for Arts and Humanities research to provide a talent-pool or source of innovation for the 'creative industries'.

Among the questions the Evidence of Value consultation seminar will pose are the following:

- How and where (and for whom) should we look for evidence of value in the application of ICT in Arts/Humanities research?
- Are technical achievements separable from the intellectual ends served by ICT methods for research?
- Can ICT act as a stimulus for innovation in Arts/Humanities research?
- Where ICT methods involved in Arts/Humanities research are costly (and they often are), what kinds of priorities and justifications can be made?
- If comparisons are to be drawn across disciplinary boundaries, what measures can be used?
- Should comparisons involve metrics, or can they be qualitative?

And, more generally:

- How does one measure 'value' in Arts/Humanities research, including practice- and performance-based research?
- How does one assess the value of ICT methods in Arts and Humanities practice?
- What is the role of innovation and creativity in ICT research?

Although ICT provides the starting-point for this discussion, the questions posed above offer a novel perspective on difficult contemporary questions, including ideas about value in policy, strategic research, and academic partnerships in human intellectual, cultural, and artistic achievement.

Thursday 11 January 2007

10.15	**Registration and coffee**
10.45	**Introduction** David Robey (Director, AHRC ICT in Arts and Humanities Research Programme) Alan Blackwell (Crucible) Mary Jacobus (Director, CRASSH)
11.00	**Session 1:** Digital Repositories: valued resources or data tombs? Geoffrey Khan (Oriental Studies) John van Wyhe (The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online) Ellis Weinberger (Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, University Library) Matt Riddle (CARET) Chair: Lee Wilson (CRASSH)
13.00	**Lunch**
14.00	**Session 2:** Knowledge on the Move: What is transferable about 'knowledge' and what does this imply? David Good (Social & Polititcal Sciences) Robin Boast (Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology) James Leach (Social Anthropology) Chair: Mary Jacobus (Director, CRASSH)
16.00	**Tea**
16.30	**Discussion** David Shepherd (Director, Humanities Research Institute, University of Sheffield) John Holden (Head of Culture at Demos)
18.00	**Reception** (CRASSH)

Friday 12 January 2007

9.30	**Session 3:** Public Value: Who are the 'public' and what might 'they' want? Francois Penz (Art & Architecture) Christopher Burlinson (Scriptorium: Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts Online)

9.30	**Session 3:** [Public Value: Who are the 'public' and what might 'they' want?](#) Francois Penz (Art & Architecture) Christopher Burlinson (Scriptorium: Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts Online) Hildegard Diemberger (Tibetan-Mongolian Rare Books and Manuscripts Project, MIASU) Chair: David Shepherd (Director, Humanities Research Institute, University of Sheffield)
11.30	**Coffee**
12.00	**Discussion: Whose Art Is It Anyway** John Knell (Intelligence Agency)
13.00	**Lunch**
14.00	**Session 4:** [Does Innovative technology lead to, or depend on, innovative arts research in the creative economy?](#) Maureen Thomas (Art & Architecture) Ian Cross (Music) Madeleine Clegg (Department for Culture, Media and Sport) Dawn Giles (Arts Council East) Peter Tyler (Land Economy) Chair: Alan Blackwell (Crucible)