

Title: The Role of Digital Humanities for Sharing Knowledge in Public Scientific Institutions

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Study program: Comparative study of ideas and cultures

Module: Anthropology: Understanding Worldmaking Practices

This research focuses on the anthropological understanding of how individuals and the public perceive and interact with scientific knowledge, particularly through new digital technologies. Initially driven by a general curiosity about knowledge sharing, the study evolved into a more specific analytical investigation into the categories of complexity, openness, and attunement in relation to digital data, informed by insights gained during and after the pandemic.

I situate the debate about data as a tool for the cultural reproduction of knowledge within the context of ZRC SAZU, a public scientific institution in Slovenia. Drawing on my ethnographic fieldwork among linguists at the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language (ISJFR), I consider the various ways in which these linguists work with, evaluate, debate, create, share, co-create and live the data they produce. This portal acts as an archive, drawing on a century's worth of digitised language data merged with modern language corpora. As an 'archival body' (Vidali and Phillips, 2020), Fran pulls social elements inwards through different uses of language and outwards through the work of linguists who articulate these elements and, consequently, the way the world is experienced in language data. In this way, it acts as a technological infrastructure that facilitates various levels of social exchange between overlapping networks of language experts and non-experts.

The central research questions explore the nature and materiality of data. They ask what constitutes digital and language data and whether it can be understood as a 'living organism'. Having positioned data as a statistical tool that laid the foundations for science, I consider its role in the scientific endeavour to build knowledge. What is hidden and ignored in and as data? As an intrinsic tool of scientific endeavour, data represent not only what is known, but also how, when and by whom that knowledge is constructed. Shifting the focus from epistemology to agnotology, I explore the 'cultural production of ignorance' (Proctor & Schiebinger, 2008) in relation to the knowledge that data is supposed to represent. To this end, I focus on the

anthropological understanding of the social and cultural contexts of knowledge production practices among linguists — the communicators of a particular kind of knowledge.

My aim is to illuminate the various practical, ideological and conceptual ramifications that arise from the richness and complexity of the language data represented on the Fran web portal, within the broader context of digital humanities. I characterise the work of linguists as a form of 'lived digital humanities', which involves an ongoing process of correspondence between linguists, users, language data and digital infrastructure.