Le Standardization Survival Kit (SSK)

Faciliter l’usage des standards dans les Humanités

Marie Puren & Dorian Seillier
Inria, PARTHENOS
About us

- INRIA Paris
- Project-Team ALMAnaCH (Automatic Language Modeling and Analysis & Computational Humanities)
About us

PARTHENOS
Pooling Activities, Resources and Tools for Heritage E-research Networking, Optimization and Synergies

http://www.parthenos-project.eu/
Why standards?

- **Consensus**: a wide (and possibly international) community of experts has developed them.
- **Publication and accessibility**: anyone who wants to know their content is able to access it.
- **Maintenance**: they are regularly updated, replaced or deprecated depending on the technical and scientific evolution of the field.
Why using standards?

"Standards are a key to great digital research, which helps to discover and understand our cultural and societal life."

Laurent Romary
Chairman of the Technical Committee "Terminology and other language and content resources" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
Why using standards?

To produce interoperable, sustainable & reusable results for research.

Here the SSK comes into play ...
Why standards? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiUb6wgA9FI
The SSK: a toolkit for Humanities scholars

- Documenting
- Supporting
- Training
- Communicating
What the SSK is not:

≠ A software where you can perform actions

≠ A data repository

≠ A catalog of standards or resources
The scenarios

Providing contextual information and relevant examples on how standards can be applied in a given research project.
Huma-Num and the scenarios

- Close collaboration with the 3D Consortium:
  - White paper: *Digital 3D Objects in Art and Humanities* (2017) [hal-01526713v2](hal-01526713v2)
  - Two scenarios 3D in progress (presented during *DH Mexico* at the end of June)
  - And a third will be delivered

- Scenarios provided by Huma-Num:
  - “Encode and modelize field surveys for their online dissemination”
  - “Collaborative digital edition of a musical corpus” (Consortium Musica)

- Huma-Num’s strong contribution to:
  - “Perform Statistical analysis on Historical and contemporary occupations”
  - “Digitizing textual material”
Huma-Num and the scenarios
Hey Mork! With some of my colleagues, I’d like to put musical scores online. But I don’t know what I can do and how to proceed! Can you help me?

Well Tork, use the SSK! I think the scenario “Collaborative Digital Edition of a Musical Corpus” can be very useful for you. It will guide you through all the necessary steps to put these scores online, and present the best practices associated to each of these steps.
Three layers

Scenario
A complete and generic research use case composed of several steps to be followed.

Step
A unique task to be performed inside a scenario with the help and recommendation of one or several resources.

Resource
A standardized tool / service / document guiding the researcher in her/his tasks completion.
The scenarios are described using the TEI format (Text Encoding Initiative). All the information displayed within the SSK proceed from TEI files.
How the TEI works in the SSK?

- A scenario is a list of events (\texttt{<tei:listEvents>}), each step in a scenario is an event (\texttt{<tei:event>}).
- TEI files are all available on Github (https://github.com/ParthenosWP4/SSK).
- Documentation: https://parthenoswp4.github.io/SSK/SSKspec.html
Handling the resources

Documentation
- Standards documentation (ISO, TEI)
- Official publications and reports (D4Science, HAL, Zenodo)

Bibliography
- Reference libraries organised by domains and standards
- Maintenance with Zotero

Technical resources
- Code snippets (GitHub)
- Tools & services (D4Science)

User communities
- Wikis
- Blog posts (Hypotheses.org)
- Discussion lists
Our ontologies

- Disciplines (AureHAL)
- Research objects (TaDiRAH, NeDiMAH)
- Research activities (TaDiRAH)
- Research techniques (TaDiRAH)
- Standards (our own knowledge base)
Testing the web interface

A usability test is the simulated experience of an information system by potential users who are asked to perform realistic tasks with it.

It helps get users’ feedback (reactions, comments, feelings) by observing and listening.
Objectives of the test

- Determine the **degree of usability** of the tools based on several criteria
- Identify the **flaws / bugs** of the interface
- Evaluate the user experience of a **first contact** with the tool
- Assess if the SSK meets the needs and expectations of the user
Main results

Two categories of users emerged from the test:

- **beginners in DH or standards** who struggle a lot to understand most of the terminology and the general aim of the website
- **more experienced users** who were pleased by the initiative but wanted more detailed scenarios and more resources to work with

“The SSK is clear enough for researchers familiar with Digital Humanities, but too technical for others who may want to start following these practices”
In order to improve the platform and make it more user-friendly, SSK’s design should take into account:

- the **difference of expertise and experience among users**: it should be as adaptable as possible, even if it suits better the need of more advanced researchers in DH. At least, it should guide learners towards training materials.
- the resources we want researchers to use when following a scenario have to be **clear, up-to-date, relevant** and **connected to the step**.
- a good balance needs to be found between completeness and lightness to **avoid information overload**, which leads to the loss of the user.
What’s next?

◉ Browsing **vocabularies** and **bibliography**

◉ Creating an **account**:
  ○ to manage **bookmarks**
  ○ to customize **scenarios** (by combining existing steps from SSK’s research scenarios)

◉ **Contributing** (in TEI or directly on the interface):
  ○ creation
  ○ edition
  ○ customization

◉ Accessing a **multilingual** interface
Let’s test it!

https://ssk-application.parthenos.d4science.org/ssk/

You can ask questions at: ssk@inria.fr
Involving research communities

- Living memory of research best practices
- Teaching materials
- Need of a strong community
  - reviewers
  - creators => new scenarios could be provided by Huma-Num Consortia
The SSK needs you!

ssk@inria.fr
Thank you for your attention!

http://www.parthenos-project.eu/
@Parthenos_EU
@PARTHENOSproject
contact@parthenos-project.eu
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnKJnFo_IFfoAI3VH51t1hw