Building Bridges – Corpus linguistics and Digital Humanities

Gerald Hiebel / Claudia Posch / Gerhard Rampl / Eva Zangerle

In the already slightly aged Companion to digital Humanities (2004) Susan Hockey criticizes that there was no or insufficient communication between different disciplines of DH and the field of Corpus linguistics, which had developed into a discipline of its own in the late 1980s. At the very least communication and collaboration did not occur at a level that would have been beneficial to both sides.

Since then Corpus linguistics has been booming and is considered an essential set of methods and tools, independent of individual approaches (corpus-driven, corpus-based). Both, very large Corpora (e.g. BNC - English, IDS-Corpora – German with 32 bio. words) and smaller thematic corpora have their place in the community.

This panel will focus on bringing together an audience from the humanities, digital humanities, linguistics, and computational linguistics to explore venues of collaboration and learning from each other. The workshop will feature 1) a presentation of the then concluded project Alpenwort and its possible utility for DH and 2) presentations by invited colleagues from all areas within Corpus linguistics. The focus of this workshop lies in the description of ideas, approaches, resources, and tools which are related to text corpora, linguistic annotation in any form, and Digital Humanities.

The workshop tries to offer communicative paths from linguistics to other disciplines and to foster collaboration and cross-fertilize knowledge and approaches across disciplines along the following very broad questions:

- Which contributions can Corpus linguistics make for other disciplines?
- How can we work together on an interdisciplinary level, which problems do we face?
- How can we develop mutual understanding for the problems and challenges of other disciplines and generally, a common language?
- Which disciplines could benefit from linguistic Corpora and why? (e.g. stylistics, literary studies, history, pedagogy, geography, social- and political sciences, etc.)?
- How can Corpus linguistics benefit from other disciplines?