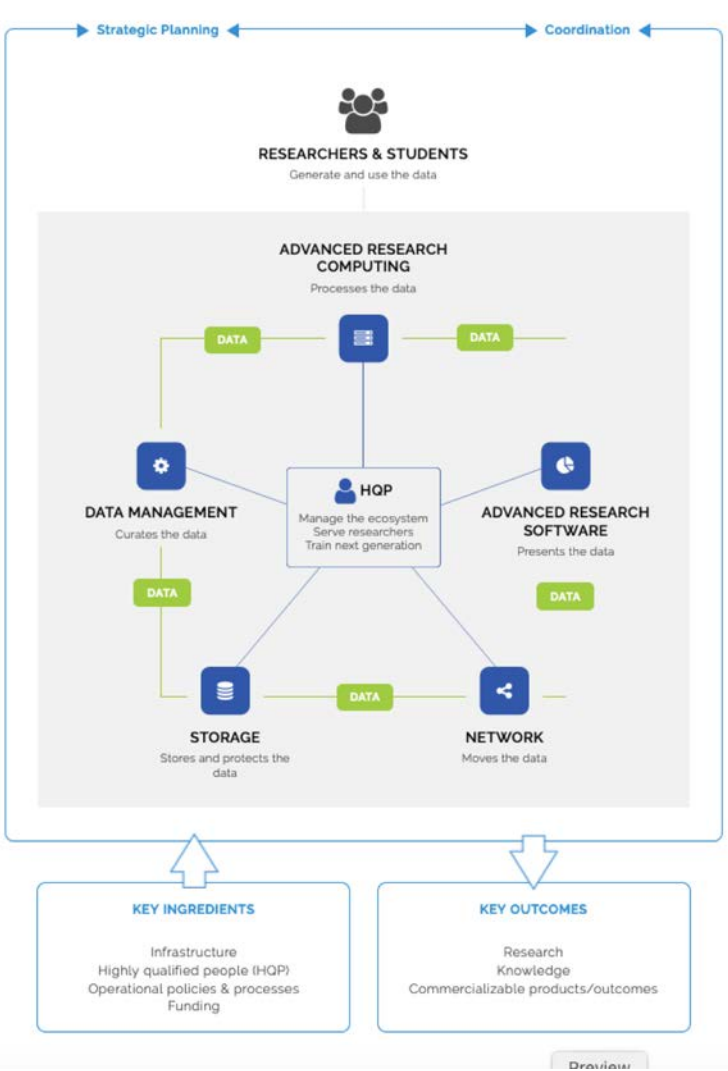
Megan Meredith-Lobay, UBC Advanced Research Computing

Envisioning and Delivering Digital Research Infrastructures for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Envisioning and delivering Digital Research Infrastructures for the Humanities and Social Sciences

- What is DRI and why is it necessary for the humanities?
- Dimensions of Infrastructure Delivery: international, national, institutional, and individual
- How is Canada leading? How can we do better?

https://digitalleadership.ca/what-is-dri/



Digital Research Infrastructure in a nutshell
Or Cyberinfrastructure,
Or e-Science Infrastructure

"…shared, unbounded, heterogeneous, open, and evolving socio-technical systems comprising an installed base of diverse information technology capabilities and their user, operations, and design communities." Trinity College Dublin, "What IS Infrastructure?," in *Parthenos training*, August 9, 2016,

https://digitalleadership.ca/what-is-dri/

Development of Humanities DRI

https://www.history.com/news

1946 – Roberta Busa works with IBM mainframes to digitize the *Index Thomisticus*

1997 – Establishment of the CFI in Canada

2001 – Establishment of the UK e-Science initiative

2003 – Publication of the "Atkins Report" in the U.S. on Cyberinfrastructure

2006 – Establishment of the Publication of *Our Cultural Commonwealth*

2010 – MERIL project begins in

Research Infrastructure for Humanities

https://portal.meril.eu/meril/

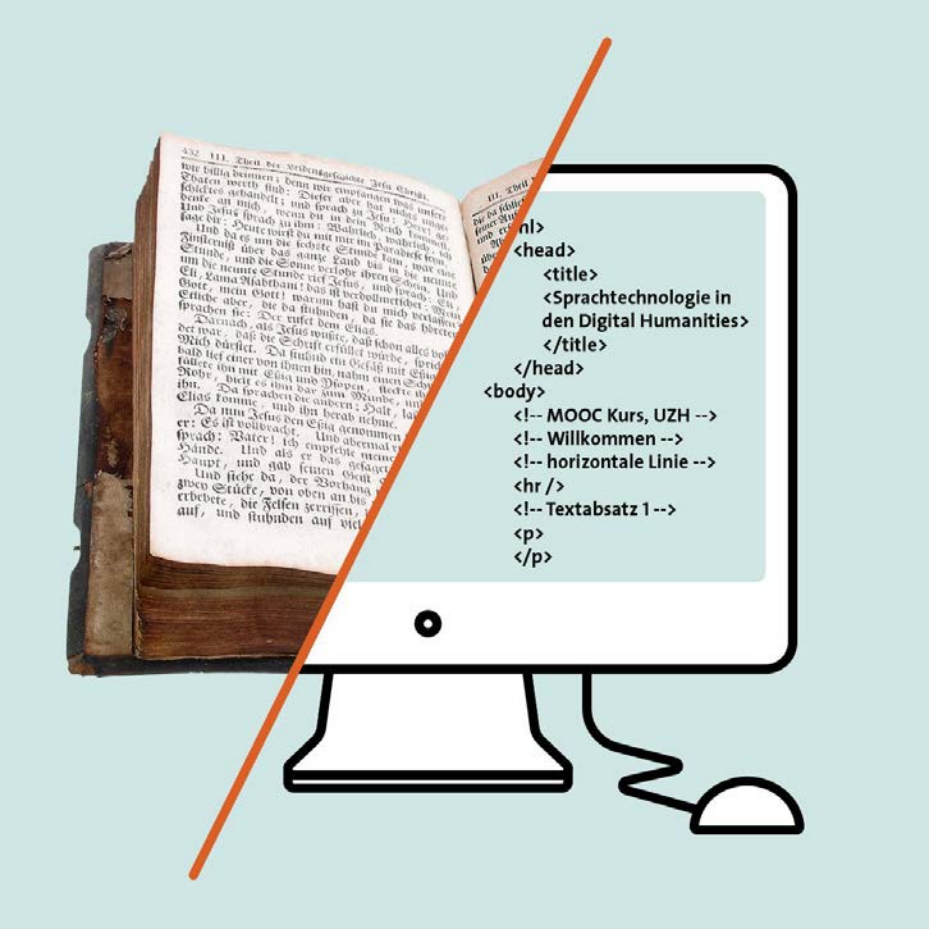
https://www.herefordcathedral.org/chained-library

Research Infrastructure for Humanities

TRANSVERSAL Ris

- Research libraries
- Research archives
- Large-scale research bibliographies
- Educational databases/collections/repositories
- Digital Collections/Data repositories
- GIS data facilities
- Conceptual models, ontologies, and thesauri developed for specific disciplines
- Visualization facilities
- Software development

- From European Science Foundation Policy Briefing, *"Research Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities*



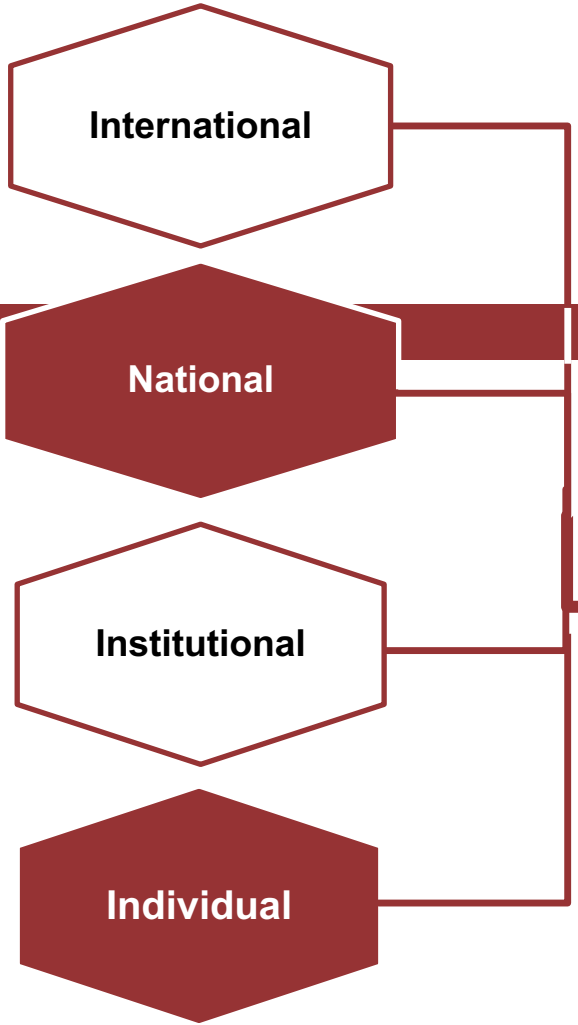
https://tinyurl.com/y53kxsurb

Research Infrastructure for Humanities

Humanities specific Ris

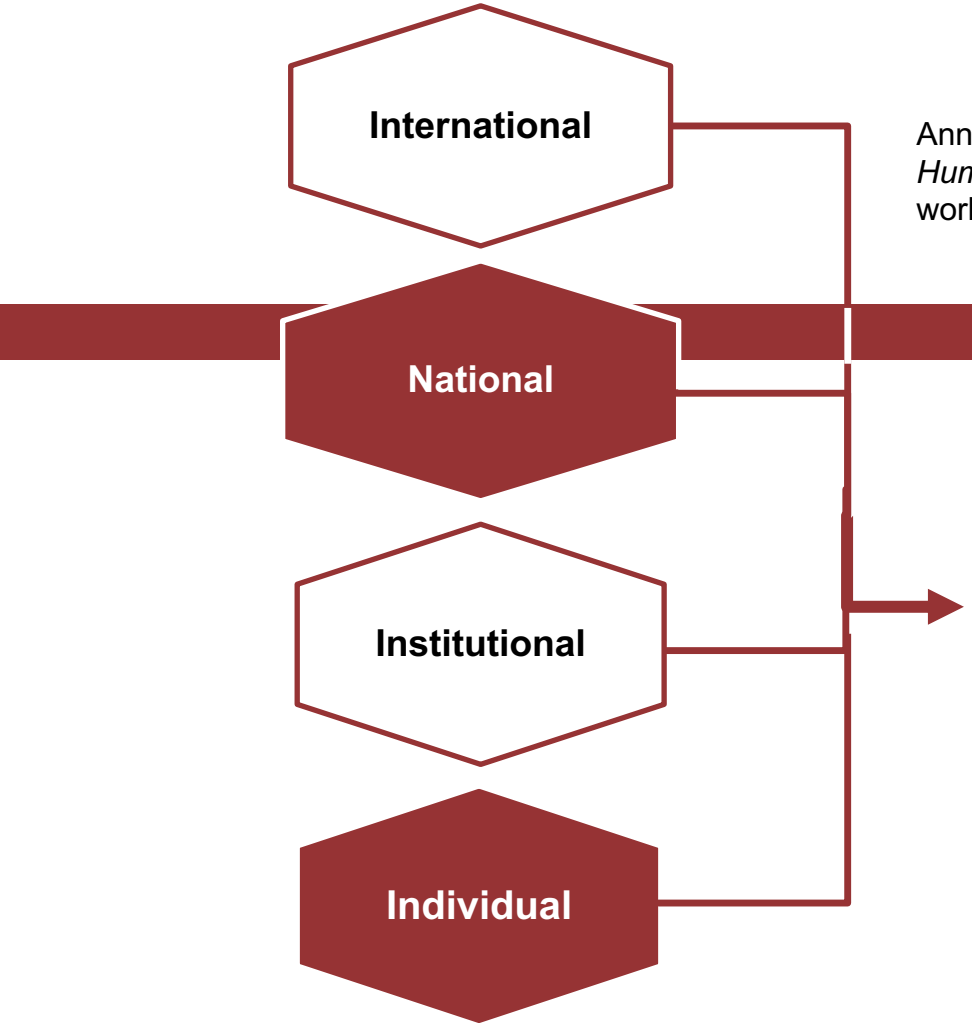
- Cognitive Science facilities
- Research facilities for Cultural Heritage objects – restoration and conservations
- Literature and Text Archives – text collections/repositories, databases of analytical data and metadata
- Language Resources, tools and services
- History archives and databases
- Digitized manuscript databases, collections/repositories
- Arts and Art History databases/collections/ repositories
- Archaeology, Anthropology, and Ethnology databases/collections/ and repositories

- From European Science Foundation Policy Briefing, *"Research Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities*



Anne, Kirk M., et al. *Building Capacity for Digital Humanities: A Framework for Institutional Planning*. ECAR working group paper. Louisville, CO: ECAR, May 31, 2017.

- Funding and Institutional Investments
- Governance
- Infrastructure
- Roles and Capabilities
- Communications and Outreach
- Acceptance and Support



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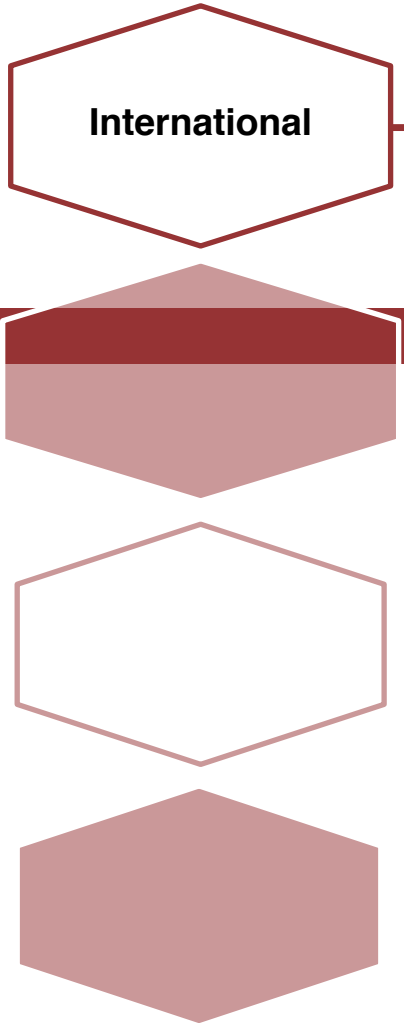
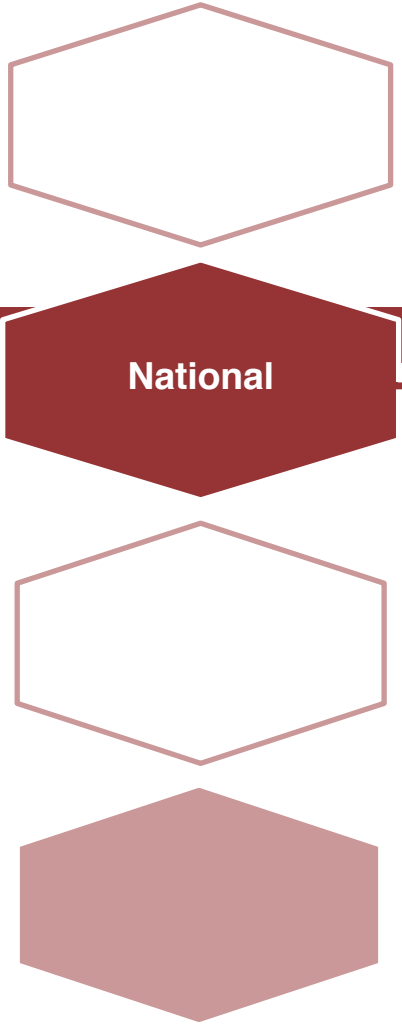
INFRASTRUCTURE:

1. Technology
2. Expertise and Training
3. Physical Spaces
4. Data Management



- Networks of People, Resources, Conferences, and Datasets.
- DARIAH
- ADHO



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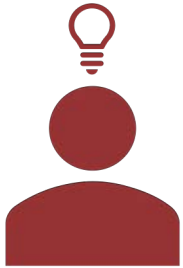
- Shared high-performance computing clusters
- High-speed networks Federated authentication systems
- Communities of practice and collaboration
- Shared Labs and coordinating bodies that operate nationally.



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Institutional

- Dedicated space and equipment
- Positions for programmers and other technical staff targeted to DH support
- IT infrastructure, including resources for both active projects and data archives
- Hosted services such as Omeka or WordPress
- Software site licenses
- Workshops and training
- Internal grants of money or in-kind services
- External grant applications, **including data management plans**
- Promotion and tenure guidelines that value digital work (pg. 20-21)

Strengths

Canadian DRI for Humanities and Social Science

- World class training – DHSI
- HSS Specific team embedded in national HPC platform
- National research data organizations
- National compute infrastructure, storage, and cloud computing resources free for Faculty and Librarians
- Active and Engaged DH community of practice

Future Directions

- Coordination
- Technical Resources
- Funding models
- Career paths for HQP

Thank You!

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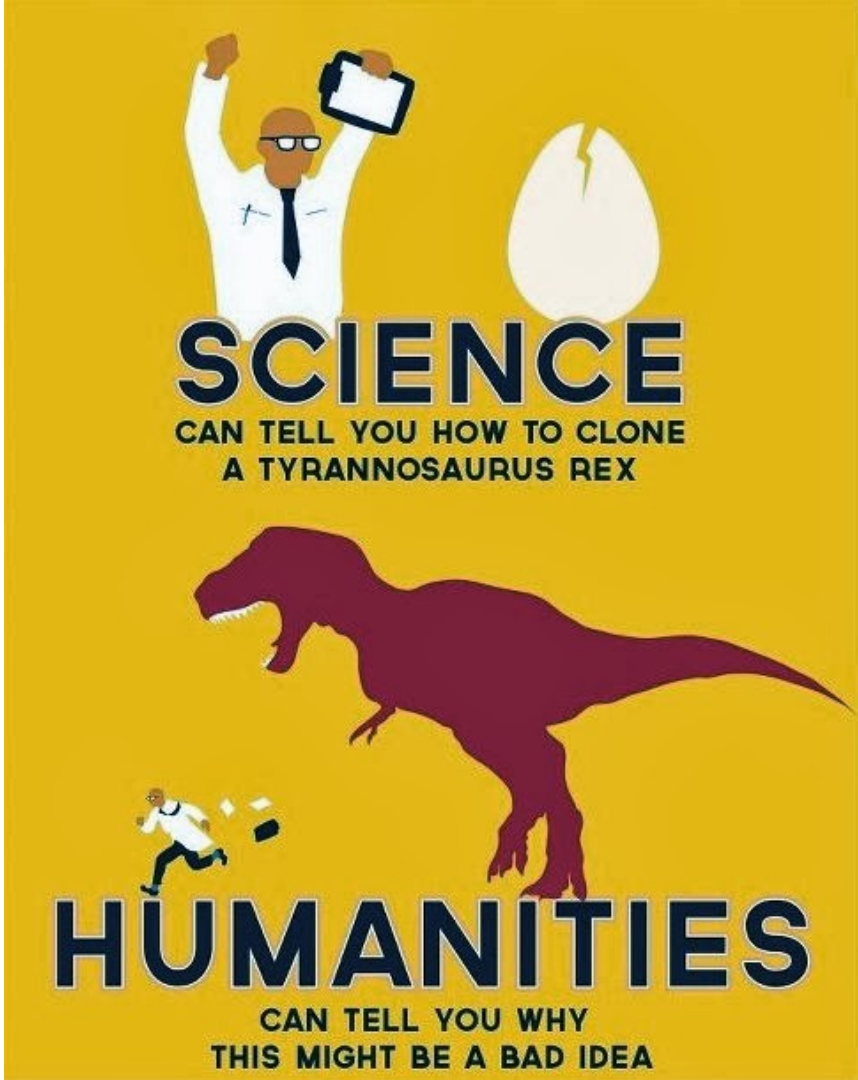

http://www.economist.com/node/15579717