



Action plan 2022

***Sharing and sustaining
digitisation knowledge***



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IMPACT





Introduction

The IMPACT Centre of Competence in Digitisation (**IMPACT**) is a non-profit organisation established in 2012 and built upon the EU-Funded IMPACT project (2008-2012) and with the support of the also EU-funded SUCCEED project (2013-2015).

Since its establishment in 2012, the **IMPACT** was hosted by the Fundación Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes, until 2020, when Fundación General de la Universidad de Alicante took over this responsibility.

In June 2021, a new Executive Director was appointed, Sally Chambers. Since then and until January 2022, consultations with different members of **IMPACT** were conducted in order to analyse their priorities and draft an Action Plan for 2022. These consultations were undertaken in the form of semi-structured interviews to understand their needs and future vision for **IMPACT**.

Member institutions participating in these consultation were:

- a) **IMPACT Executive Board Members** (British Library (BL), French National Library (BnF) and National Library of the Netherlands (KB);
- b) **Members of IMPACT** from a range of institutions (Berlin State Library (SBB); National Library of Finland (NLF); State and University Library Göttingen (SUB); and National Library of Serbia (NLS).
- c) **IMPACT External Expert** (Laurent Romary, INRIA, former IMPACT Advisory Board Member).

The interest areas and the **IMPACT** activities of interest from the interview responses were then used as a basis for proposing: a) an **IMPACT** strategic theme for 2022 and, b) a selection of key **IMPACT** activities for 2022 as a basis of the **IMPACT** Action Plan 2022.

This Action Plan is also built upon the input provided by the Executive Board and **IMPACT** members during the **1st IMPACT Hour**.

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Interest areas identified during the consultation

- **Digitisation practices / operations** such as in-house or outsourcing digitisation, workflow improvements, IT infrastructure, mass digitisation or OCR correction and improvement.
- **Digitisation state-of-the-art:** machine learning, computer vision and artificial intelligence, among others.
- **OCR (including HTR and OLR):** newest developments, layout recognition, quality evaluation, better OCR solutions, training models, etc.
- **Ground truth (quality and usability):** openness, time-period divisions, more comprehensive, automated ground truth based quality control, sharing models, standards, etc.
- **Standardisation and formats:** including ALTO, IIIF, PAGE XML, TEI. What standards are used and why, challenges faced, sustainability, etc.
- **Collaborations:** strategic collaboration and partnerships of IMPACT with related initiatives such as IIIF, TimeMachine, Europeana, READ-Coop, EOSC, DARIAH and CLARIN, among others.
- **Sustainability and feasibility:** openness vs. membership, sustainability of tools and resources, importance of sharing knowledge and expertise, etc.
- **Legal issues:** including copyright issues, creative commons, licensing, open science and data.
- **Advocacy:** helping with the messaging, best practices, e.g. convincing internal stakeholders
- **Interdisciplinarity and cross-fertilisation:** Cross-fertilisation between research; collection holders and e.g., linguistics and benefiting from others expertise.

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Interest activities identified during the consultation

- **Informal exchanges and members meetings:** to exchange best practices, lessons learned and technical challenges, fostering the understanding of different solutions and the exchange of new ideas.
- **DATeCH International Conference:** organisation of the Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage International Conference. It is also seen as a training opportunity.
- **Webinars / Training sessions / Workshops:** focused on different topics related to IMPACT activities such as ground truth, digital transformation, metadata and standards, hands-on sessions, etc.
- **Collaborative project proposals:** using the results from previous EU-funded projects, providing new ideas, projects and collaborations and finding funding opportunities.
- **Working groups:** on particular topics, open also to the joint set-up of working groups with other organisations.
- **(Inter)national collaboration:** including other regions such as Latin America, Asia, North America and strengthening national collaborations.
- **Development of use cases, user stories, test cases, best practices** as an optimal way of sharing best practices, also through the creation of cook-books for non technical audiences.
- **Competitions:** providing data and also organising competitions and benchmarking.
- **Internships, fellowships and teaching:** facilitating communication among member institutions.
- **IMPACT Website** re-design of the website to be used as point of reference in the field of digitisation pointing out people to useful tools and resources, sharing training videos and materials, etc.

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Strategic theme

The [vision](#) of IMPACT, as stated on the website, is “**Making digitisation: better, faster and cheaper**”. While digitisation remains an important focus for IMPACT members, and indeed this overall vision still holds true, it can be said that a key challenge for many of our members interviewed is **how to integrate state-of-the-art digitisation research into day-to-day digitisation practices and operations**. It is therefore important for IMPACT to focus our activities at the intersection between:

- a) digitisation practice / operations;
- b) digitisation state-of-the art and
- c) digitisation for research /advanced digitisation.

To help find solutions to such challenges, IMPACT Members noted that activities such as informal exchanges and member meetings; webinars, training sessions and workshops, and the DATeCH conference are particularly valuable. Furthermore, the IMPACT website is seen as a key reference point for members.

Based on this, it is proposed that a number of activities focussed around a strategic theme: ***Sharing and Sustaining Digitisation Knowledge*** are proposed.

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2022 Action Plan

Activities focused on *Sharing digitisation knowledge*

IMPACT Hour

What?

IMPACT Hour are online meetings enabling informal exchanges between members on challenges, solutions and lessons learnt in the area of digitisation. The main objectives are to facilitate the exchange of best practices, technical challenges, understanding of different solutions and new ideas; as well as facilitating conversations, finding people / organisations working on similar issues and sharing relevant information on papers, events, etc.

When?

IMPACT Hour is quarterly scheduled and will be focused on different topics to foster the participation of members.

Updating IMPACT website and social media

What?

The website is the main point of access to IMPACT and thus, it is considered a key asset of the Centre. In 2022 it is planned to undertake a review of the website structure and content in order to make it more user-friendly and accessible to become a reference in the field of digitisation.

In addition, social media are the main channels of external communication of IMPACT and the visibility of the Centre will be increased in 2022 both in Twitter and LinkedIn.

When?

This is a continuous task that will take place during 2022.

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IMPACT as CLARIN Knowledge Centre

What?

Clarín K-Centres ensure continuous transfer of knowledge between all players involved in the construction, operation and use of the infrastructure. Services offered by K-centres can take different shapes. They all have a helpdesk that will respond to requests within two working days. Some offer online courses, some offer best-practice documents, some offer guidance in getting access to and using data and tools, some are willing to host receivers of CLARIN mobility grants, and there are many more models in which the expertise is offered and shared (source: <https://www.clarin.eu/content/knowledge-centres>).

When?

IMPACT became CLARIN K-Centre in December 2018 and in December 2021 this accreditation was renewed. IMPACT-CKC continuously provides advice and open materials through its [helpdesk](#) to researchers and practitioners.

Submission of COST Action DIALOGUE

What?

In 2019 and 2020, the COST Action DlgitisAtion knowLedge fOr diGital hUmanities and cultural hERitage was submitted by IMPACT members with the aim to create a transnational and interdisciplinary network of researchers and practitioners in order to stimulate much needed structured and interdisciplinary collaboration between cultural heritage professionals, (digital) humanities researchers, and computer scientists and practitioners.

Despite being well evaluated with a score of 43/50 points it was not awarded with a grant. The last submission covered all COST countries with a great gender and expertise balance, showing its pertinence.

When?

The next collection date is in October 2022.

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DATeCH International Conference

What?

The International DATeCH (Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage) conference brings together researchers and practitioners seeking innovative approaches for the creation, transformation and exploitation of historical documents in digital form. This interdisciplinary conference, takes place at the intersection of computer science, (digital) humanities, and cultural heritage studies.

When?

DATeCH is planned to be organised at the end of 2022 in mid November or beginning of December in Alicante in an hybrid format and with the topic of *Sharing and Sustaining Digitisation Knowledge*.

It is also expected that the proceedings are published in the [ACM Digital Library Conference Proceedings](#), like in the previous editions.

Webinar series

What?

Webinars are intended to be thematic sessions around a specific topic of interest to IMPACT members. They will be delivered by invited experts from the IMPACT community but also are seen as an opportunity to collaborate with other organisations such as the OPF, IIPC, Europeana, DARIAH, etc.

They will be organised in the form of 1-1.5h webinar via Zoom and presentation slides and videos will be published on the IMPACT website following the meeting.

When?

Quarterly scheduled in months other than the ones in which an IMPACT Hour is organised

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Activities focused on *Sustaining digitisation knowledge*

Development of the IMPACT Ground Truth Repository

What?

During the members consultation performed in 2021, ground truth was one of the key topics mentioned by our members. Thus, the IMPACT Image and Ground Truth repository is currently being migrated to a more powerful platform using PSNC's dLibra software.

The main objective of this migration is to provide users with a more user-friendly and open access to the data, but also to offer other institutions the opportunity to host their datasets..

When?

PSNC is currently ingesting data and an alpha version will be soon available for the revision and comments from selected members of IMPACT.

Review of the IMPACT Business model

What?

- i. to **review the IMPACT membership model** of Premium and Standard Memberships (e.g. in comparison with similar organisations, e.g. IIF, IIPC, LIBER etc.) to see if the membership model is still fit for purpose and make recommendations to improve the model as appropriate and
- ii. **review the existing Membership of IMPACT**. Are there other key players missing from the Membership? Develop an action plan for recruiting new members, maintain a balance between growth and feasibility.

When?

The revision of the current business model will be undertaken in 2022, while the results of this revision will be incorporated into the IMPACT offer in the 2023 Action Plan.

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Fostering consortium building for Horizon Europe

What?

At IMPACT we aim at fostering the research and development of digitisation and related fields. Sometimes, the lack of funding prevents researchers and practitioners from taking up state-of-the-art technologies in their activities. Thus, our goal is to:

- i. **Foster the consortium building among our members.** IMPACT Hours are a great opportunity to find people with similar interests and working on similar issues.
- ii. **Provide information on funding opportunities.** Pertinent calls will be published on the website and will be promoted during the IMPACT Hours.

When?

This is a continuous task that will be undertaken during 2022.

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Who is behind IMPACT?

IMPACT is composed by a consortium of private and public institutions across Europe. It is governed by a Board of institutions (Executive Board) and it is located at the facilities of the Fundación General de la Universidad de Alicante in Alicante. The daily management of the IMPACT Centre is performed by the IMPACT Management Board.

IMPACT Executive Board

The IMPACT Executive Board (EB) is composed by one representative from each Premium Member institution. The EB meets biannually on a regular basis and whenever necessary to discuss urgent matters.

- **Frieda Steurs** (Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal - INT), EB Chair.
- **Hélène Berges** (Bibliothèque nationale de France - BnF).
- **Neil Fitzgerald** (The British Library - BL).
- **Tineke Koster** (Koninklijke Bibliotheek - KB).
- **Tomasz Parkola** (Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center - PSNC).
- **Rafael Carrasco** (Universidad de Alicante - UA).

IMPACT Management Board

The IMPACT Management Board (MB) is composed of the IMPACT EB Chair, the Executive Director, the Scientific and Technological Director, a representative of the Hosting Institution and the IMPACT Manager. Currently it is composed by:

- **Katrien Depuydt** (INT), representing the EB Chair.
- **Sally Chambers**, Executive Director.
- **Tomasz Parkola** (PSNC), Scientific and Technological Director.
- **Rafael Carrasco** (UA), representing the hosting institution.
- **Isabel Martínez**, Manager.

The Management Board meets monthly to closely monitor the implementation of IMPACT activities.