D-SPIN – the German CLARIN initiative

As a support action for CLARIN the German Federal Ministery of Research and Education (BMBF) has launched D-SPIN („Deutsche Sprachressourcen-Infrastruktur" - Infrastructure for German Language Resources), an infrastructure project of language resources and tools. Apart from D-SPIN, the BMBF is also funding two additional eHumanities projects: *Textgrid* and *eAQUA*. All these projects will closely collaborate and will coordinate the necessary steps for the construction of an eScience infrastructure for the humanities.

The D-SPIN project is co-ordinated by the University of Tübingen. The partners are: the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin, the DFKI in Saarbrücken, the Institut für Deutsche Sprache in Mannheim, the MPI for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen and the universities of Frankfurt, Gießen, Leipzig, Stuttgart and Tübingen. The project will invite all language resource providing institutions in Germany to become involved in the project at an early stage. To this end D-SPIN will organize a national workshop with all interested institutions in the spring of 2009.

D-SPIN will run concurrently with CLARIN and will mirror its structure in order to facilitate the cooperation between both projects and in order to generate synergies. However, most of the work is devoted to national tasks, in particular to the establishment of service centers and the localisation, description and integration of key language resources and tools in Germany.

The user communities targeted by D-SPIN are not only limited to linguists and language technologists, but also include other humanities disciplines. Since it is not possible to address all relevant subfields of the humanities at this stage, D-SPIN will try to make tools and resources available that are of interest to scholars from the field of history.

In order to identify user needs, D-SPIN will organize a workshop with board members of the largest on-line community of historians ('H-Soz-Kult').

Since libraries are increasingly playing the role of historical resource providers, D-SPIN will also seek the cooperation of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library). The "Weltkriegssammlung Erster Weltkrieg" (text archive of World War I), a joint project between the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) and the Berlin State Library, will serve as a test case for investigating the usefulness of different levels of linguistic annotation, e.g. lemmatisation and named entity annotation. Additional possibilities include annotations by the scholars themselves in the form of stand-off annotation. The exploration of such usage scenarios for the field of history will help to identify specific requirements for the construction of an eScience infrastructure which will ideally can be applied to other humanities disciplines as well.

For further information about D-SPIN, please consult: www.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/dspin.