

Speech, Voice, Text, and Meaning

A Multidisciplinary Approach to Interview Data through the use of digital tools

Organisers

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Workshop motivation, expected outcomes and impact

As increasingly sophisticated new technologies for working with numbers, text, sound and images come on stream, there is one type of data that begs to be explored by the wide array of available digital humanities tools, and that is interview data (De Jong, 2014; Corti and Fielding, 2016). A stream of concerted activities the proposers of this workshop based on their engagement with interview data from different perspectives, led to a series of 4 workshops from 2016 to 2018, held in Oxford, Utrecht, Arezzo and München, in which we invited different types of scholars to explore interview data with an array of digital tools. This activities were funded by CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure

During the proposed workshop we intend to first present the complex design and results of these series of multidisciplinary and multimodal workshops. The premise here is that the multimodal character (text, sound and facial expression) and multidisciplinary potential of interview data (history, oral and written language, audio-visual communication) is rarely fully exploited, as most scholars focus on the analysis of the textual representation of the interviews. This might change by getting acquainted with scholarly approaches and conventions from other disciplines. The second part of the workshop would offer scholars who work with interview data and tools, the opportunity to present their work.

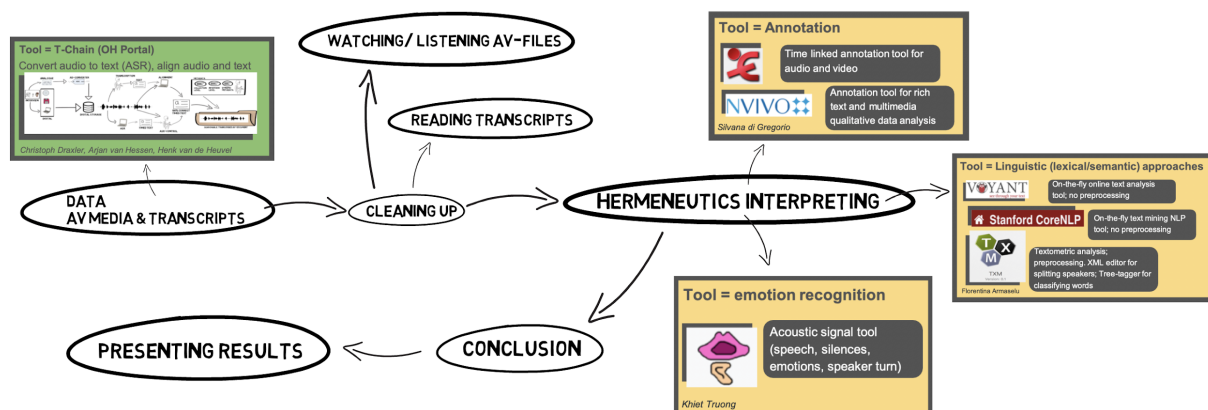


Figure 1: High-level simplified journey of working with interview data

Aim of this workshop

When considering research processes that involve interview data, we observe a variety of scholarly approaches, that are typically not shared across disciplines. Scholars hold on to engrained research

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practices drawn from specific research paradigms and they seldom venture outside their comfort zone. The inability to 'reach across' methods and tools arises from tight disciplinary boundaries, where terminology and literature may not overlap, or from different priorities placed upon digital skills in research. We believe that offering accessible and customized information on how to appreciate and use technology can help to bridge these gaps.

This workshop aims to take stock of our efforts to break down disciplinary boundaries by offering scholars the opportunity to apply, experiment and exchange digital tools that have been developed in the realm of Digital Humanities. We would also like to share our insights with a wider audience of scholars coming from different disciplines.

The workshop

A full-day workshop, open for everyone interested in the "processing" of spoken narratives for research purposes (scholars) or for archiving and opening up interview data (archivists). It will provide cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange between all participants by presenting the following elements :

- Outline and hands on components of the open source tool the T-Chain (see below), participants can process their own audio-clips in Dutch, German, Italian or English. and explore how to further process the ASR output
- Outline of the various approaches of different disciplines that work with spoken data and how they use annotation, text analysis and emotion extraction tools to process their data
- Connect the ASR-results to existing written text sources (books, newspapers, blogs)
- Short lectures by a few Invited speakers and a selection of authors of papers that will be sent in after we launch the call for the workshop
- Figure out how we can strengthen and expand the community around Oral History and Technology

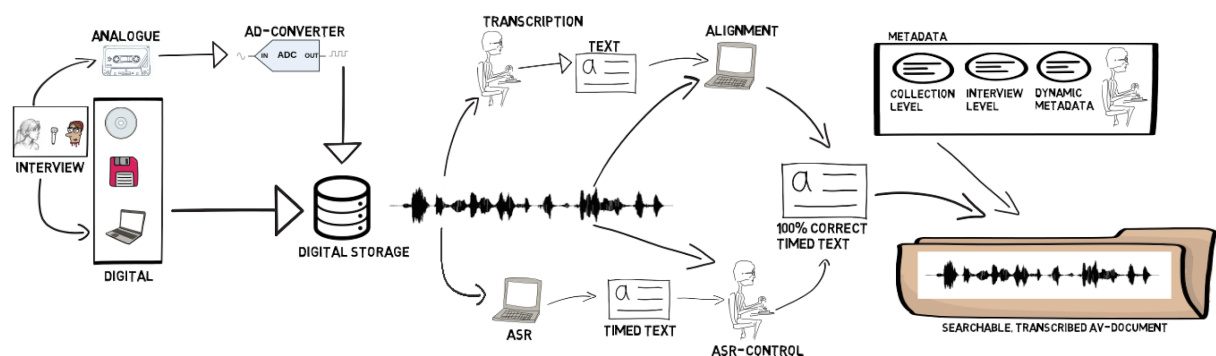


Figure 2: schematic view of the T-Chain: processing of spoken documents from recording/digitization into transcribed digital files including metadata

Tentative program

9.00 - 9.30	Introduction and short presentation on 'Digital Humanities approaches to interview data - can historians, linguists and social scientists share tools?'
9.30 - 11.00	Preparing your audio-data, uploading these audio to the portal and automatic recognizing the speech. Correcting the ASR-results Downloading the (corrected) results and improving the readability
11.00 - 11.15	Coffee/Tea break

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11.15 - 12.00	Introducing linguistic analysis of interview transcripts
12.00 - 12.45	Introducing and exploring emotion extraction from audio interviews
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.45	Lecture Invited speaker 1
14.45 – 15.30	Lecture Invited speaker 2
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee/Tea
15.45 – 16.30	Lecture Invited speaker 3
16.30 - 1700	Discussion and a journeyment

Tentative list of keynote speakers

At least three keynotes will be given by the workshop organisers.

- Christopher Draxler, Henk van de Heuvel, Arjan van Hessen: Speech recognition of interviews
- Silvia Calamai, Stef Scagliola, Norah Karrouche: XXX
- Louise Corti, Jeannine Beeken: YYY
- Workshop participant A
- Workshop participant B
- Workshop participant C (eventually)

Planned advertisement means, website hosting, and estimated participation

The workshop has a maximum of 25 participants. The publicity, interaction (questions, remarks, registration with special wishes/questions concerning the workshop) with the potential participants, will go through the website <https://oralhistory.eu/workshops/icmi>.

Paper review procedure

The organizers will ask at least two workshop participants to give a keynote about their own working methods, experiences, and wishes regarding the elaboration of the interview process. The selection will be made by the organizers.

Paper submission and acceptance deadlines

Participants who are interested in contributing to the workshop, can submit their proposals via our website <https://oralhistory.eu/workshops/icmi>

The organisation committee will select those proposals that do fit best in the concept of the workshop. Once the workshop is accepted, we will publish the call for proposals at the website. The acceptance deadline will be July first, 2020

Special space and equipment requests

Because it is a workshop about spoken interviews, a good sound system with which speech can be heard from the laptop is highly desirable. Good Eduroam connection and everybody should have a laptop. Prior registration will improve the possibility to connect to the participants before the workshop, and poll the interests and levels of proficiency.

References

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- Corti, L., and Fielding, N. (2016). 'Opportunities From the Digital Revolution: Implications for Researching, Publishing, and Consuming Qualitative Research'. SAGE Open. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244016678912> .
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- Van den Heuvel, H., van Hessen, A., Scagliola, S., Draxler, C. (2017). 'Transcribing Oral History Audio Recordings – the Transcription Chain Workflow'. Poster at the CLARIN EU Conference, Budapest, September 18/19- 2017.