Report AP 9: Dissemination

April 2013
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1. Introduction

Within the German CLARIN-D initiative, BAS is, in conjunction with IMS of the University of Stuttgart, responsible for the work package AP 9 “Dissemination”. The goal of this work package is to make CLARIN-D visible to the scientific communities, also to the international CLARIN ERIC initiative and to the general public.

In the grant contract, measures to achieve this visibility were defined. These measures include the publication of a newsletter, the definition of templates for poster and computer presentations, and setting up a web site for CLARIN-D.

2. Institutions and People

The Bavarian Archive for Speech Signals (BAS) is hosted by the Institute of Phonetics and Speech Communication at Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. Within BAS, the project leader PD Dr. Christoph Draxler is also responsible for BAS contributions to AP 9. Fabian Bross is responsible for the design and editing of the newsletter, which is scheduled to appear every 6 months.

The Institute for Natural Language Processing (Institut für Maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung, IMS) is part of Faculty 5 (“Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology”) at the University of Stuttgart. The head of the CLARIN-D centre at IMS is Prof. Dr. Jonas Kuhn, deputy leader is Dr. Heike Zinsmeister, and the person responsible for the construction, support and maintenance of the CLARIN-D web site and the wiki is Jens Stegmann.

3. Main Dissemination Strategies

CLARIN-D is informing about its aims, contents, status and progress via several communication channels:

• a web site on CLARIN-D, with public and restricted access pages, set up and maintained by IMS Stuttgart,

• a newsletter which is published every 6 months by BAS,

• paper flyers were designed and made available by BAS, and

• active participation in workshops and conferences for young researchers.

These information channels are used by all CLARIN-D partners; furthermore, all CLARIN-D partners are contributing information about their activities for the sake of the dissemination of information about CLARIN-D.
4. Activities and Materials Produced

4.1 Newsletter

It was decided that the general concept of the newsletter should be to

- present background information on CLARIN-D and its centres,
- report on important CLARIN-D events such as workshops, tutorials and press conferences,
- provide a forum for guest authors from related projects, and
- present use cases from scientific applications with relevance for CLARIN-D.

BAS has published three newsletters so far (Nov. 2011, May 2012, and Nov. 2012).

The newsletter can be found at


One can subscribe to the newsletter via the web page.

4.2 Flyer

Two CLARIN-D flyers have been designed and printed:

“CLARIN-D – Forschungsinfrastruktur für Sprachressourcen in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften”, and

“CLARIN-D – Was kann CLARIN-D Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften schon jetzt anbieten?”

The first flyer was also published in English in 2012. The second flyer was created by the CLARIN-D team at MPI Nijmegen.

Both flyers were distributed at CLARIN-D events with large audiences, e.g. the M12 workshop in Leipzig in July 2012, at the eHumanities conference in Hamburg in Nov. 2012, and at other national and international conferences (e.g. Interspeech 2012, 52. StuTS), and at several workshops.

4.3 Events

CLARIN-D was present at the annual meeting of the Gesprächsforschung at the Institut für Deutsche Sprache (IDS) in Mannheim. At the accompanying technology fair, developers and researchers can demonstrate speech and language-processing tools, present new speech databases and corpora, and show how technology can make work easier.
At the 2012 meeting (14.03.2012), CLARIN-D participated with the following contributions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLARIN-D</td>
<td>Web- and Zentrenbasierte Forschungsinfrastruktur für Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaftler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPI</td>
<td>ELAN Linguistic Annotator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HZSK</td>
<td>EXMARalDA and LIS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Furthermore, CLARIN-D featured prominently at 52. StuTS (Studentische Tagung Sprachwissenschaft) from 21.-25.11.2012 in Berlin. At StuTS, members from the CLARIN-D centres presented software tutorials on corpus creation, annotation, online experiments and web services. The BAS was also present at the annual workshop of the German Dialectological Society in Kiel (13.-15.09.2012) where it presented software and distributed flyers.

The Stuttgart CLARIN-D centre presented the project at an invited talk in the guest lecturer series of the CRC 991 in Düsseldorf (“Corpus Annotation and Retrievability Language resources and tools in CLARIN-D”, 18.04.2013) and distributed both flyers.

CLARIN-D was also prominently present at the Kick-off meeting of the 24 eHumanities projects funded by BMBF in Leipzig in April 2013. CLARIN-D was presented in a plenary talk by the scientific coordinator and by a demo and poster stand during the conference, where info-material was distributed, too. Also, several individual CLARIN-D partners actually were also involved in certain eHumanities projects and therefore participated at the event.

Finally, researchers from CLARIN-D participated in large conferences, e.g. LREC in Istanbul, InterSpeech in Portland, Oregon, and others. At these conferences, flyers were widely distributed.

### 4.4 CLARIN-D web site and project wiki

The first version of the CLARIN-D web site was published by IMS in September 2011 ([http://clarin-d.de](http://clarin-d.de)). It was created using the Joomla content management system (Joomla CMS). For means of project internal documentation and information exchange, IMS also set up and maintained the access-controlled CLARIN-D project wiki ([http://www.clarin-d.de/mwiki](http://www.clarin-d.de/mwiki)). It has the Mediawiki software at its base and was released together with the first version of the web site.

In June 2012, we (in particular, IMS) released a generally revised version of the web site. Further updates were made available on a continuous basis during the rest of the reporting period. The general maintenance of the web site and project wiki involved tasks in server and software administration as well as in user support, training and documentation.

In the following, we report on the features introduced as part of the relaunch, the time after the relaunch, and regarding aspects of maintenance.

**Relaunch (- June 2012)**

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1. Other domains for the CLARIN-d web site are [clarin-d.org](http://clarin-d.org), [clarin-d.net](http://clarin-d.net) and [de.clarin.eu](http://de.clarin.eu).
The relaunch of the web site was brought about in time before the M12 workshop in Leipzig in June 2012. It had been prepared for about two months in a parallel test environment set up at IMS such that the productive online presence of CLARIN-D had not been interrupted. The relaunch was guided by specifications defined by the CLARIN-D steering committee and included:

- An overhaul of the general menu structure and additions to the content available at the site. The areas “Calendar” (Project Calendar, Digital Humanities Calendar, later also: Training Calendar), “User Communities” (Working Groups 1 – 7, later also: Curation Projects), “Training and Helpdesk” (FAQ, Technical Helpdesk, Legal Helpdesk, Hostings, Training Materials) and “Documents” (Technical Documents, Project Bibliography) were introduced, for example.

- New features on the starting page such as “News” and “Moving Pictures” (prototype provided by Thomas Zastrow) were brought about. Important CLARIN-D news are now visible in a newsflash immediately when opening the starting page. The moving pictures display some flagship resources of the CLARIN-D centers in a dynamic and visually appealing way.

- General user friendliness: More images and textual revisions (goal: less expert language and more appealing texts) of the existing and new material have been provided, as well as layout-related changes.

IMS implemented the above specification in the Joomla CMS and coordinated the provision of content by the centres. We also edited and integrated most of it due to the time constraints given.

**After the Relaunch (July 2012 – May 2013)**

During the rest of the reporting period, IMS added further features on request of the steering committee, the CLARIN-D technical leaders and/or individual project partners after the relaunch:

- Presentation of the curation projects run by the working groups of the CLARIN-D User Communities (in cooperation with the pertinent Working Groups and U Leipzig).

- Online reading facilities and download of newsletters and flyers produced by BAS as well as fact sheets supplied by U Tübingen and BBAW.

- Highlighting the key areas of expertise of the CLARIN-D centres (on the Centres page).

- Besides the CLARIN-D project calendar (all partners) and the Digital Humanities conference calendar (U Tübingen), an additional calendar targeting CLARIN-D related training measures (U des Saarlandes) was introduced.

- In March 2013: Providing a separate section for the upcoming M24 Workshop (Program, Information, Registration Form) in the “News” section. Information on the workshop was added by MPI Nijmegen. IMS created the basic structure and provided the interactive registration form for the participants. The registration data can be checked out via the Joomla
CMS backend.

- Different external sources were integrated into the page, e.g., via iframes or with specific introductory texts and links. This includes:
  - FAQ information collected via the OTRS ticketing system (U Hamburg).
  - The CLARIN-D User Guide provided by BBAW Berlin.
  - The CLARIN-D standards page hosted by IDS Mannheim. Setup of an access-protected component for the exchange of files among the centre leaders (e.g. slides and minutes of the centre leaders’ meetings) via the website.

- Continuous creation of new articles (especially for the “News” section on the starting page) and updates to all kinds of content when no CMS delegate (see below) was available.

- Work in progress at the time of writing (to be concluded until the End of May 2013):
  - Integration of information about the current status of the infrastructure on a map as provided by the computing centre RZ Jülich.
  - We have used software to automatically identify dead links on the website and are using those results to write new redirect rules for the web server.
  - Providing updates to the project bibliography.
  - Checking for the degree of parallelism between the German and English language versions.

**Maintenance (Documentation, Training, User Support and Administration):**

The Stuttgart CLARIN-D centre IMS is responsible for the technical basis of the web site and the coordination of all work related to it. Nevertheless, still all nine German centres are to be contributing to the content of the web site. To this end, each centre appointed a CMS delegate to be held responsible for adding and updating information specific to the centre or to a pertinent work package.

In order to help the CMS delegates do their job, IMS provided live tutorials, e.g. at the CLARIN-D developers’ meeting at the IDS Mannheim in June 2012. Topics included the use of the backend, the structure of the webpage, the relaunch, etc. Furthermore, IMS created documentation for the CMS delegates to use “on the job”. It is available via the project wiki ([http://clarin-d.de/mwiki/index.php/Webseite](http://clarin-d.de/mwiki/index.php/Webseite)) and includes:

- Links to Joomla tutorials and presentations
- A list of the CMS delegates and their duties (each centre is responsible for the content of particular sections of the web site)
- Information on the testing environment and all domains used for the site
• How to log in to the Joomla CMS backend
• How to create links that are sustainable regarding possible future changes to the structure of the web site (specific URLs) and also regarding the different domains used
• Detailed instructions on how to create new articles for the web site
• Information regarding the layout

Besides documentation and training, maintenance also involves responding to user requests, e.g., scholars asking for specific content or new features regarding the web site or wiki. IMS usually provides a first answer very fast (in the vast majority within the first one or two hours). However, some questions have to be delegated, of course, and feature requests can take significantly longer to implement (up to a few days or weeks) if feasible at all.

Another important aspect involving the CLARIN-D members is providing accounts for the project wiki (and the internal part of the CMS if appropriate). At the time of writing we have 158 users of the wiki. We could not register them automatically because we had to make sure that only persons connected with the project (employed by a CLARIN-D centre or members of Working Groups etc.) receive such accounts.

IMS also provided the necessary technical support for both web site and wiki. This involved providing that the web server environment was up-to-date and configured appropriately. We also had to care about updates of the Joomla CMS, the Mediawiki installation as well as the associated components / extensions / plugins etc. for both. Finally, feature requests were taken care of where possible, e.g. new components installed, sometimes old ones removed etc.

4.5 Other web sites
The major collection of web services of CLARIN-D is hosted by U Tübingen:

http://weblicht.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/weblichtwiki/index.php/Main_Page

CLARIN-D continues to actively publishing information about its tools and services to the Virtual Language Observatory.

http://www.clarin.eu/vlw/observatory.php

5. Strategic Planning

5.1 Web site and Newsletter
The web site is in a stable state. We will continue to implement minor revisions required by the steering committee, other members of CLARIN-D and the users where feasible. IMS will continue to provide support for the server that runs the web site. This will include an upgrade to the new Joomla CMS version in summer 2013.
The CLARIN-D web site already offers a list of project publications. We are working on a new Python-based bibliography component that will feature BibTeX export among others.

CLARIN-D is closely related to several projects of the 2012 eHumanities initiative funded by the BMBF. These projects will also be presented on the CLARIN-D web site in the future if possible.

The web site needs a steady flow of contributions by the community, and the newsletter also needs several interesting contributions from individual CLARIN-D centres. IMS will continue to send a monthly reminder to the CLARIN-D mailing lists, asking for new content.

Given the possibilities associated with a modern CMS system, the CMS delegates will have to play a key role in providing new content for the web site in the future.

An evaluation of the user friendliness and appropriate measures to improve it would be highly desirable.

5.2 Other dissemination channels

The focus of CLARIN-D will slowly shift from technical issues to real-world scientific applications. As a consequence, the work-package 9 on dissemination will increasingly address young researchers, e.g. PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, etc., and it will be present at workshops and conferences in the field, e.g. via special sessions on research infrastructures.