

## CLARIN-NL Call for Research Data and Tools

### Emerging e-Science

New research methods will make use of advanced computational resources, data collections and scientific instruments that should be easily accessible in a distributed information network that bundles all these resources in a single virtual entity. *e-Science* is emerging and will lead to a revolutionary change in doing science. Researchers will work in a global virtual world without boundaries in which data are accessible and can be acted upon crossing scientific and geographical boundaries.\

This new way of doing science is only possible if the research data and results are easily accessible. Achieving this requires the resolution of a number of technical barriers. A range of projects, among them the infrastructure projects such as CLARIN (in the Netherlands CLARIN-NL), DARIAH, META-SHARE, etc. are working hard on this. But most importantly, researchers must consider it their second nature to make their research data, tools and results maximally accessible for other researchers.

### The importance and value of data for research

Knowledge must be treated as much as possible as public property that is non-exclusive and non-competitive. The use of knowledge by whatever researcher does not impede use of this knowledge by other researchers. It does not diminish its value; on the contrary the use of existing knowledge creates more knowledge.

Treating knowledge as personal intellectual property makes this knowledge exclusive. However, it is more appropriate to consider research data and tools developed with public financing as public property and make it available to anyone who desires so. The production, sharing and open distribution of data and tools are essential ingredients for carrying out excellent and innovative scientific research. Also from the perspective of scientific methodology and quality is making available data and tools a requirement: only independently verifiable research can count as proper science.

CLARIN-NL therefore stipulates that researchers and research groups participating in CLARIN-NL<sup>1</sup> make their resources freely available to other researchers. This is in line with the *NWO Open Access Initiative*<sup>2</sup> for publications but extends it to research data and tools. It is also in line with NWO's requirement to investment projects to ensure long term preservation of research data<sup>3</sup>, with the *OECD declaration and guidelines for public access to publicly funded data*<sup>4</sup> signed by the Dutch government, and the *Berlin Declaration on Open Access*<sup>5</sup>, signed by the Dutch universities, NWO, KNAW and SURF.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.clarin.nl/node/7>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA\\_6PUHMK](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA_6PUHMK)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA\\_7FBEG8](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA_7FBEG8)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34487\\_25998799\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/0,2340,en_2649_34487_25998799_1_1_1_1,00.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>

CLARIN-NL is aware that there may be good arguments in some cases to make data and tools not publicly available (yet), and it wants to respect these. This may involve legal and ethical limitations. In such cases CLARIN-NL offers support to deal properly with such restrictions. It may also involve the protection of research, e.g. data that a PhD student collected and is analyzing to write a thesis. In the latter case CLARIN-NL considers temporary inaccessibility or limited accessibility acceptable, provided that a clear limit in time is set and the data or tools are made available after period expired.

### **CLARIN-NL Call**

CLARIN-NL calls upon all humanities researchers in the Netherlands to make their research data and tools maximally accessible, especially when the research was financed with public money. For maximum effectivity such data and tools, wherever possible, should adhere to internationally recognized standards and best practices, and be properly documented. Research, by its very nature, may involve new types of data and tools for which no such standards or best practices yet exist. In that case the researchers should contribute to the further development of existing standards or to the set up of completely new standards to accommodate such data and tools.

### **CLARIN-NL Support**

CLARIN-NL is willing and able to support researchers in various ways:

- CLARIN-NL refers to a list of good candidates for standards and best practices that are currently being investigated in Europe (*inter alia* in CLARIN). See <http://www.clarin.eu/recommendations>
- CLARIN-NL makes systematic efforts to create a research infrastructure in which maximal open access and interoperability (both formal and semantic) are aimed at.
- CLARIN-NL urges funders of scientific research (NWO, OC&W, KNAW, etc.) to provide support (financial, logistical, with expertise) to make research data and tools maximally accessible.
- CLARIN-NL offers support to researchers to properly deal with limitations with regard to intellectual property rights and ethical restrictions, and aims to make available systematic technical facilities for this.
- CLARIN-NL offers support (financial, logistical and with expertise) itself for the curation of research data and tools, i.e. to convert them in such a way that they can be made openly accessible and be exploited maximally by other researchers in the CLARIN research infrastructure that is currently being constructed.
- CLARIN-NL requires that researcher funded by CLARIN-NL make their research data and tools maximally accessible and compatible with CLARIN-supported standards and best practices, and that they incorporate the data and tools in the CLARIN infrastructure to ensure maximal accessibility to other researchers

For further information, please contact the CLARIN-NL office ([clarinnl@uu.nl](mailto:clarinnl@uu.nl)) or visit the CLARIN-NL website (<http://www.clarin.nl>).