Current scholarship in philosophy takes place in a context of revolutionary change. The Internet, with digital archives, makes an ever-increasing number of philosophical texts more available, allows a larger public to consult material once inaccessible, and opens up new avenues of scholarship. As primary challenges, it’s necessary to safeguard these new resources – ensuring that Open Access (OA) is not limited by technical issues or commercial interests – and fulfill the potential of new modes of scholarship offered by digital publication and digital repositories.

The Agora project improves the spread of European research results in the field of philosophy and advances new paradigms of Open Access publishing, peer review and rendering by interlinking current scientific information (scholarly research output) among each other and its underlying datasets (digital reproductions of primary sources and text editions).

The Agora project aims at:
- building on existing Open Access resources, primarily Philosource (developed by the former Discovery project), extending Open Access to secondary literature and creating new Open Access resources
- exploring different ways of enhancing these open access resources through a series of experiments.

The Agora Five Experiments

More can be done to create innovative ways of accessing primary philosophical texts, of linking texts among one another and with secondary texts where they are cited, of searching and querying texts. Different models of peer review are also technically feasible and up to emerge in many scholarly fields. Finally, Open Access also calls for different business models for scholarly content. Agora is developing five experiments to explore the potential offered by OA digital libraries of primary and secondary philosophical texts:

- Semantic Linking Experiment
- Contexta Experiment
- Open Peer Review Experiment
- Open Access Business Models Experiment
- Linked Open Data Experiment

The Consortium

ITALY: CNR-ILIESI (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto per il Lessico Intellettuale Europeo e Storia delle Idee – Coordinator) and NET7; FRANCE: CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique); DENMARK: University of Copenhagen; NORWAY: University of Bergen; FINLAND: ABO (Åbo Akademi University).


Technology

The technological infrastructure of Agora is based on existing, widely deployed Open Source Software (OSS). The nodes of the federation, where journals and monographs will be published, uses Open Journal System, an OSS application developed by PKP (Public Knowledge Project). The Agora LOD Portal is a web application based on the API of a new tool of the MURUCA platform (evolution of the TALIA software) called KORBO (http://korbo.muruca.org/). The Federation Portal aggregates structured metadata from the federation nodes and make it available in a variety of formats, including LOD RDF, OAI-PMH and RSS, to ensure interoperability with third party service providers including Europeana, DOAJ, OA1ster and Philpapersorg. Moreover, PUNDIT system enables semantically structured annotations (http://thepund.it/)

Contacts: agora.coordinator@iliesi.cnr.it  Website: http://www.project-agora.org/
Federation Platforms

The Agora Project is building upon Philosource, an extensive, multilingual collection of reliable scholarly editions of philosophical texts, and also extending semantic digital libraries.

Daphnet (http://www.daphnet.org/)

Daphnet Digital Library (http://www.lexicon.cnr.it/index.php/DDL/index)

Daphnet Digital Library is a platform of secondary sources that offers a selection of critical contributions focusing on the texts contained in the Daphnet portal.

Daphnet platform is structured in: Ancient philosophy, which contains the collection of Presocratic thinkers edited by H. Diels and W. Kranz, Socratis et Socraticorum Reliquiae edited by G. Giannantoni, the Laertius’s Lives of Philosophers, the complete works of Sextus Empiricus; Modern philosophy, including works by A. G. Baumgarten, G. Bruno, R. Descartes, I. Kant, G. W. Leibniz, J. Locke, B. Spinoza, and G. Vico.

Wittgenstein Source contains digital editions of Wittgenstein primary sources, i.e. the Bergen Facsimile Edition (BFE) and the Bergen Text Edition (BTE) of 5000 pages of Wittgenstein’s Nachlass.

Nietzsche Source (http://www.nietzschesource.org/)

Nietzsche Source includes digital editions of Nietzsche’s Complete Works and Posthumous Fragments; facsimile reproductions of the Manuscripts of the Weimar Nietzsche Estate. In addition will be soon available the complete reference edition of Nietzsche’s Letters and an important collection of Rousseau manuscripts reproduced in high resolution facsimile edition.

Online Journals

Two new journals have been launched by the project: Lexicon Philosophicum and Nordic Wittgenstein Review.

Lexicon Philosophicum (http://www.lexicon.cnr.it/)

Nordic Wittgenstein Review (http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/)

A third journal will be launched in 2013: Studia Nietzscheana.

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