Investing in shared research infrastruc-tures will give access to networks, data and knowledge for your researchers, leading to:

- greater efficiency and insight in their work

- enhanced pathways for visibility, reuse and impact for their work

- better alignment with shared standards and policy frameworks, such as Open Science

- increased opportunities for seeking collaborative funding

- better long-term sustainability of research outputs.

For more information, or to get involved:

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PARTHENOS
Pooling Activities, Resources and Tools
for Heritage E-research Networking,
Optimization and Synergies

Why Invest in Humanities Research Infrastructure?

Research infrastructures provide shared access to the resources, expertise and facilities needed to advance knowledge. Not every institution or indeed every country, can justify investing in the specialised knowledge, data, labs and equipment certain disciplines and communities require. By sharing these resources among many partners, a research infrastructure can facilitate access for many researchers.

Do the Humanities Need Research Infrastructure?

Modern definitions recognise that all disciplines have infrastructural needs, for data, for specialist knowledge, for methodological support, for storage and processing power. As such, the arts and humanities need shared research infrastructure as much as any other discipline.

How Do Humanities Research Infrastructures Create Research Opportunities and Shared Value?

Fostering Interoperability
Shared access to federated data resources is a key element of many European research infrastructures. This is a particular challenge in the arts and humanities, where sources are held in national and local cultural heritage institutions, some of which may provide little or no remote access to, or visibility of, their collections. Research infrastructure must not only develop relationships with those many institutions, but also apply knowledge of data and metadata standards (to make different collections searchable, like-for-like) and of differences in intellectual property status, which may make research data usable for certain purposes, but not for others.

Building Sustainability
Many digital humanities projects have had limited value for later scholars. Research infrastructures can advise on and provide direct access to key building blocks for sustainability, such as persistant identifiers guaranteeing the discoverabilty of resources for the long term. They can also guarantee a level of scholarly authority, making it easier to recognise the provenance of a resource. Research infrastructures can also increase the visibility and impact of digital scholarship, as well as aligning research practices with the principles of Open Science, such as

wide sharing of research data and findings, and new approaches to the evaluation of research.

Supporting Methodological Innovation
The rapid pace of technological change, and the nature of the support required to apply digital methods in the humanities can be a barrier in some institutional and national contexts. Shared research infrastructures provide a central access point for researchers looking to adopt or refine new approaches, make their work more interdisciplinary or align it with social challenges

Building Networks and Collaboration
The partners in a research infrastructure also benefit from the shared knowledge, networks and collaborations within the infrastructure communities. Research infrastructure consortia like DARIAH and CLARIN, or clustering projects such as PARTHENOS, bring researchers together not only in the course of their own work, but also to shape the future of these national and European investments.