

IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization

Position paper

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WG(s): WG3: *Experiential and emotional aspects of reading*

1. **Potential research contribution** in light of, or linked to

A. WG interest and Scientific programme:

Given my current interest in literary studies, I opt for WG3, which focuses on *literary* deep reading of printed texts in relation to reading by using digital tools like e-readers, tablets and smart phones. I would like to explore the ways in which emotional and experiential aspects of literary reading are altered and affected by the digital reading devices, and to measure their effects. I would also like to determine the extent to which the genre, complexity, length, layout/structure, stylistic features and literariness of texts are impacted by e-reading. Starting from the proviso that these features are affected by e-reading devices, I am interested in adapting literary reading to these devices in order to ensure a transfer or an equivalent of the mental and social benefits experienced by readers of printed texts onto the new digital devices. My ultimate objective is, therefore, to correlate the work and findings across the WGs. Pursuing this objective, while (the majority of) the Romanian philologists will join WG3, Professor Cristea, an IT specialist, will join WG4 (principal) and WG1 (secondary). The results of each WG will be shared and correlated at network and Action level.

B. Action objectives (pages 7-10 in the MoU):

I am particularly interested in relating the research of WG3 to the ongoing COST Action FP1104, *New possibilities for print media and packaging: Combining print with digital* (2012-2016). According to the objectives already formulated in the E-READ MoU, by focusing on empirical research on individual reading processes in a diversity of settings, E-READ will provide a required supplement to more context-oriented perspectives represented by these Actions. In relation to the IS0906, which is concerned with reading at a broad, macro, social and cultural level, as merely one aspect of the concept of media audiences, and which does not measure empirically the impact of digitization on a more fine-grained level, individual reading, I would like to carry out experiments at this level in order to restore as many aspects of literary deep reading as possible and make them operational for the new digital devices.

I will carry out research within WG3 in the light of the main objective of the Action, which is to develop, on the basis of an integrative model of reading, an aggregate measure of reading on paper and screens. The model and measure will improve scientific understanding of the

implications of digitization and help individuals, disciplines, societies and sectors across Europe to cope optimally with the effects of e-reading.

I will contribute to the attainment of the following objectives outlined in the “Expected deliverables” section:

- A comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and testable model of reading;
- Interdisciplinary paradigms for measuring the impact of digitization on text reading;
- Relevant indicators of reading (different kinds of texts) on paper vs. screens;
- Recommendations for industry (developers and publishers of e-books, textbooks, and educational software);
- Recommendations for the pedagogical field;
- A shared European research/knowledge database for national education policy makers, publishing associations, reading assessment agencies and test developers to strengthen European competitiveness.

2. Interest in

A. organizing and/or participating in a **short-term scientific mission (STSM)**.

Optional: pursuing what research questions/projects; where to/with whom; linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

My colleagues and I are planning to organise a (series of) STSM(s) (as a host partner) for young researcher(s) wanting to contribute to the following objectives:

- to provide evidence-based recommendations to educational practitioners and policy makers;
- to provide recommendations for optimal text/content design for educational publishing;
- to prompt systematic, empirical, interdisciplinary research transcending established boundaries between scientific disciplines involved in reading research;
- to establish long-term theoretically and methodologically innovative research collaboration;
- to provide a solid platform for strong and competitive education policies and pedagogies built on empirically derived knowledge of the effects of technology on reading.

B. organizing and/or participating in a **Training School** (please indicate what kind of training [theoretical; methodological; technical]).

My colleagues and I are planning to organize a (technical/theoretical) **Training School** with the title “Looking forward: Digitally-born books and interactive reading in the age of digitisation” linked to the following objectives of the Action:

- to improve scientific understanding of the implications of digitisation and help individuals, disciplines, societies and sectors across Europe to cope optimally with the effects, and consolidate E-READ as a hallmark European research initiative across scientific, disciplinary and national boundaries;
- to provide evidence-based recommendations to educational practitioners and policy makers;
- to provide recommendations for optimal text/content design to educational publishing.