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:

My expertise as a sociologist entitles me to 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 am interested in exploring the emotional and experiential aspects of literary reading while using digital reading devices, and in measuring and assessing their effects upon social and emotional skills, such as empathy and sympathy. In light of the idea that literary deep reading of printed books contributes to mental and social well-being, I would like to join the experimental research of a group of colleagues interested in measuring the extent to and ways in which handheld digital reading devices affect these outcomes. The essential scope of my research is to correlate the results across the WGs.

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

- correlating the research of WG3 to COST Action FP1104, New possibilities for print media and packaging: Combining print with digital (2012-2016);
- correlating the findings of my research within WG3 with the IS0906 Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies Cost Action (2010-2014). I am interested in transferring the benefits of literary deep reading of printed books onto the new digital devices, envisaging at the same time various ways in which e-reading could become even more profitable than the reading of print.

I will focus on contributing to a scientific understanding of the implications of digitization in order to help societies and sectors across Europe to cope optimally with the effects of e-reading.

I will pursue the following objectives in the "Expected deliverables" section:
- A comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and testable model of reading;

- Interdisciplinary paradigms for measuring the impact of digitization on text reading and its social implications;
- 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:

As a member of the Romanian network, I am 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]).

Optional: linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

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.