

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

## Position paper

Name: Dr Judith Wylie

WG(s): WG2 Developmental aspects of reading

WG4 The ergonomics of reading

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

#### A. WG interest and Scientific programme:

WG2 & WG4

I am interested in how text comprehension and memory are affected by the use of digital media. Having previously looked at how different text structures were optimal for readers with differing levels of topic knowledge, I suggest that it might be valuable to consider whether the structures commonly used in print media (e.g. compare and contrast, question and answer) serve the reader in a similar way in digital media. Using a blend of eye-tracking and online data from devices, as well as post-reading assessments, a project could investigate whether different expository structures support knowledge acquisition for readers with varying levels of knowledge, regardless of the medium of reading.

In a related vein, my knowledge and interest aligns with WG4 and its associated questions concerning how comprehension is affected by 'where one is in a book', and the mental representation of events and characters that is constructed during reading. A comparison of what kind of information is retained - and for how - after reading either print or digital media is also needed.

I foresee that similar materials for reading and testing could be used across activities in the two Working Groups. I would be interested in assisting with the development of these materials and coordinating data collection.

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

My potential research contribution would relate to the development of evidence-based recommendations for practitioners, policy makers and publishers. In particular, I hope to contribute to the underlying research activities of WG2 and WG4 where there is a specific focus on comprehension and memory as related to factors such as text structure and reader knowledge. I would also expect to be able to contribute to scientific publications, to be involved in the development of a model of reading.

## 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:

I am interested in participating in a STSM relating to the comprehension and memory issues mentioned above.

### 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:

While I do not foresee that I would be in position to organize a Training School, I would strongly consider participating in, and contributing to, any (theoretical, methodological or technical) that are related to my specific interests.