

# 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:

I'm currently working on digital social reading. In particular, I'm following the activities promoted via Twitter by the account @TwLetteratura, who is involving a wide community in social reading games. In these activities, people can give voice to their impressions, emotions, observations in very short messages of no more than 140 characters, inspired by their readings, which can be either in print or on a screen-based digital device. Many of the teachers experimenting with this method are reporting that students show great immersion and transportation, compared to traditional ways of reading.

Technology is not only affecting traditional ways of reading, but is also creating new kinds of social reading activities. One aspect of my research is about the different reading experience of teenager and adults during these kind of games, in relation to the use of print or screen-based digital devices.

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

My research can be linked to the following Action objectives:

- to provide evidence-based recommendations to educational practitioners and policy makers; since I'm testing the engagement of teenagers with texts that are often part of national educational programmes;
- to prompt systematic, empirical, interdisciplinary research transcending established boundaries between scientific disciplines involved in reading research;
- to facilitate joint scientific publications and new, radically interdisciplinary, collaborative research projects (esp. across humanities/social sciences and natural sciences); since I'm a literary scholar working with IT experts for the automated retrieval of information while comparing books and large corpora of tweets, and with sociologists for the social network analysis focusing on the relations between reading and social interactions;
- to increase collaboration between scientific research teams and relevant industrial partners, reading promotion initiatives, educational practitioners and agencies; since I'm collaborating with the Italian non-profit association TwLetteratura, which is actively promoting reading activities and managing an online community of thousands of readers.

## 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'd like to organize a STSM to test a social reading activity using the TwLetteratura method with non-Italian communities and classes.

### 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 education is in literature and philosophy, so I'd like to participate in a Training School to better understand the use of empirical methods in the humanities.