

@ KBR ⌘

Experimenting with 'Collections as Data' at KBR: an interdisciplinary collaboration

Sally Chambers and Frédéric Lemmers

What is 'Collections as Data'?

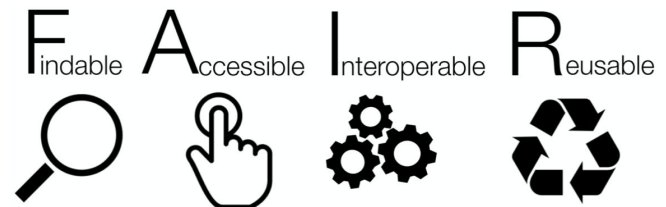


Collections as Data

Providing data-level access to digital collections is a primary challenge for undertaking digital humanities research. In the United States, the flagship initiatives, 'Always Already Computational: Collections as Data²' and 'Collections as Data: Part to Whole²', define '*Collections as Data*' as a "conceptual orientation to collections that renders them as ordered information, stored digitally, so that they are inherently amenable to computation". The initiative was established to document, exchange experience and share knowledge to encourage cultural heritage institutions to implement 'collections as data' in their own institutions. DATA-KBR-BE will kick-start the implementation of 'Collections As Data' in Belgium.



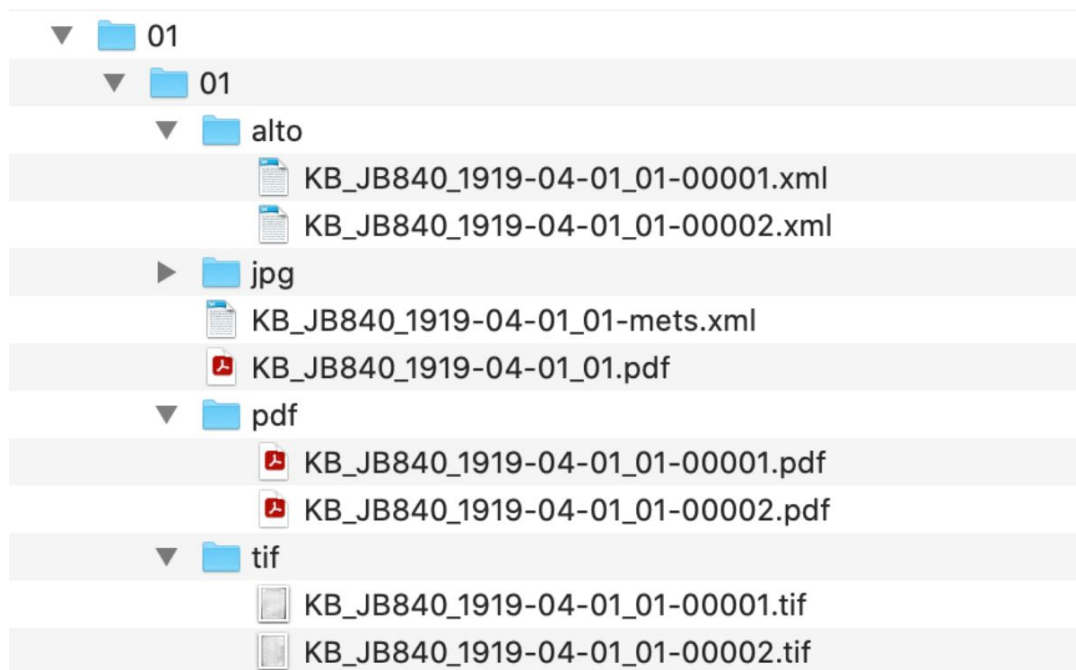
<https://collectionsasdata.github.io>



Data-level access



Providing access to the underlying files of digitised cultural heritage resources to facilitate data analysis by means of tools and methods developed in the field of digital humanities



Introducing the DATA-KBR-BE project

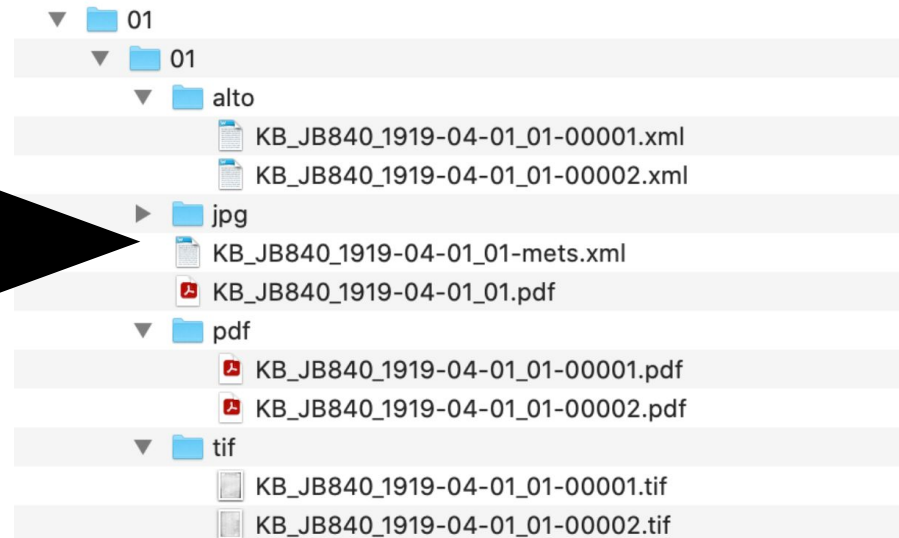
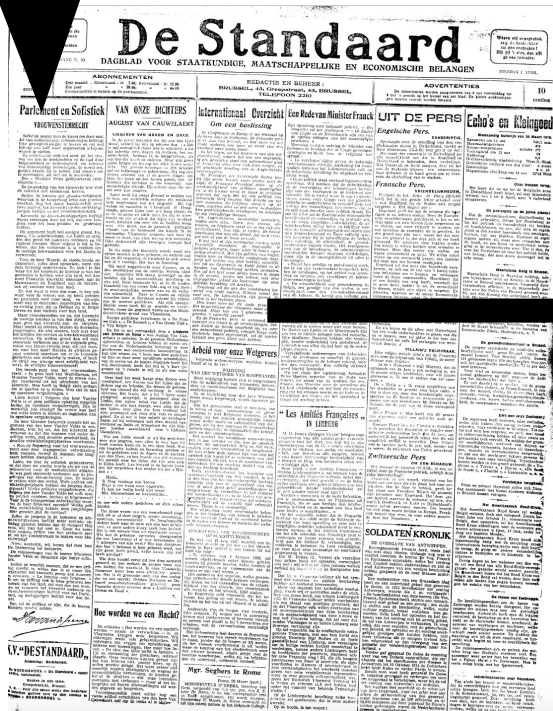
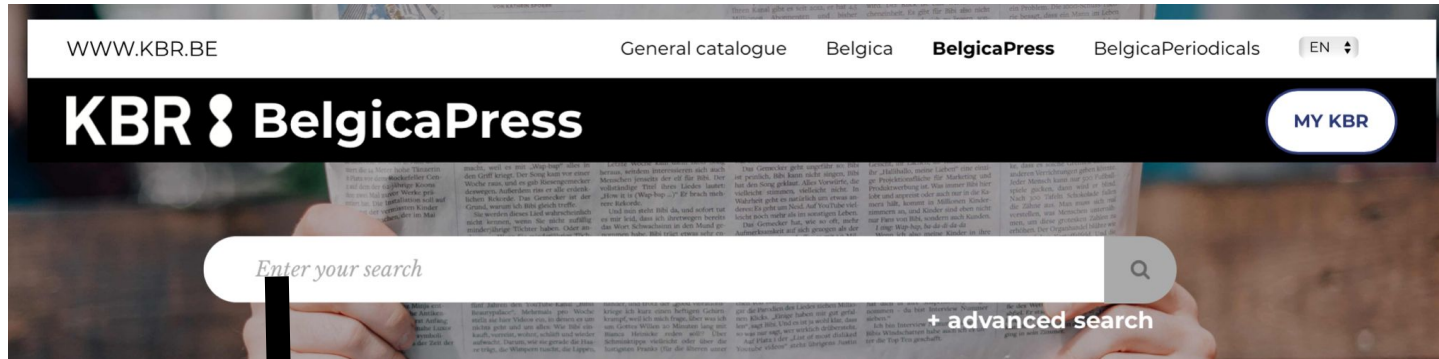


Facilitating data-level access
to KBR's digitised and
born-digital collections for
digital humanities research



<https://www.kbr.be/en/projects/data-kbr-be/>

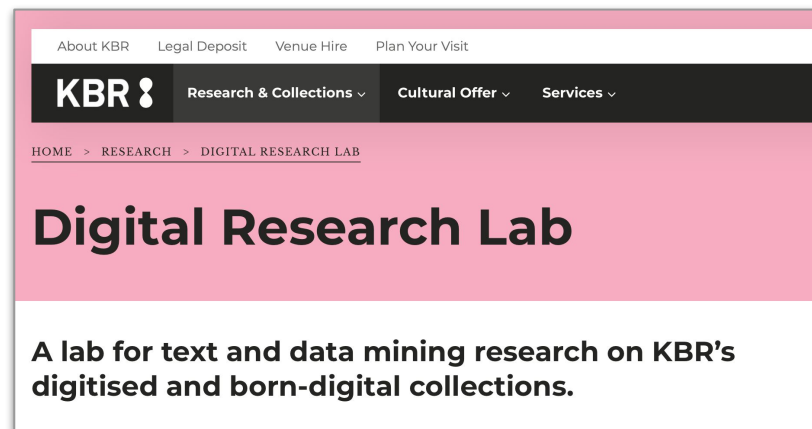
From Collections to Data



Interdisciplinary Research Scenarios



- **Collective Action Belgium** led by [GhentCDH](#), focuses on social history in the Interbellum and World War Two period and aims to trace the dynamics of contention, strikes, demonstrations and other forms of collective action in Belgium as reported in Belgian newspapers;
- **The feuilleton in Belgium**, led by [ACDC](#), focuses on literary studies in the period 1830–1930 and aims to map the publication of literature in Belgian newspapers across the first century of the Belgian nation state;
- **History of Belgian Journalism**, led by [ULB](#) and KBR, focuses on media history from 1886 until now and aims to trace the history of Belgian journalism through the lens of critical discourses about journalism as in Belgian newspapers.



<https://www.kbr.be/en/projects/digital-research-lab/>

1) Collective Action Belgium



Discipline: Social history
Period: interbellum & WWI
Topics: tracing the dynamics of contention, strikes, demonstrations and other forms of collective action in Belgium



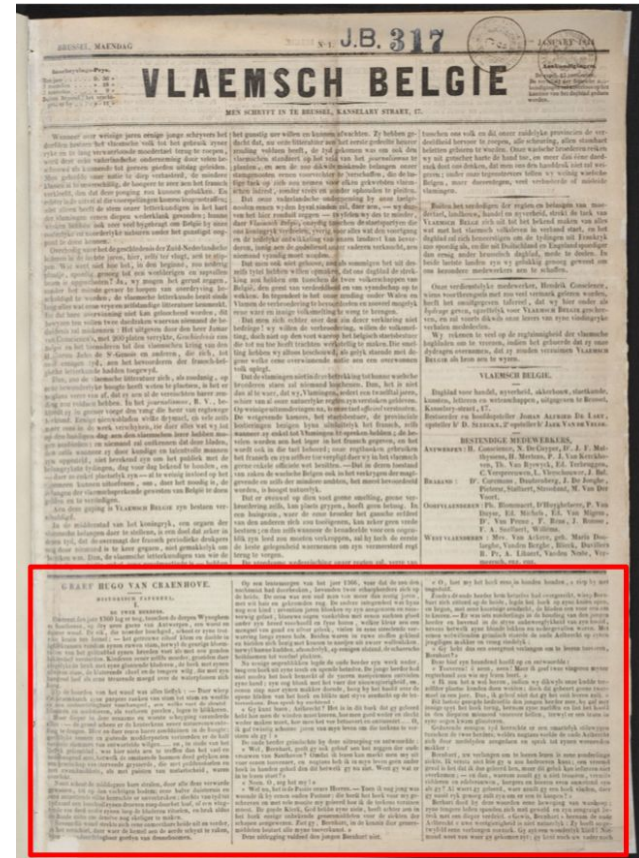
2) Feuilleton in Belgium



Discipline: Literature

Period: 1830 - 1930

Topics: mapping the publication of literature in Belgian newspapers across the first century of the Belgian nation state



3) History of Journalism in Belgium



Discipline: Media History

Period: 1830-1970

Topics: 1) a database of Belgian journalists
2) the history of Belgian journalism through the lens of critical discourses in Belgian newspapers

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ID	Text	Nom (entier original)	nom	prénom	renvoi	Sources	Sexe
5	Abbeloos Th : (mo) Collabore à l'organe de la Centrale du personnel enseignant (socialiste), L'Étincelle (cité en 1919).	Abbeloos Th	Abbeloos	Th	NA	mo	?
8	Abelssart H. : Rédacteur à La Meuse après 1940-1945 (CHC 98).	Abelssart H.	Abelssart	H.	NA	CHC 98	H
9	Abrassart Adolphe: critique de théâtre et musical à La Métropole vers 1937- 1938.	Abrassart Adolphe	Abrassart	Adolphe	NA	NA	H
11	Abs Fernand: dit Abel Fernand. J.D.D.Le Soir, 14 avril 1998. (Bruxelles, 1911- . 1998). Comédien. Avant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, est élève de Jules Delacre, animateur du Théâtre du Marais. Également comédien de radio puisqu'il prend part aux premières émissions dramatiques de l'NR à laquelle il reste attaché "jusqu'au milieu des années 1970" en tant que comédien, metteur en ondes puis chef du service dramatique. Eve du théâtre en 1960, acteur fétiche du Théâtre de Poche (il crée en Belgique "Le Roi se meurt" d'Eugène Ionesco), il se produit aussi au Théâtre national, au Rideau de Bruxelles et aux Galeries. (NDB).	Abs Fernand	Abs	Fernand	NA	J.D.D.Le Soir,	H
14	Ackermans Jan : Collaborateur de De Goede Boodschap (1902-1913), collaborateur à De Aankondiger van Lier (1906-1913) et à Kempisch Handelsblad (1907-1912), collaborateur à Gazet van Berlaar (1906-1913).	Ackermans Jan	Ackermans	Jan	NA	NA	H

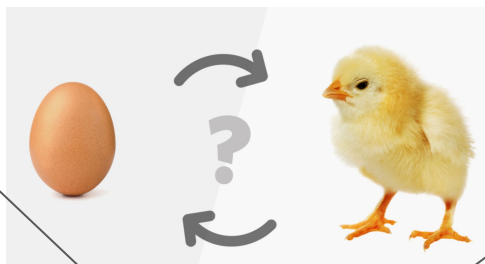


Towards a 'Collections as Data' workflow



Research
Scenarios

Digital
collection



Copyright?

Identification

Formats?

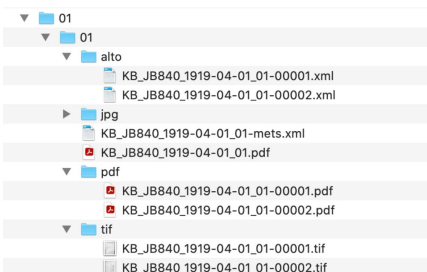
Access &
retrieve



Search in KBR's digitised newspapers

The portal BelgicaPress gives you access to 109 Belgian newspapers referred to as "major newspapers", most of which appeared daily (1814-1970).

KBR Digitised Newspapers	Language	First	Last	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Vlaamse Post (De)	NL	1915	1918		Literature (1830 - 1930)
Ons Vaderland	NL	1917	1922		Literature (1830 - 1930)
Libre Belgique (La)	FR	1918	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Nation Belge (La)	FR	1918	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Peuple Wallon (Le)	FR	1918	1918	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Standaard (De)	NL	1918	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Vers L'Avenir	FR	1918	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Schelde (De)	NL	1919	1936	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Droepau Rouge (Le) / Voix du peuple (La)	FR	1921	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Rotsjde Vaan (De)	NL	1921	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Volksgazet (De)	NL	1921	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Wallonia (La)	FR	1921	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Vlaanderen	NL	1922	1932	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Gentenaar (De)	NL	1923	1950	History (1918-1950)	Literature (1830 - 1930)
Grenz Echo	DE	1932	1945	History (1918-1950)	
Nieuwsblad (Het)	NL	1932	1950	History (1918-1950)	
Vlaanderen-jong-Dietschland	NL	1934	1934	History (1918-1950)	
Pays réel (Le)	FR	1936	1944	History (1918-1950)	
Voik en Staat	NL	1937	1944	History (1918-1950)	
Cité Nouvelle (La)	FR	1938	1947	History (1918-1950)	



Candela, G., Sáez, M. D., Escobar Esteban, Mp., & Marco-Such, M. (2020). *Reusing digital collections from GLAM institutions*. Journal of Information Science: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0165551520950246> & <http://rua.ua.es/dspace/handle/10045/109460>

1) Collective Action Belgium



Discipline: Social history
Period: interbellum & WWI
Topics: tracing the dynamics of contention, strikes, demonstrations and other forms of collective action in Belgium



General Strikes in Belgium



Year	Date	Title	Cause	Number of strikers	Description
1893	12–18 April	Belgian general strike of 1893	Franchise reform	200,000	Successfully led to the establishment of universal male suffrage with plural votes . ^[3] Thirteen strikers were killed and socialist leaders were briefly arrested. ^[5]
1902	10–20 April	Belgian general strike of 1902	Franchise reform and an end to plural vote	350,000	Failed to achieve the abolition of the plural vote as Catholics and Liberals united to oppose constitutional reform. The Belgian Workers' Party had been reluctant to support the strike and it soon descended into violence in Brussels and parts of Wallonia. 12 workers and one policeman were killed. Union membership dropped sharply in its aftermath. ^[5]
1913	14–24 April	Belgian general strike of 1913	Franchise reform	400,000	Carefully planned to avoid the same problems as 1902, the strike gained the promise of electoral reform but its proposals were postponed by the outbreak of World War I and the subsequent German occupation . The policy was finally adopted in 1919. ^{[3][6]}
1932	7 July–9 September	Belgian general strike of 1932	Pay, working hours and unemployment insurance		Began after a spontaneous strike by coal miners in the Borinage and involved Communist agitation following a severe decrease in living standards and real wages during the Great Depression . Two people were killed during the strike. ^[7]
1936	2 June-2 July	Belgian general strike of 1936	Working hours, paid holiday, union reforms	500,000	Broke out at the port of Antwerp and led to the creation of a National Labour Conference. ^[7] Although influenced by the French Popular Front and held against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War , it was also supported by Catholic trade unions. ^[8]
1950	24 July-3 August	Belgian general strike of 1950	"Royal Question"	700,000	Chiefly active in Wallonia , the strike contributed to the abdication of King Leopold III on 1 August 1950. At least four strikers were killed.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_strikes_in_Belgium



Which newspapers are digitised?



	Title	Journal No.	Digitally availability	1886	1893	1902	1913	1932	1936	1950	Extraction
1	Vooruit: socialistisch dagblad	JB 809	1884-1889; 1901-1902; 1911-1950	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1913, 1950
2	Het Volk : antisocialistisch dagblad	JB 785	1911-1916; 18 apr. 1918-31 maart 1927; 1931-1950.	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1913, 1950
3	Vaderland	JB 310	16 maart 1910-30 dec. 1913.	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	1913, 1950
4	Le Peuple : organe quotidien de la démocratie socialiste	JB837	1885-1907; 1911-1914; 1918-1940; 1944-1950.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1913, 1950
5	Le Vingtième Siècle	JB729	6 juin 1895-13 mai 1940	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1913, 1950
6	La Meuse : journal de Liège et de la Province	JB638	1856; 1858-1882; 1884-5 août 1914; 28 nov. 1918-11 mai 1940; 9 sept. 1944-1950.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1913, 1950

Importance of historical context



Titel Vooruit : socialistisch dagblad

Bibliografisch adres Gent, 1884-1992

Materiële beschrijvi... f°

Periodiciteit Dagblad

Belgicapress

Bezit

“The newspaper was founded in Ghent in 1884 with the support of the socialist cooperative Vooruit. When the Parti ouvrier belge - Belgische Werkliedenpartij (“Belgian Workers Party”, POB-BWP, 1885) was founded, it was recognised as its official organ for the Flemish part of the country. The Ghent socialist leader Edward Anseele was editor-in-chief, but he also worked as a typographer. *Vooruit* was published under German censorship during the two world wars. Having reached its peak in the 1950s, it began a slow decline. It was succeeded by the daily *De Morgen* in 1978.”

<https://opac.kbr.be/LIBRARY/doc/SYRACUSE/15981364>

KBR's 'Data Send Service'



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Pick-up

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clicking "Request a Drop

DATA-KBR is a service to

How secure is DATA-KBR?

Home

English (UK)

DATA-KBR

Drop-Off Summary

Click on a filename to download that file.
This drop-off will expire in 28 days.

Filename	Size
JB837-1950-09.zip	2.7 GB
JB837-1950-02.zip	2.2 GB
JB837-1950-06.zip	2.7 GB
JB837-1950-08.zip	2.6 GB
JB837-1950-01.zip	2.2 GB

1950

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KB_JB837_1950-01-03_01-00003.xml

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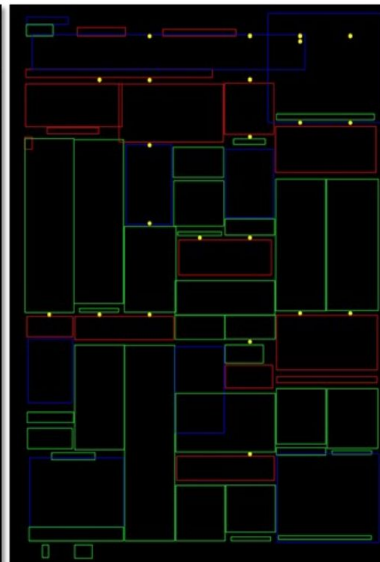
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Data Science



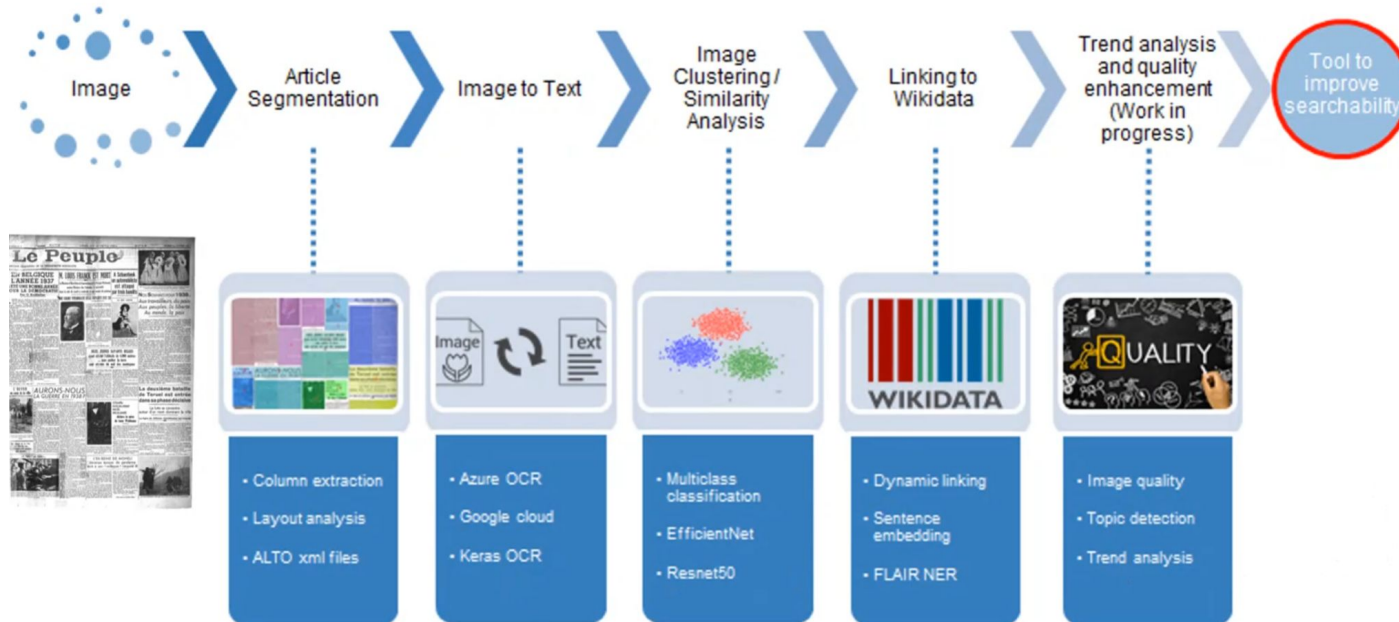
Document Layout Analysis using Belgica Press



Document layout analysis using
BelgicaPress



Data Science



Dilawar Ali, Kenzo Milleville, Alec Van de Broeck & Steven Verstockt, IDLab, UGent

Corpus Building with Artificial Intelligence



Feuilleton in Belgium

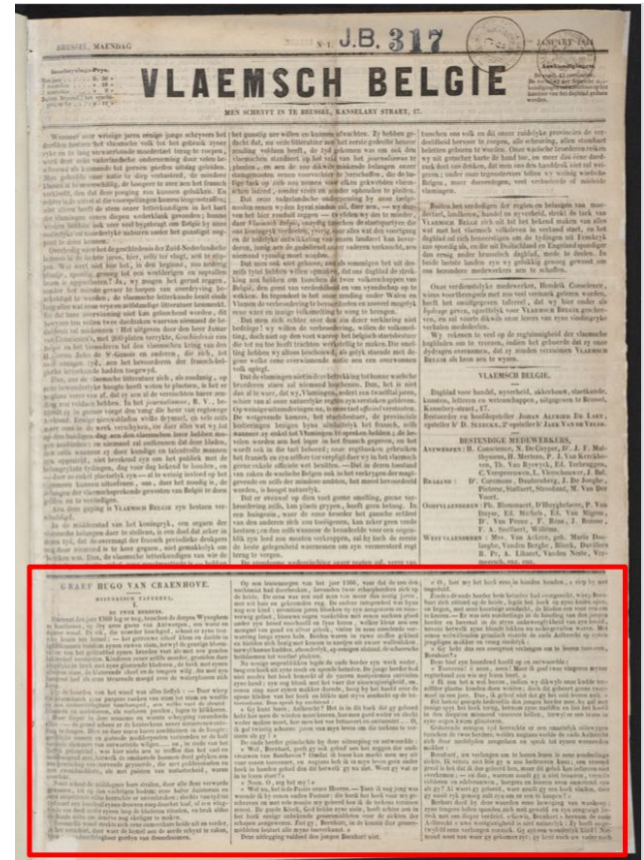


Discipline: Literature

Period: 1830 - 1930

Topics: mapping the publication of literature in Belgian newspapers across the first century of the Belgian nation state

Wout Dillen, University of Antwerp/Borås



Feuilleton in Belgium



Feuilletons: a combination of distinct visual and textual features

- Regularly appeared in the bottom third of the page
- Often extended the full breadth of the page and appeared on the front or the second page
- Distinctive titles, ended with words such as 'to be continued' (Wordt voortgezet), Number of the serial part was often mentioned (e.g. 5e vervolg)

Next Steps: To train a model to identify and extract the Feuilletons into a corpus.



Data Science



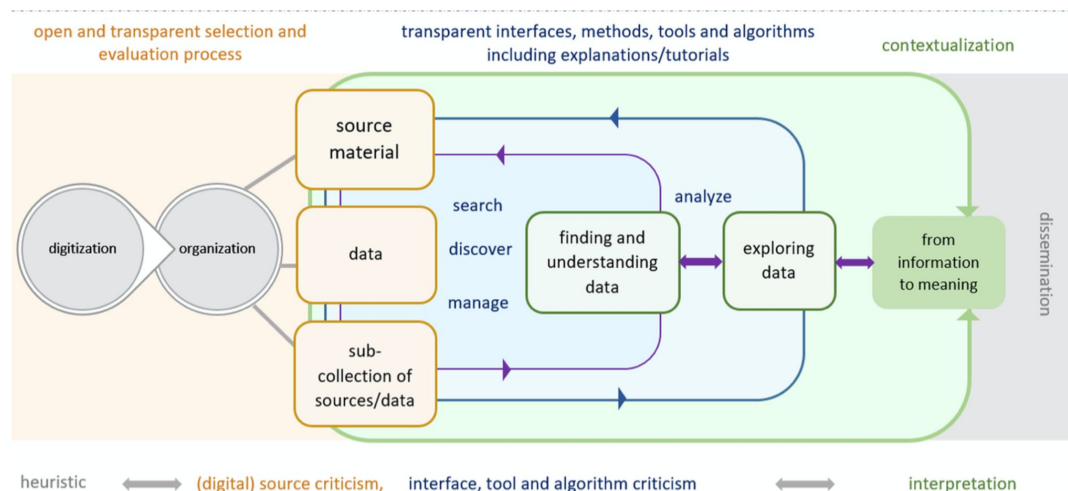
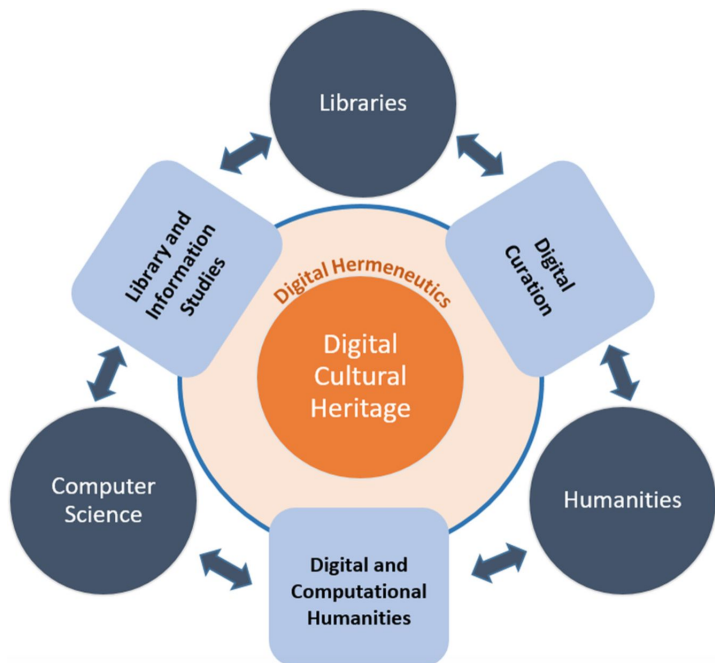
NewspAlper Home Pages



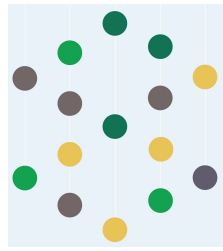
<https://tw06v072.ugent.be/kbr/>

Dilawar Ali, Kenzo Milleville, Alec Van de Broeck & Steven Verstockt, IDLab, UGent

Interdisciplinary workflows



Oberbichler, S. et al. (2021) *Integrated interdisciplinary workflows for research on historical newspapers: Perspectives from humanities scholars, computer scientists, and librarians*. JASIST, August 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24565>



Thank you!

DATA-KBR-BE

<https://www.kbr.be/en/projects/data-kbr-be>

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