



British Academy-Social Science Research Council Forum

The Challenges of Digital Culture

There has been intensive debate in many countries, including the UK and USA, in recent years about 'Open Access' publishing and its implications for research. The debate could benefit from being seen within a broader set of ideas and challenges, which SSRC has been analysing within the broad concept of digital culture.

Transformations associated with digitisation and digital media have immense implications for how knowledge is produced, circulated, and experienced. As the digital world opens possibilities for radically new ways of learning, researching, teaching, and communicating while also generating attendant anxieties, it is timely to gather colleagues from related but diverse institutional areas - including universities, learned societies, libraries, and publishers - to consider some of the key challenges arising in digital culture.

In addition to questions concerning "Open Access" publishing, these matters include such challenging issues as the rules and character of curation and editorial judgment; the ways new possibilities and pitfalls exist regarding such analytic tools as spatial and textual interrogation, visual studies, network analysis, and large-scale data; and the types of research that might transcend polemic to advance understanding of digital transformations and institutional decisions about how best to proceed under conditions of great change.

This forum - an inaugural joint event between the British Academy and the SSRC - will aim to identify major issues and possible avenues to be pursued.

This forum will take place at the British Academy on 22 July 2014, from 11.00 to 1.00. Coffee will be available from 10.30 and lunch served afterwards.

Discussion will be chaired by Professor Nigel Vincent, Vice-President (Research & HE Policy), British Academy. It will feature introductory presentations from Professor Ira Katznelson, President (SSRC) and Professor Chris Wickham, Vice-President (Publications), British Academy, before being opened to general discussion.

The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences. Its mission is to inspire, recognise and support high achievement in the humanities and social sciences throughout the UK and internationally, and to champion their role and value.

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) of New York is an independent, non-profit international organisation, which nurtures new generations of social scientists, fosters innovative research, and mobilizes necessary knowledge on important public issues.