

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

REC Reference Number; **REP/13/14-87** Date: **2 June 2014**



Digital Scholarly Editions on the Move: Portable devices as a platform for dissemination

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

This user study will assess the potential use of tablet computers as an interface for digital scholarly editions in the humanities. A scholarly edition is a publication that provides a reliable version of a text that is useful for scholarly purposes and will typically also provide a textual essay and critical apparatus. This definition applies equally to a digital scholarly edition with the primary difference resting in the medium of its dissemination.

At present, scholars tend to use a combination of print format scholarly editions as well as digital editions designed for use on a desktop computer. The aim will be to identify users' needs, purposes and the types of interactions they have with editions in print and digital formats. The results of the study will then be applied to creating a tablet user interface that includes suitable functionalities for the purposes of the user.

We are inviting scholars, young researchers, teachers and students in third and second level education to participate in this study. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. We will then email you a link to the survey which is to be completed online. The survey questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

The content written by you in the survey is regarded as strictly confidential and will be held securely. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you change your mind, you are free to stop your participation and to have your data withdrawn without giving any

reason up to 1 week after completion of the survey. There will be no possibility of individuals being linked with the data at any stage.

The UK Data Protection Act 1998 will apply to all information gathered in the surveys and we will ensure that the data is held in a secure digital repository which may only be accessed by the project team.

We plan to disseminate the research findings through publication and conferences and as part of my PhD thesis on the 'Dissemination of Digital Editions' which I am carrying out at the University of Antwerp.

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact me using the following contact details:

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If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

The Chair, Arts & Humanities Research Ethics Panel rec@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.