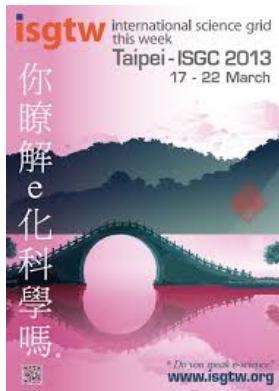


## Grids and Clouds symposium in Taipei (ISGC 2013)



The International Symposium on Grids and Clouds (ISGC) 2013 is held at Academia Sinica in Taipei in March 2013, with co-located events and workshops. The conference is hosted by the Academia Sinica Grid Computing Centre (ASGC). ISGC 2013 brought together from the Asia-Pacific region and around the world, researchers that are developing applications to produce these large-scale data sets and the data analytics tools to extract the knowledge from the generated data, and the e-infrastructure providers that integrate the distributed computing, storage and network resources to support these multidisciplinary research collaborations.

In particular there was a session devoted to Humanities and Social Sciences applications, where, among the others, a presentation about project DCH-RP was illustrated by **Roberto Barbera**, highlighting the importance of developing best practices and a roadmap for the sustainable long term and short term preservation of digital cultural heritage.

Read the whole chronicle of the speech, titled Big Data Challenges in the Humanities and Social Sciences, in the [GridCast blog](#).

**GridCast**  
BLOGGING BEHIND THE SCENES OF GRID COMPUTING

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

**Capturing that long tail of data for e-researchers...**

Many humanities and social science researchers (SSH) who are busy digitizing their work are also trying to work out a strategy to manage their growing data. On Tuesday afternoon, there was a session at ISGC2013 to discuss some of the challenges and common problems between communities, as well as a chance to swap potential solutions. One typical for researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences, was the suggestion Prof. Peter Doersch who is the Director of Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) in the Netherlands. Around 100s of data in the social sciences and the humanities is larger than a gigabyte. It is clear that storing big data is more than a problem for most of these projects, the more pertinent question is how can researchers efficiently archive and process the data in order to enhance collaborative work for the long tail.

Peter also raised some other challenges for the large SSH community:

- How do we provide secure and easy-to-access to data (privacy and commercial interests)?
- As big data sources are not intended for research, how do we match traditional research collections to this new big data?
- Addressing the methodological how to match theory-driven questions to data-driven possibilities?
- Finally, there are size and computational challenges scholars in the humanities and social sciences are working in cooperation with e-scholars for the long term archiving of big data

Another important point was raised during the discussion about descriptive metadata for the humanities being more diverse than for High Energy Physics or the 'big data' sciences.

After my short presentation on how our project i-ScienceTalk is assessing the impact of our communications for e-infrastructures, Prof. Roberto Barbera described some of the work being carried out by Digital Cultural Heritage Roadmap for Preservation project (known by the acronym DCH-RP). This 2-year European funded project started in October 2012 and is examining policies and testing models, examining governance, sustainability and community engagement strategies for the cultural sector, with the intention of expanding to help cultural e-researchers outside of Europe in two years time.

