Workshop on Computer Processing of Historical Data

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide an overview of the wide realm of possibilities computer technology and the Internet offer for studying history and keeping up-to-date with the latest scientific developments. Students will gain experience of the most productive strategies for identifying key sites and information for studying history. At the same time, it focuses on a critical approach to resources by highlighting the time and place in which they were developed and the main methodological issues they entail.

At the end of the course, students will be able to navigate the sea of information provided by the internet, and fine-tune filters and research approaches for studying various historical issues. They will also be able to assess the effectiveness of each site or tool in terms of their degree of scientificity, as well as how effectively they assess the implicit potential of a hypertext presentation of data and results.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Developments over the last few decades. From the computer to the web.

– The main discussions and miscellaneous topics associated with digital data management and the publishing of historical sources on the Web.

– Heuristics and computer technology: initial impact and creation of non-standardised - albeit personalised - procedures for identifying resources.

– Looking at the main tools in use: search engines; library catalogues, OPAC and METAOPAC; libraries, archives and digitalised collections; bibliographies, journals, miscellaneous, monographs and online databases.

– Study of selected examples set in context: monographic sites and official sites; ecdotics, computer technology and ICT, that is how the publication of narrative documentary sources has been transformed; charting and computerized organization of historical data; databases, micro - and macro - history.

– Narrative texts and archive documents will be supplemented with new assets as part of an increasingly interdisciplinary approach to history and its sources (drawings, etchings, prints, paintings, ex-votos, photographs, videos, music and other types of artistic or architectural products).

– How to locate, refer to and review our website.

– Didactics and *internet*.

***READING LIST***

Suggestions for essential readings will be given during the lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

During workshop hours moments of theoretical reflection will be alternated with practical classes concerning IT and telematics research and/or elaboration, which will be quantitatively predominant. Students will be actively involved in both types of activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

To ascertain the learning outcomes and, at the same time, to give students the opportunity to undertake a profitable journey towards their training, both general and specific, they are asked to choose, via targeted research, one or more computerised resources inherent to a specific topic and to propose a presentation in the classroom that is not exclusively didactic, but above all critical. Paying attention to the procedure followed to select the object to 'review' and the ideas that emerged from the oral presentation, as well as the interaction between students during each report, it will be assessed whether the objectives set by the laboratory have been achieved and how the methodologies and problems discussed with detailed examples during the course have been understood.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course has no prerequisites. It is assumed that students will have varying levels of familiarity with the ICT resources in question: indeed, a further objective of the workshop is to ensure that all students develop knowledge and increasing awareness of how to use the sirtes and/or the tools used on the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.