

Virtual Knowledge

Experimenting in the Humanities
and the Social Sciences

Edited by Paul Wouters, Anne Beaulieu,
Andrea Scharnhorst and Sally Wyatt

Today we are witnessing dramatic changes in the way scientific and scholarly knowledge is created, codified, and communicated. This transformation is connected to the use of digital technologies and the virtualization of knowledge. In this book, scholars from a range of disciplines consider just what, if anything, is new when knowledge is produced in new ways. Does knowledge itself change when the tools of knowledge acquisition, representation, and distribution become digital?

Issues of knowledge creation and dissemination go beyond the development and use of new computational tools. The book, which draws on work from the Virtual Knowledge Studio, brings together research on scientific practice, infrastructure, and technology. Focusing on issues of digital scholarship in the humanities and social sciences, the contributors discuss who can be considered legitimate knowledge creators, the value of “invisible” labor, the role of data visualization in policy making, the visualization of uncertainty, the conceptualization of openness in scholarly communication, data floods in the social sciences, and how expectations about future research shape research practices. The contributors combine an appreciation of the transformative power of the virtual with a commitment to the empirical study of practice and use.

Paul Wouters is Professor of Scientometrics and Director of the Centre for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University. **Anne Beaulieu** is Project Manager of the Groningen Energy and Sustainability Programme. **Andrea Scharnhorst** is head of e-Research at Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. **Sally Wyatt** is Program Leader of the e-Humanities Group at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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An examination
of emerging forms
of knowledge
creation using
Web-based
technologies,
analyzed from an
interdisciplinary
perspective.

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