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Funding decision

Name	Organisation	Project title	Decision No.	Decision date	Funding period	Funding
Karasti, Helena	OY	The Challenge of the Long-Term Perspective for Data-Intensive Collaboration in e-Research	125467	21.04.2008	01.08.2008 - 31.07.2009	81 140

Project description
This research addresses the internationally and nationally topical field of e-Research. Recent innovations in the technological support for scientific collaboration seem to offer the potential for revolutionary changes in the way research is undertaken. Data-intensive scientific collaboration is one of the heartlands of e-Research as data in digital form open new, appealing possibilities for collaborative research endeavors. The technologically oriented field of e-Research is now sufficiently established and has reached the point in its trajectory where a reassessment of aims, and accountability for the vast sums spent in its pursuit, is in order. For instance, there exists a tension in e-Research between the drive to create new ways of carrying out research and the experiences of those who attempt to render the vision achievable in their actual contexts of scientific collaboration. Long-term perspective is an integral aspect of the actual e-Research endeavor studied in the proposed project. The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program was founded to carry out long-term research on protracted ecological processes and phenomena. The pioneering US network with almost three decades of experience has evolved a culture that integrates long-term thinking and problem solving not only into research conduct but also into questions of data, information management and infrastructure. The nascent Finnish Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research (FinLTSER) network faces the long-term challenge as it begins operation in the e-Research era. The problematics of long-term are exceptionally pronounced in LT(S)ER and data-intensive e-Research, but also increasingly pervasive and pressing in other fields preserving digital content and developing large-scale integrated information systems. This proposal seeks to promote the emerging field in Finland through participation in forming the FinLTSER network's permanent infrastructure, and to facilitate Finland in achieving a position among international leaders of e-Research and e-Infrastructure in the field. The research is likely to have influence beyond the typical technology development contexts by creating improved opportunities for Finnish scientists to collaborate in the study of large-scale environmental issues of global urgency. The research aims to provide a detailed, longitudinal, ethnographic study of the concrete practices of the FinLTSER network, and a comparison between the US and Finnish networks. The most significant scientific contributions are expected through developing empirically grounded theoretical insights and understandings of the challenges involved in data-intensive e-Research and e-Infrastructure with a particular focus on the long-term perspective and problematics. Prominent contributions are expected for the fields of e-Research, e-Infrastructure, Digital Preservation and Curation, Information Management, Computer Supported Cooperative Work, EcoInformatics and Information Systems at large.