

## **ELF STELLINGEN**

### **Vijf betrekking op proefschrift**

Source-oriented harmonization methods are the preferred approach according to the principals of historical research, this is even more so when dealing with transformations and analysis of aggregate census data over time and space.

Harmonization of historical data requires a structured, flexible and iterative approach. Such an approach is necessary to accompany the 'learning process' which is of great importance during the harmonization itself. The process of harmonizing the data should therefore not be a definitive commitment but an iterative learning process.

Accountability and a transparent harmonization approach is important when dealing with historical data. An approach where all the decisions are accounted for and the data and methods are easily reusable, will contribute to stimulate the use of historical datasets in a responsible way.

When harmonizing historical data it is important to separate the harmonized data from the original source data, this will allow further or other interpretations by researchers.

Linked Data technologies create unique opportunities for researchers to share and link their data in open ways and aim to prevent researchers in doing the same tasks over and over again. However, until now, a lack of classification systems and variables available on the Semantic Web for historical research prevents many researchers in engaging with Linked Data.

## **Vijf geen BETREKKING OP INHOUD proefschrift**

Open publication of any type of academic output should be the standard, but not institutionally enforced for early stage researchers.

Digital skilled researchers in humanities and social sciences are needed to bridge the communication gap in interdisciplinary research projects, conversely, technical skilled researchers such as computer scientists need to be more familiar with these domains.

The Digital Humanities approach allows us to process and analyze data on a much larger scale, and therefore accelerates the life cycle of historical information.

Current methods and rules for collection building and archiving need to be reorganized for collecting and archiving rapidly expanding 'digital born data' such as social media, which may be the greatest resource for research in the nearby future.

Formal descriptions of data can only be provided by advanced users of the data or those involved in the data creation itself. Expert knowledge about the source data is therefore essential in understanding the problems to be addressed.

## **En de elfde stelling (niet wetenschappelijk verdedigbaar)**

There are no ugly datasets, it's what is on the inside that matters.