Citizen Science in Public Libraries: an Experience in Linguistics

Nava Maroto
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Grupo NeoUSAL
mariadelanava.maroto@upm.es

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Take-away messages

Public libraries as hubs for Citizen Science

Citizen Science approach suits the Humanities

Created by Turkkub from Noun Project
Mutual benefits

Benefits to libraries
- Access materials, instruments, and resources
- Raise awareness of innovation
- Build relationships with scientists and researchers
- Engage/empower patrons

Benefits to researchers
- Distribute materials and instruments
- Promote local or global projects
- Leverage librarians’ expertise
- Reach new audiences

Based upon Cavalier et al. (2019)
Roles of libraries in CS (non-exhaustive list)

- Attracting and training participants
- Offering infrastructures
- Helping with promotion, dissemination and popularisation
- Piloting protocols
- Contributing to making data FAIR
- Designing toolkits for CS

... and more in Ignat et al. (2018)
Engagement of libraries in CS

Facilitators?  Promoters?

Created by Adrien Coquet from Noun Project
Some good examples
Take-away messages

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Citizen science and Linguistics

- **Crowdsourcing:**
  - Transcription of texts
  - NLP
  - Corpus compilation

- Successful examples in **lexicography**:
  - Oxford English Dictionary (19th century)
  - Čibej et al., 2015 for Slovene
NeoUSAL neology observatory

- Castilla y León
- 10 local newspapers
- Twice a month
- Since 2009

Lexicographical filter

Creation of a neological repository
Let’s taste what the participants in our experiment felt

http://menti.com ➔ enter code
Is "millennial" a new word?

You might be
Should "millennial" be in a dictionary of new words?
Face-to-face survey

- In a public library
- March 2019
- 50 participants
- Use of Mentimeter

✓ Neologism identification
✓ Neologism characterization
✓ Dictionariability of neologisms
Experiment assessment

- Resort to non-expert citizens
- Library as venue
- Future collaboration
- Contact and feedback
Next steps?
App development
Pescapalabras: a platform to...

- **Contact participants** for future experiments
- **Organize events at public libraries**
  - Participant recruitment
  - Participant training
  - Protocol testing
- **Download the app**
- **Acknowledge participants**
- **Protocol gamification**
Take-away messages

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Thank you!