

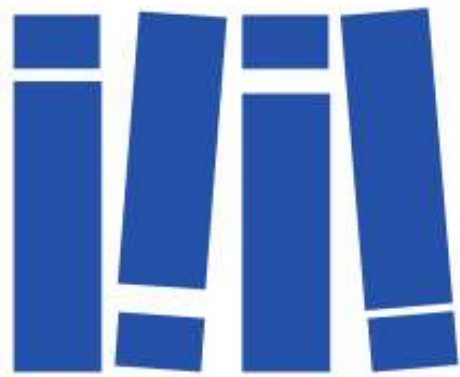
Exploring the digital heritage of reading: the READ-IT project

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IFLA-RBMS Libraries in the Sky Conference, Oslo, 2018

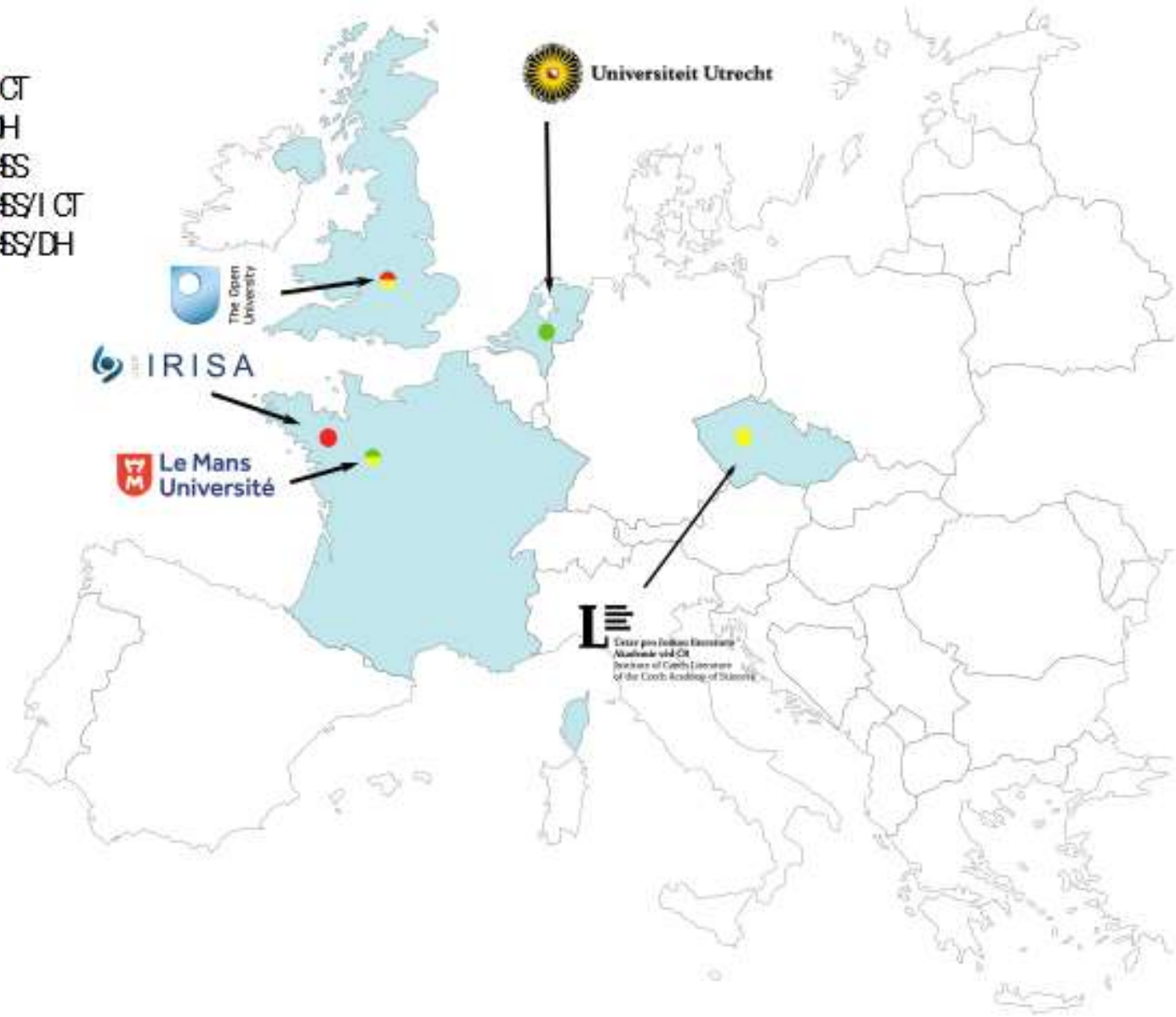




Reading Europe

Advanced Data Investigation Tool

- ICT
- DH
- HSS
- HSS/ICT
- HSS/DH



 Universiteit Utrecht

 The Open University

 IRISA

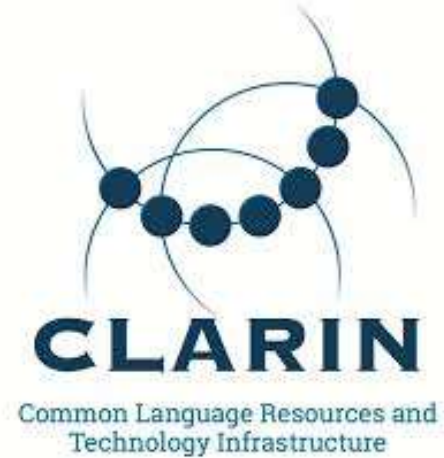
 Le Mans Université

 Center for Data Science
 Akademie věd ČR
 Institute of Computer Science
 of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Funding agencies



Supported by



Research questions about reading

Knowledge has significantly increased about the
« what », the « when » and the « where »

Two resisting questions still remain:

Why?

How?

What kind of transaction does there exist between a reader and a text?

What role does the environment play in this transaction?

Is it possible to list and model the emotions caused by reading?

Have these emotions changed throughout time and space in Europe?

Is it possible to sketch out the portrait of the « European reader »?

Considering the
act of reading as
an individual
experience

A problem:

Reading is a mental
activity that leaves
no direct trace!

Reading experience

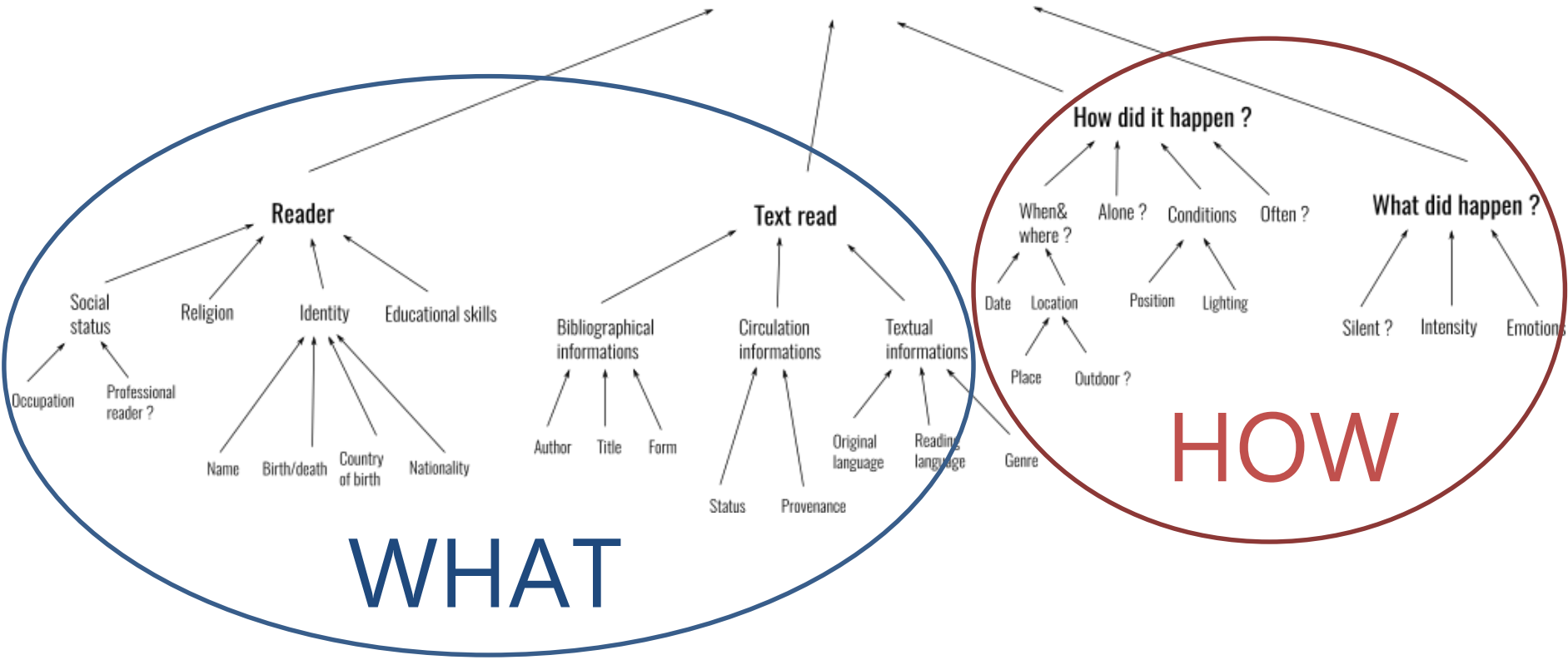
Reading situation

- Experience (report) // Situation (representation)
- Readers and texts (what) // circumstances (how)



Reading experience/situation = testimony (trace) that provides at least one piece of information regarding the what **and** one piece of information regarding the how

Reading experience/situation



2 directions

- Identifying and describing reading experiences/situations.
- Connecting reading experiences/situations with their context.

Sources

- Textual sources
- Images: paintings, photographs, drawings, engravings ...
- Audio: recordings (transcribed)
- Digital-born content: blogs, social networks

Sources

- Public domain or CC-like
- Already digitized
- FAIR principles compliant
- Languages: English, French, German, Dutch, Italian, Czech
- 18th – 21st century

richness to the story that excited one and made one feel, ooh, there are more things to explore, and I think one found that throughout the whole of that sequence, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, to discover that John Mandeville had written that this was the, the, later, to discover that these were stories that people in the Middle Ages, he was playing around with stories that already existed. I, I, for me that's, that's always been an interest and an, an important part of what makes a book really good.

And you said you were reading that in Italy, was it?

Yes.

On holiday with family.

With family, yes.

Em, and you read it a chapter at a time. And do you remember anything about the actual book, the cover, the smell, anything?

No, I don't remember. It would have been, it would have been the absolute, ah, you, it would have been the hardback edition with [Pauline Baines 00.10.27] because, as far as I know, this would have been '57, '58, I don't know, I can't remember when it was published, but it must have been very soon after, so I mean, I'd have to look up and find out, but as far as I know, this, it would be very close to its original publication date and paperbacks didn't really exist, so, not as such, so, well, a little bit, but it would be, it would have been the hardback edition.

And do you remember how it made you feel, reading it? Excited or ... ?

Yes, you were opening a door, just to go into another world, which I always have loved. I, I mean that's, I wasn't terribly keen on the present day [laughter] generally, but it's this, just completely going into another world and living ...|

What

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Yeah, opening that door and



Source : Mary Cassatt, Nurse reading to a little girl, 1895, NY, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Daylight

2 persons

Book

Seating

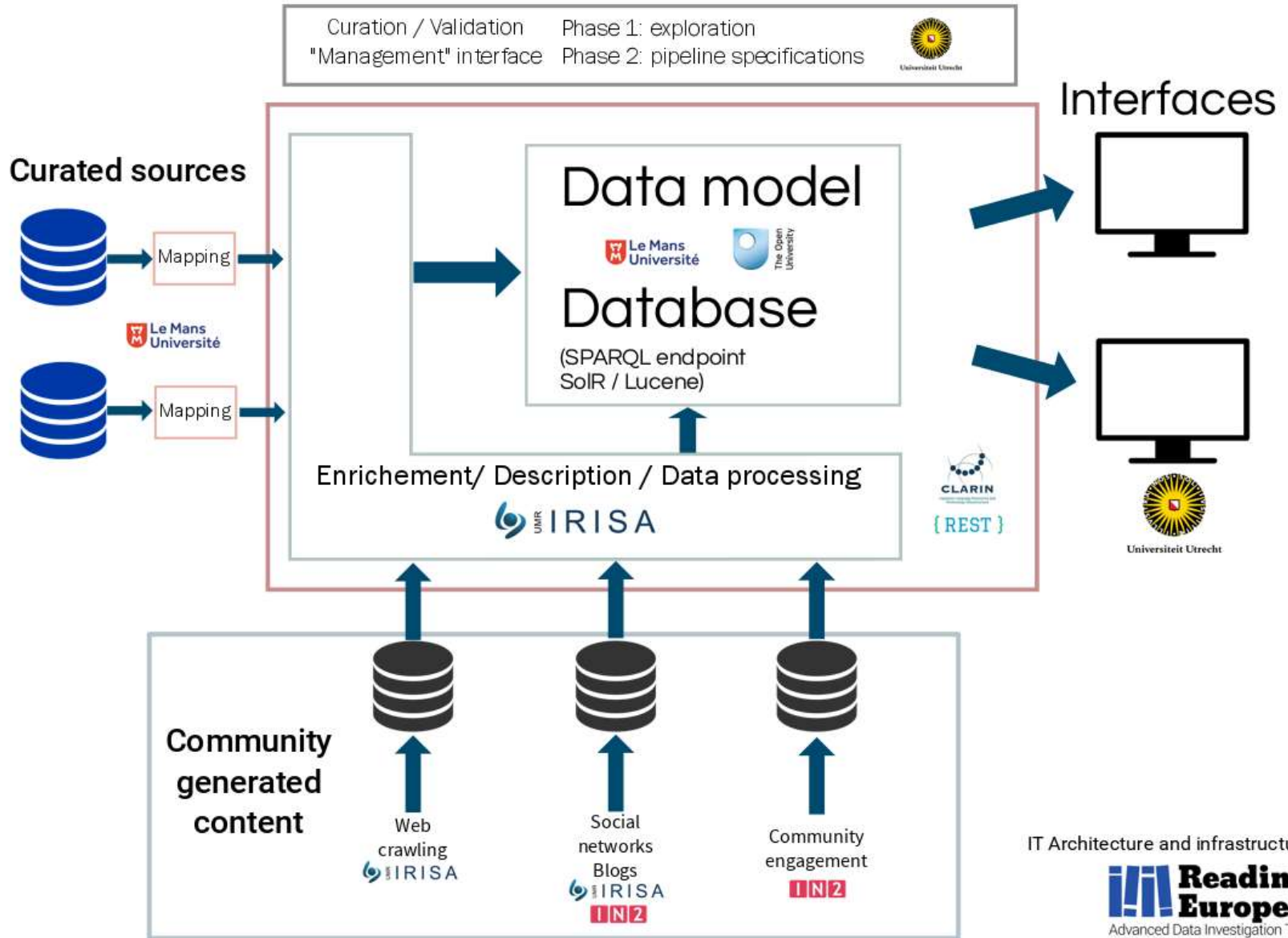


Painting

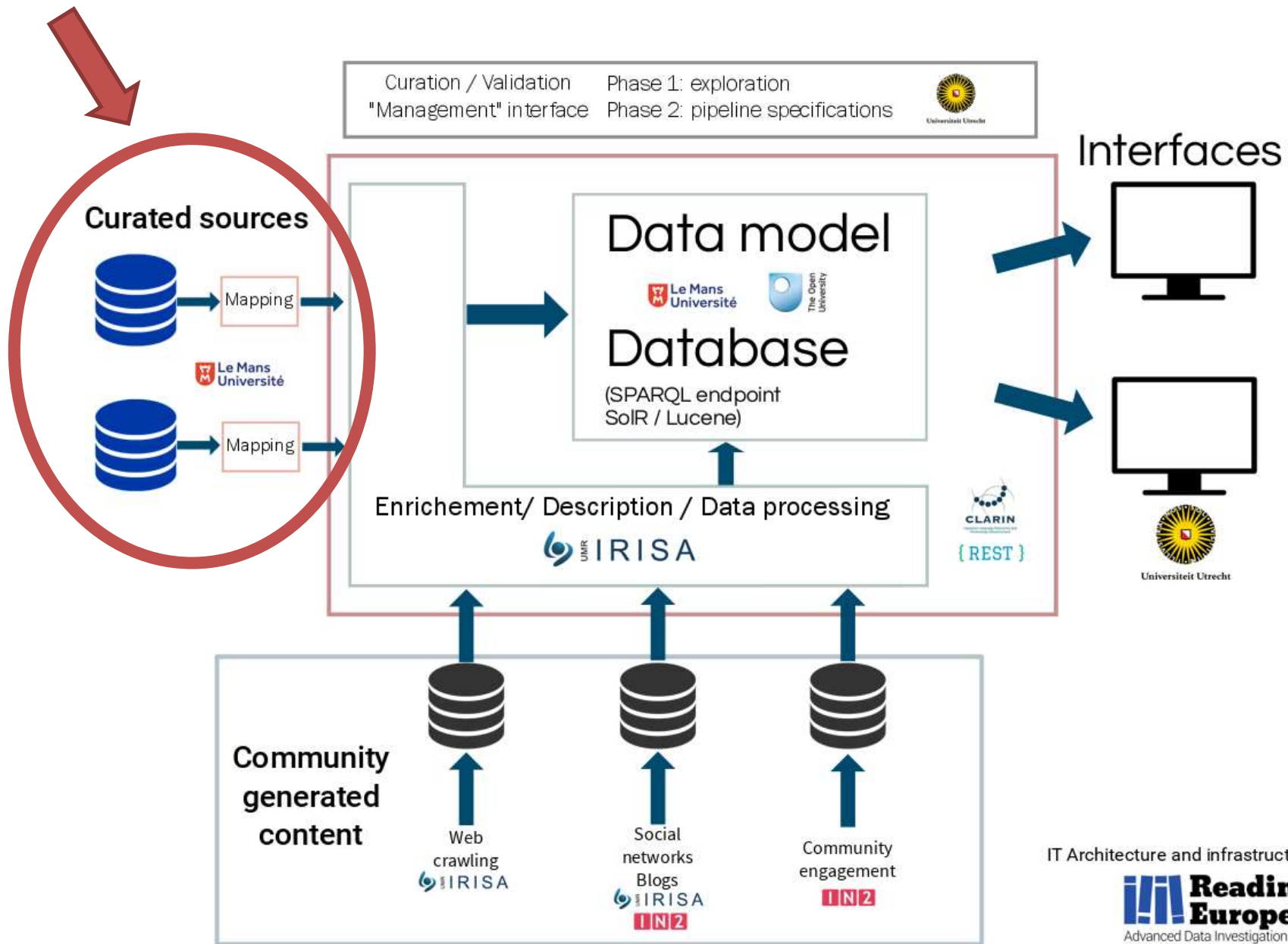
Outside

Garden

Source : Mary Cassatt, Nurse reading to a little girl, 1895, NY, Metropolitan Museum of Art



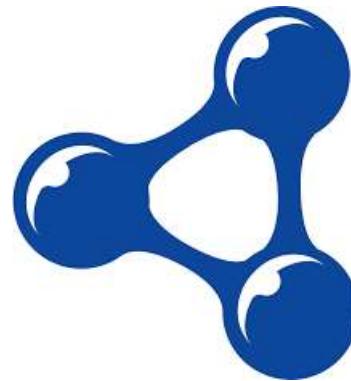
IT Architecture and infrastructure



IT Architecture and infrastructure

Standards involved

- Semantic web (RDF, SPARQL, SKOS)
- TEI
- FRBR_{oo}



And cultural institutions?

Strong need for curated digital collections

 Populating the database

 Training the machine

And cultural institutions?

What we plan to offer:

- Possibility to annotate and enrich digital collections
- Possibility to create special collections about reading
- APIs and methodology replicable and transposable to other esthetical experiences

Thank you for your attention.

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