

Computational Linguistics between Humanities and Computing

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While in its early days, computational linguistics was deeply linked with the parallel pioneering research in humanities computing, such a privileged relationship -- determined by common methods and goals - has then faded away. This has been partly due to the predominance in computational linguistics of methods derived from Artificial Intelligence, and partly to its becoming more and more oriented towards purely applicative contexts, as also proved by the emergence and success of the term "Natural Language Engineering". The major consequence of this drift was that the divide between computational linguistics research on the one side, and research in linguistics, cognitive science and literary studies has grown wider and wider. However, in the last years this trend is changing again. Thanks to new scientific paradigms both in computational linguistics and in various areas of the humanities (first of all in linguistics), promising interchanges between research in natural language processing, linguistics and various areas in the humanities are now rapidly emerging. After going over the major milestones of the complex relationship between computational linguistics and humanities computing, we will present some examples of the new synergies between these two fields.