



DARIAH-DE
www.de.dariah.eu

The DARIAH VRE Blueprint

What is a VRE?

- Collaborative Research Environment
- Brings tools and services for research together in one place
- Provides some sort of added value to these tools and services

Purpose of the Blueprint

- to increase both the use and the usefulness of VREs in the humanities
- to support and describe an approach to VRE development that puts the humanities scholar and their needs at the center of the development process
- to make conclusions from VRE studies and advice from experienced VRE developers and users available to VRE teams

Sections of the Blueprint and Their Goals

I. Purpose of the Blueprint

A short introduction to the blueprint. Includes a sub-section „What is a VRE and When Should I Build One?“

II. Process-Oriented Questions

The software development philosophy followed by this blueprint is one of iterative development in which feedback is constantly communicated from the users to the developers. The “process-oriented questions” are meant to begin (but not end) this iterative development process by asking the users for detailed information on their expected needs and scholarly context.

III. Recommendations for VRE Designers and Developers

Passes along advice about VRE development and use that were general and common enough to have been recurring themes in both the interviews conducted in preparation for the blueprint and the VRE literature reviewed by the blueprint team.

IV. Technical Requirements

A list of technical requirements for a VRE compiled to aid developers and users of a VRE in choosing what components their VRE should contain.

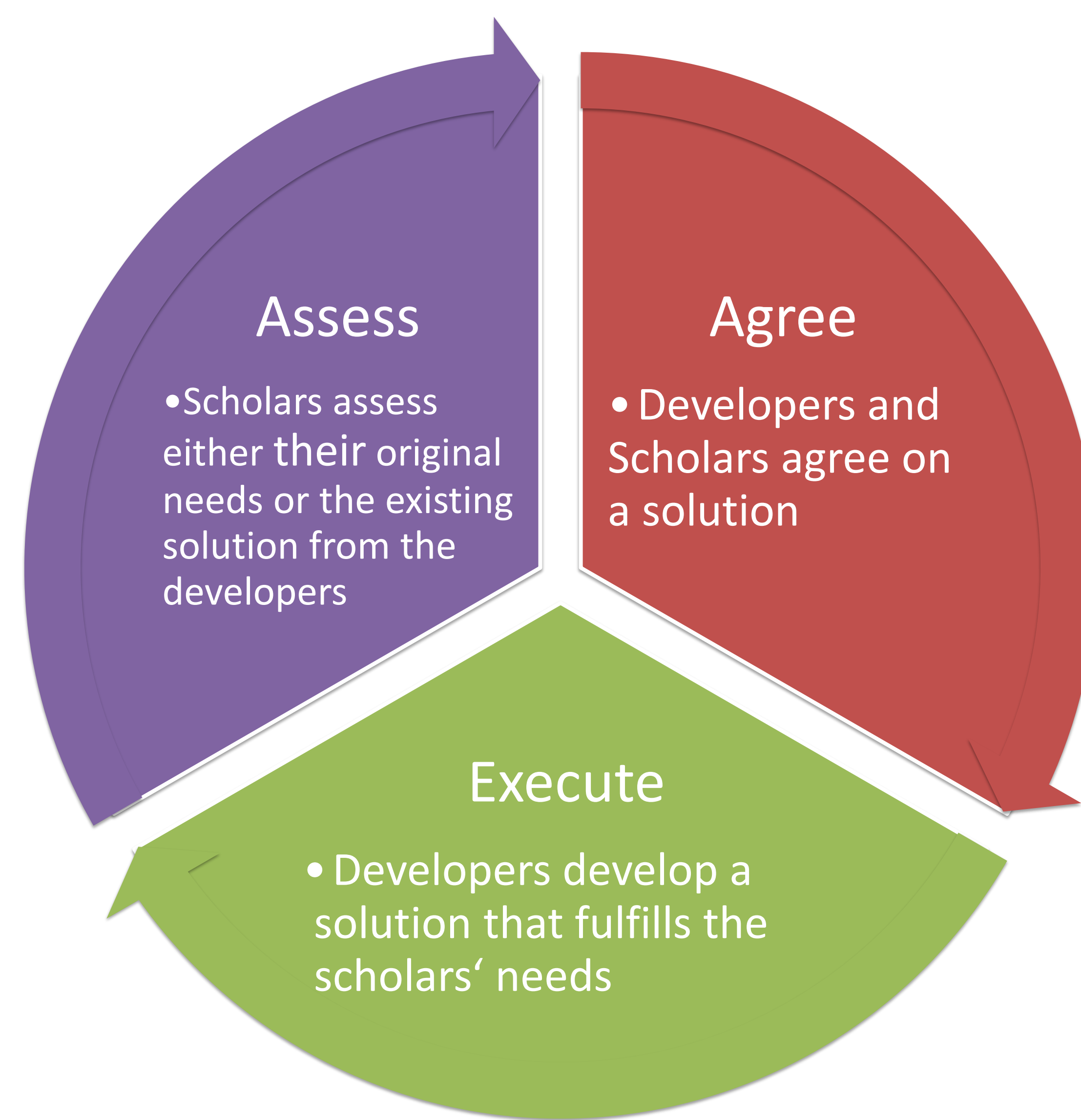
V. Review of Possible VRE Platforms

A review of the options a developer has to develop a VRE aimed not at users of a VRE but instead dealing specifically with the technical implementation side. As such it contains an overview of solutions and possible approaches to building a VRE from a software engineering standpoint.

VI. VRE Annotated Bibliography

Short introduction to the DARIAH-Bibliography *Doing Digital Humanities*, which offers suggestions for introductory readings as well as more in-depth coverage of research literature in various areas of digital research, teaching, and infrastructure planning in and for the humanities.

Iterative Development Applied to VRE Development



Future Plans

Testing of the Blueprint by VRE Projects

Our primary source of feedback on the existing sections of the blueprint will come through it being used by projects that are developing VREs. Much energy will be spent in finding appropriate projects and collecting feedback from them.

Expansion of the Blueprint with content of interest to humanities scholars

This first version of the blueprint purposely focused on developers as the audience. The next version of the blueprint will incorporate sections of interest to humanities scholars such as a more complete definition of a VRE with examples and an expanded set of recommendations as to when to build a VRE.

Expansion of the Recommendations Section

The interviews conducted in preparation for the blueprint will be expanded in order to base the „Recommendations for VRE Designers and Developers“ on a broader basis of data. Also, information from extensive interviews and questionnaires about scholarly practice in the humanities will be integrated into this section.

Development of End-User Survey Template

Version 1.0 of the blueprint aimed to give a template for the initial information-gathering conversations between developers and scholars. Version 2.0 will incorporate a mechanism for developers to collect feedback from users during the development process

This DARIAH Milestone was coordinated by the friendly people at:



DARIAH-DE in Europa

DARIAH-DE is the German contribution to DARIAH-EU - one of 44 projects on the roadmap of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

More Information

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