

**Acronym** – OPENPAL

**Title** – Open Correspondence Publishing and Visualization Platform

**Principal Investigator** – Maurizio Ghelardi

**Iuav Role** – Host Institution

**Duration** – 27 months

**Start** – 01/08/2017

**Closure** – 31/10/2019

**Project budget** – € 150.000,00

**Iuav Budget** – € 150.000,00

**Funding to Iuav** – € 150.000,00

**Source of funding** – EU Call: Horizon 2020 Programme – Call ERC-Proof of Concept-2016

**Description** – In Humanities, written correspondence is a fundamental object of study. The current IT revolution provides means for reassembling and disseminating this precious literary heritage for the first time, while at the same time fostering new forms of scholarly cooperation. As letters create links between people, the value of documents and data increases when different corpora of written correspondences are interconnected and linked. Despite the strong need for common standards and common tools to exploit these connections and to reconstruct the discourse of the Republic of Letters, there is still no simple framework in the current panorama for publishing digitized correspondence corpora.

The OPenPal project aims to develop a prototype system to manage, publish, export and visualise corpora of various types of correspondence in innovative ways: the idea is therefore to move from the EU-funded project EUROCORR (storing and displaying the critical edition of the correspondence to Jacob Burckhardt (1842-1897) – <http://fe.burckhardtsource.org/> –) and to generalise both workflow and data model to new correspondence corpora, by refactoring and redesigning the architecture of Burckhardtsource.

The expected outcomes of the OPenPal project will be to produce a prototype to publish digital correspondences (i.e. manuscripts, texts and data) and a toolkit to manage these special editions. OPenPal prototype will enable users to browse texts and data through guided paths, infographic visualisations, and will make it possible to browse a unique space of linked knowledge and trigger social mechanisms for discussion and debate on letters, thus opening from a niche of scholarly content to a wider audience. As a whole, this process will identify a sustainable business model for the new tool, based on linked data technologies in correspondence digital editions.

**Objectives** – One of the main goals of the project is to identify a sustainable business model for a new tool based on Linked Data technologies in correspondence digital editions. OPenPal aim is to reinvigorate the DH sector by introducing new potentially disruptive services focused on education and research segments, starting from correspondence corpora analysis, as well as launching innovative tools to foster a new and wide demand for value added data and services.

**Website** – <http://burckhardtsource.org/>



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 727832)