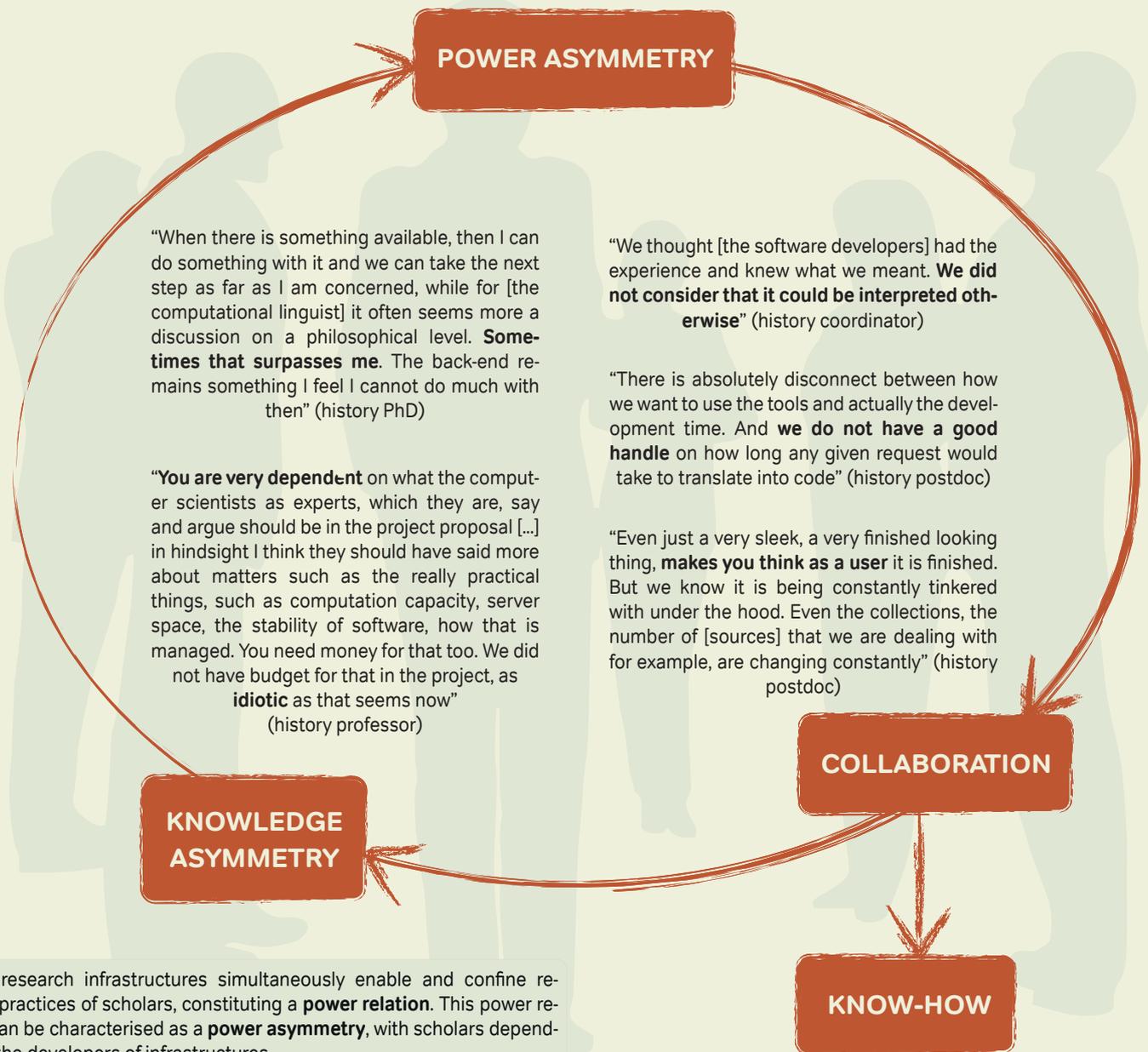


Power Asymmetries of eHumanities Infrastructures

Infrastructures enable & confine scholarly practices



Digital research infrastructures simultaneously enable and confine research practices of scholars, constituting a **power relation**. This power relation can be characterised as a **power asymmetry**, with scholars dependent on the developers of infrastructures.

In order to reduce this power asymmetry, infrastructures are developed in **collaboration** between scholars and computational researchers. Through an analysis of 28 interviews I have investigated whether digital history collaborations succeed in reducing power asymmetry.

A significant issue is **knowledge asymmetry**, the ignorance of how a collaborator performs their tasks. Scholars consequently lack power to effectively influence infrastructure development, reinforcing power asymmetry. Besides the development of infrastructures, scholars therefore emphasize the development of **know-how** as a key outcome of collaborative eHumanities development.

“Another thing is really the learning **how do you conduct digital humanities**. How do you bring these parties together, what do you run into. So everything that on a methodological organizational side succeeds or fails, that has to be put on paper” (history professor)

“Ultimately a production-version does not have to come out of [the project], that is not the thing. This is more a technology project in which **the know-how that is developed**, also by the companies that work here, to a productive whole. That they can use parts in a new product” (history professor)



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