

What are the happiest words ever written in the Dutch language? What are the saddest?

Where can you read the best jokes in the Dutch language? Who gets to write them?

Which text do you think Dutch readers are most embarrassed to admit reading?

Which text are people proudest to claim that they have read?

Imagine a world where voice recognition becomes perfect. What forms of writing would we give up if we could?

What would we lose? What could we gain?

Which identities might need special support to participate in this project? Whose words go unnoticed?

Which identities might be excluded, marginalised, or rendered invisible in Dutch culture and society? What will our project do for people of these identities?

The Srebrenica war documentation report brought down the government of Wim Kok.

Whose words, and which documents, have political power in Dutch society?

There are around 30 million speakers of the Dutch language worldwide.

What could this project do for them? How could they participate, even from far away?

Machine-assisted writing is becoming more commonplace: spellcheck, grammar assistance, autocomplete - even smarter software to help you write well.

What place does machine writing have in this project?

“Fanfiction” has transformed the ways in which we consume, create, and share stories in popular culture.

What are you a fan of?

What should this project do for fans?

“Locative literature” uses digital or physical tools to embed stories in physical settings: poems at bus stops, billboards with tweeted stories, coffee cups printed with local writers’ words.

Which places beyond these four walls could this project serve? How?

How do copyright regimes affect our relationship to the written word? Do they need to change, and if so, how? Is change politically plausible?

**What relationship should our project have to:
Copyright activists? Corporate IP lawyers?
Government intellectual property policy?**

Book piracy damages authors' income at a time when it is ever harder to make money as an individual creator. Yet it is a side effect of new digital technologies.

Did you ever copy audio or video cassettes in the predigital age? Do you pirate things now? How could this project relate to issues of piracy?

Do we combat misinformation & propaganda by appealing to trusted authorities, teaching critical thinking, or encouraging curiosity about our information sources?

What is this project's relationship to “fake news”?

How has the place of writing changed in Dutch culture & society since the Statenvertaling Bible translation of 1637?

**Do people need to know about this history?
What do they need to know? Why should they care?**

The 1980 Language Union Treaty established the Nederlandse Taalunie. The Dutch language is regulated by an international agreement! (But not everyone agrees with the choices behind the Groene Boeijke.)

How should this distinctive feature of the Dutch language appear in our project?

Graffiti is unwelcome, disrespected, messy, neglected, unofficial, “out of place” contemporary writing.

What is this project’s relationship to graffiti and other “prohibited” forms of writing?

What forms of writing are truly unacceptable in contemporary Dutch society? How is hate speech regulated?

Where is the balance between freedom of speech and protection from hate?

How might this project address that balance? Will anything be forbidden in this space?

What could writing feel like?

What could it smell like?

What could it taste like?

How can we activate our visitors' senses beyond the visual or tactile (Braille)?

Handwriting is a complex technology which needs grip strength, fine motor skills, and a degree of training.

Reading, when we master it, feels smooth - but our eyes jump across the page in tiny imperceptible movements called saccades.

What do we need to learn about the body in order to explore the mysteries of the written word?

What are you taking for granted about your ability to read, in the precise moment that you look at this sentence?

How do we defamiliarise reading and writing for our visitors?

Writing is a technology. It needs tools and training.

Should literacy be a human right? Why?

How should that right be defined and enforced?

What are the disadvantages of being literate?

For some pre-literate societies, the written word arrived as a violent colonial imposition.

Even the term “pre-literate” implies that there is an inevitable progression towards literacy.

How could this project acknowledge the difficult colonial history of the written word?

Which immigrant languages, voices, and ways of writing need special attention to ensure they are not excluded from this project?

Which communities should we reach out to?

Literacy levels are a good predictor of one's long-term health and wellbeing. Literate people tend to have better health outcomes over time.

Does this project have any contribution to make in fields such as health or social care?

Imagine a hundred years from now, this project has been a huge success and changed the face of Dutch society for the better.

The monarch and prime minister both come to the commemoration and give speeches celebrating the project's work.

What do they talk about?

Just by instinct, off the top of your head, what do you think is the most important thing for this project to concentrate on?

If you had to choose one song to represent your relationship to the written word, what song would you choose?

Do comics count as art or literature?

Do comic books and cartoons have a place in this project?

If you click on a link in a malicious spam email, your computer may run code which harms it.

Coders are contemporary magicians whose written words can impact our lives in dramatic ways.

How does coding fit in with our project? Is it a form of language or literature?

**Recipes. Song lyrics. Memos. Signposts. Logos.
Labels. Love letters. Car license plates. Birthday
cards. Shopping lists.**

**What everyday forms of writing should people
expect to encounter in this project? What sort of
encounters could they have?**

What's the first thing you remember reading?

What's the last thing you remember writing?