### Address at the Townhall of Villneuve d’Ascq by Pr Philippe Vervaecke, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lille, Social sciences and Humanities

I would like to thank Mr Gérard Caudron, Mayor of Villeneuve-d’Ascq for welcoming us in this city hall. Welcome to this conference held in the university which I am President. At the present time, we are a university of Humanities and Social sciences, but we will soon be combined with two other neighbouring universities. Next year and a half, everything will be simpler, there will be only one establishment: the University of Lille which will cover most areas of knowledge. It will be the biggest French university situated north of Paris with more than 65,000 students, about sixty research laboratories, more than 3,000 lecturers and 2,000 PhD students.

We are fortunate to have here a network of various actors in direct connection with the conference theme. There is especially a laboratory, the Study and interdisciplinary research group on information and documentation (Gériico), and courses belonging to a component named UFR (research and training unit) Deccid. We also welcome on our campus, the main French agency responsible for theses, the national workshop for reproduction of theses (ANRT).

You have probably noticed, on the campus where the conference is held, the vast and imposing central library which forms with other 19 small specialised libraries, the common service of documentation. This keeps mainly more than 1 million volumes, in which the oldest is a work from the German Benedictine Raban Maur, copied in the 12th century for a Flemish abbey. You will indeed be able to have an overview on the ancient works kept here, shown in the central library hall.

In few years, this structure will be replaced with a new one, a Learning Center, which will be added to other buildings which are in the process of being completed on the future University of Lille campuses. We indeed conduct an enlargement policy of the services and the missions offered to our students, research teams and teachers as well. Currently on all our campuses, there are no less than 28,000 m2 dedicated to libraries with 5,000 study spaces and about 260,000 on-line journals.

Some of the debates which will take place here will deal with **open access**. I am delighted that discussions about it are progressing well. We are in favour of open access publication of publicly funded scientific research. The circulation of knowledge is at stake, which is particularly crucial for Humanities and Social sciences. As you will probably remind it, research productions do not only correspond to summarised forms (articles, monographs...), but also to data. For a long time these were the poor relations of the dissemination of our results while they have a wealth of new uses for many sectors of society.

I wish you a very successful and enjoyable conference and I look forward to seeing you at the gala evening on Wednesday. I would finish by thanking the local supports for this conference: Gériico laboratory, the common service of documentation, the ANRT, the Lille Nord de France Doctoral School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the European House of Humanities and Social Sciences. I would especially like to thank our region, the Hauts-de-France, for its financial support, as well as, ProQuest society. And at last, thank you of course to the co-organiser of this conference, NDLTD, which is an association of several hundreds of universities and agencies.