Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Coordinating Newspaper Digitisation: Some Facts and Figures

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Overview

Some Caveats

- ➲ The following is an analysis of bibliographic library data, NOT an analysis of newspaper history
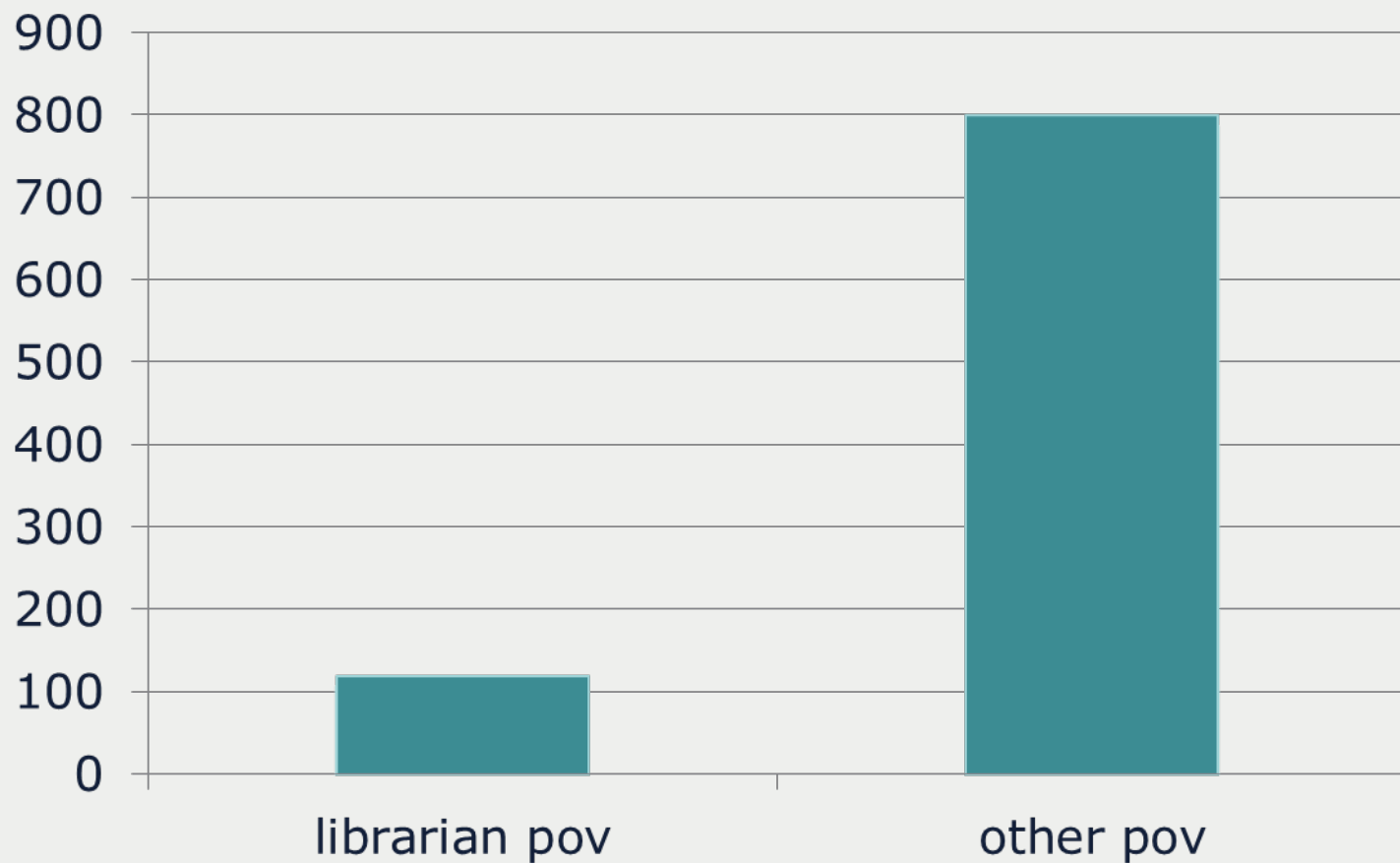
- ➲ Library data is known to be:
  - → Subject to constant change
  - → Incomplete
  - → Of limited expressiveness
  - → Faulty
  - → Yet: the best available data source!

- ➲ What exactly is
  - → A newspaper ?
  - → A newspaper title ?
  - → A newspaper's life-span ?

SBB

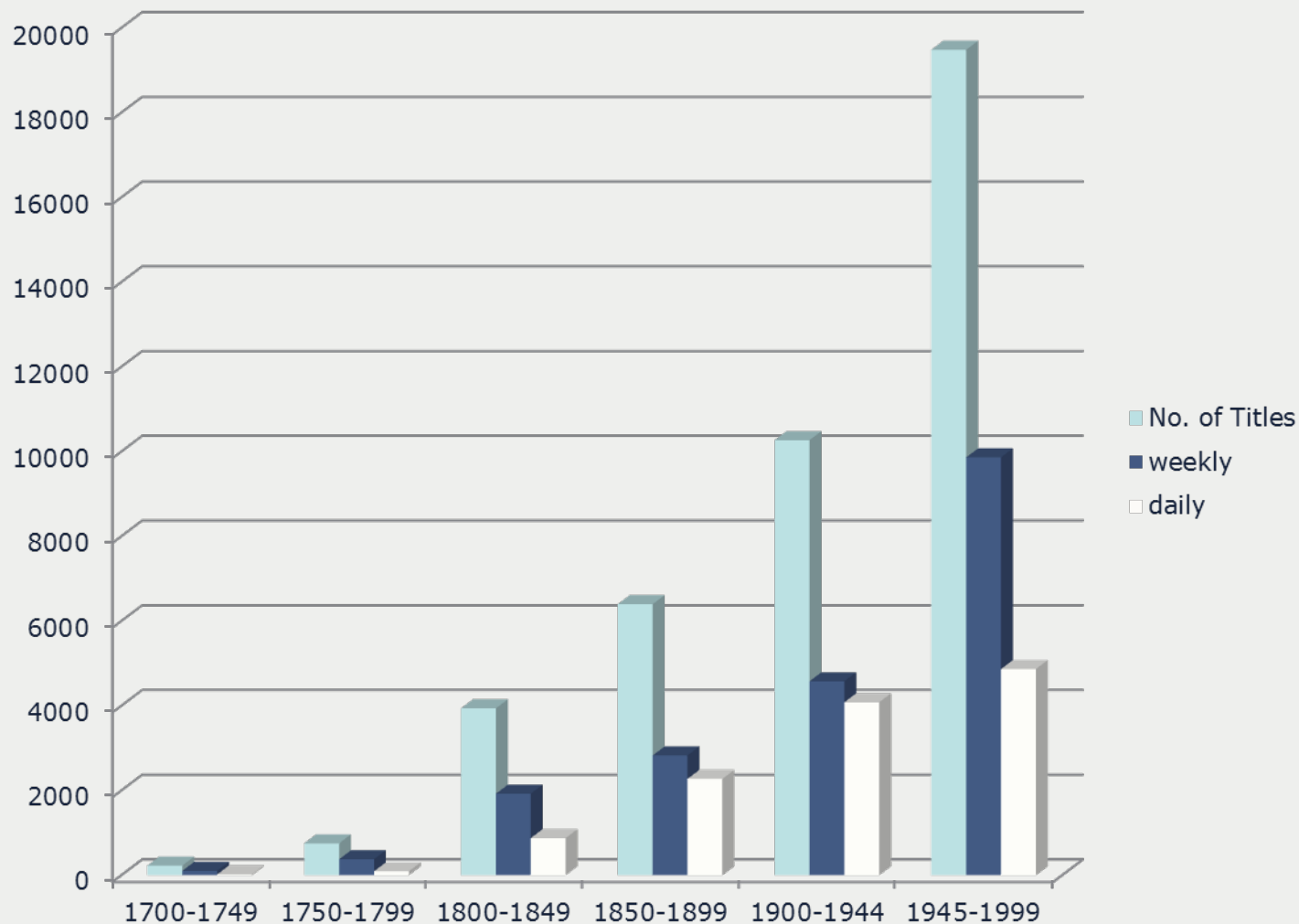**Zeitschriften-datenbank**

ZDB data - newspapers

- ➲ Data basis: > 4,000 libraries in Germany and Austria
- ➲ Bibliographic metadata only, describing serial publications
- ➲ Quantities:
  - → 1.8 milion title records
  - → 13.5 million records describing holdings
  - → > 60,000 newspapers
  - → Data selection:
    - material type = newspaper
    - year of first publication = 1500-1944
    - form of publication = print
    - place of publication = Germany AND German Empire

      OR
    - language of publication = German

  - → Ca. 22,000 historic newspaper titles

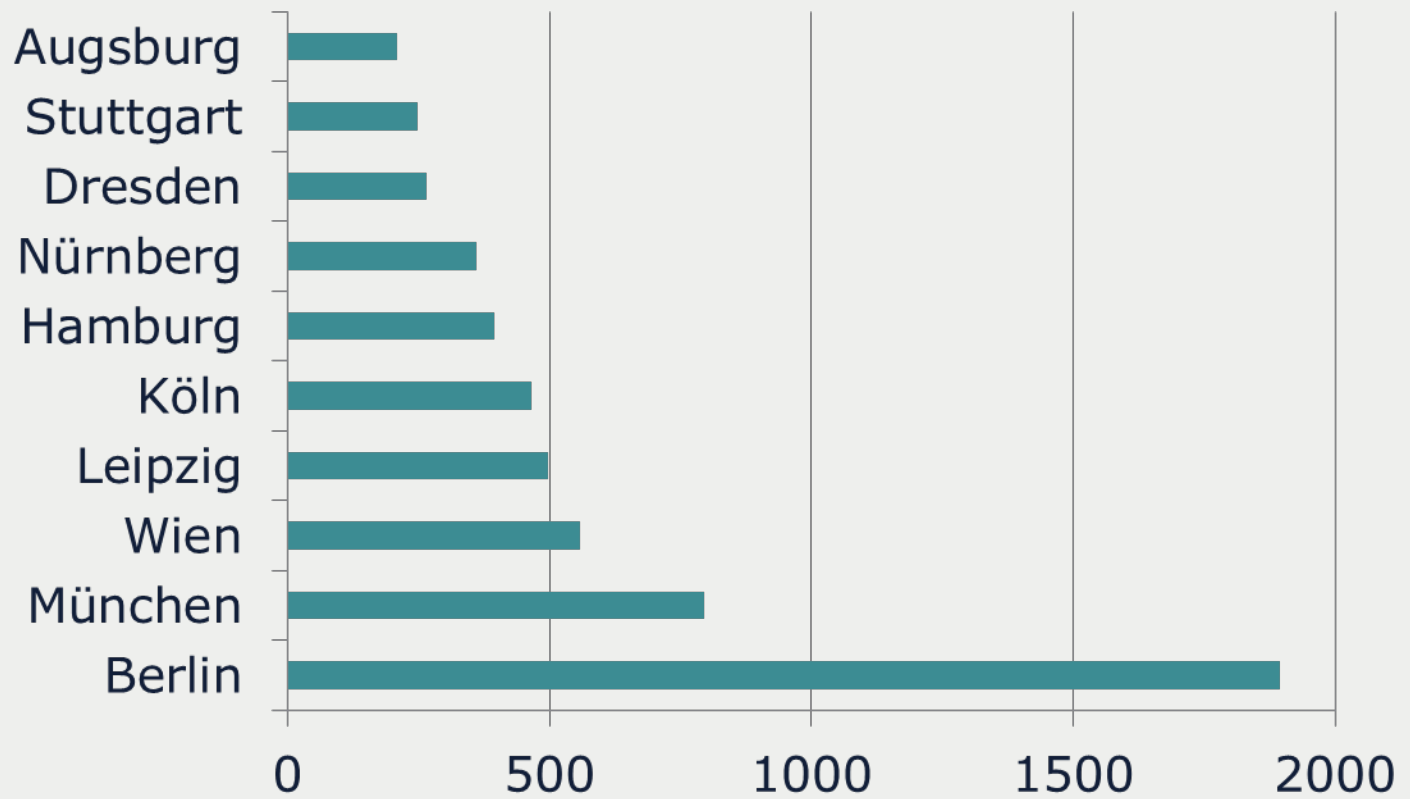# Newspapers in the 16th and 17th centuries
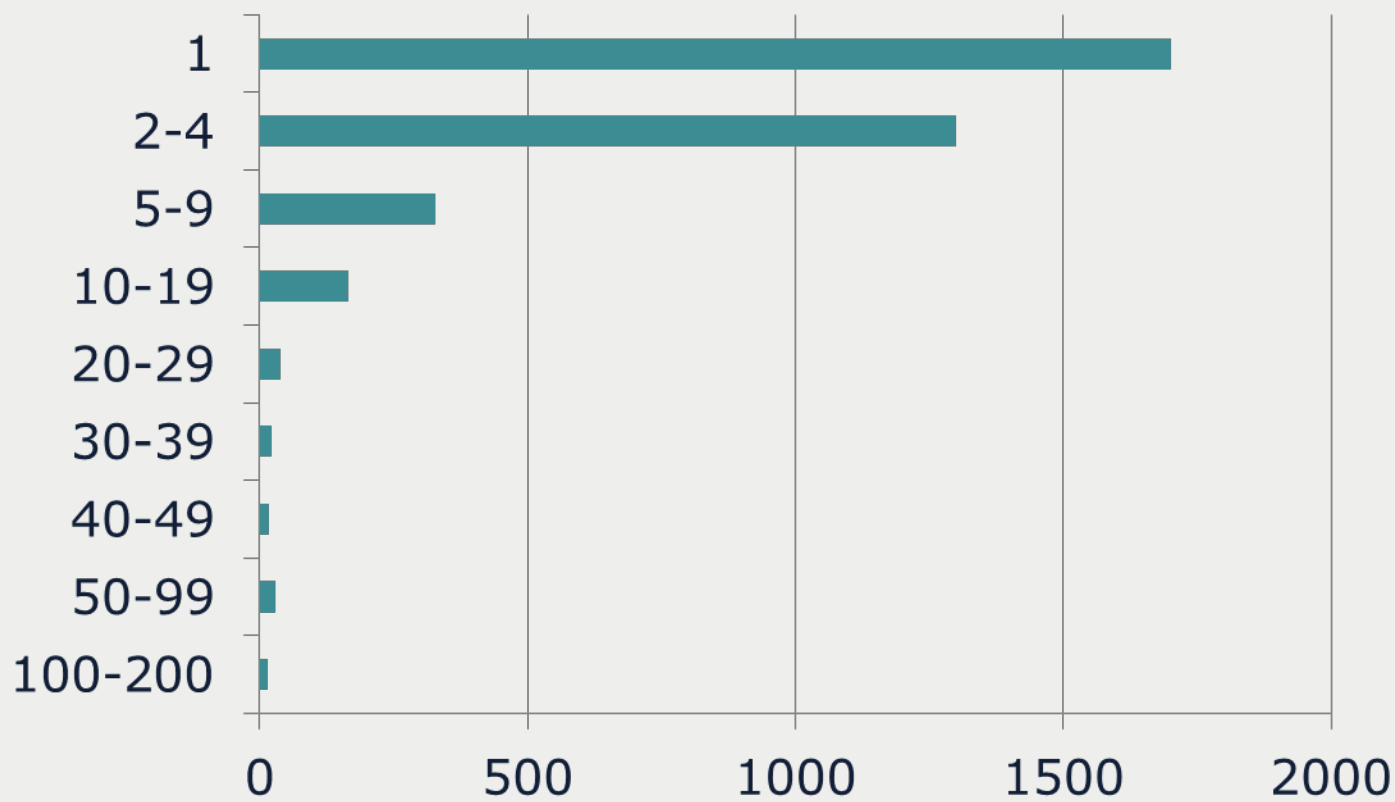
First years and frequency of publication

Legend:
- No. of Titles
- weekly
- daily

X-axis categories: 1700-1749, 1750-1799, 1800-1849, 1850-1899, 1900-1944, 1945-1999

Life-spans

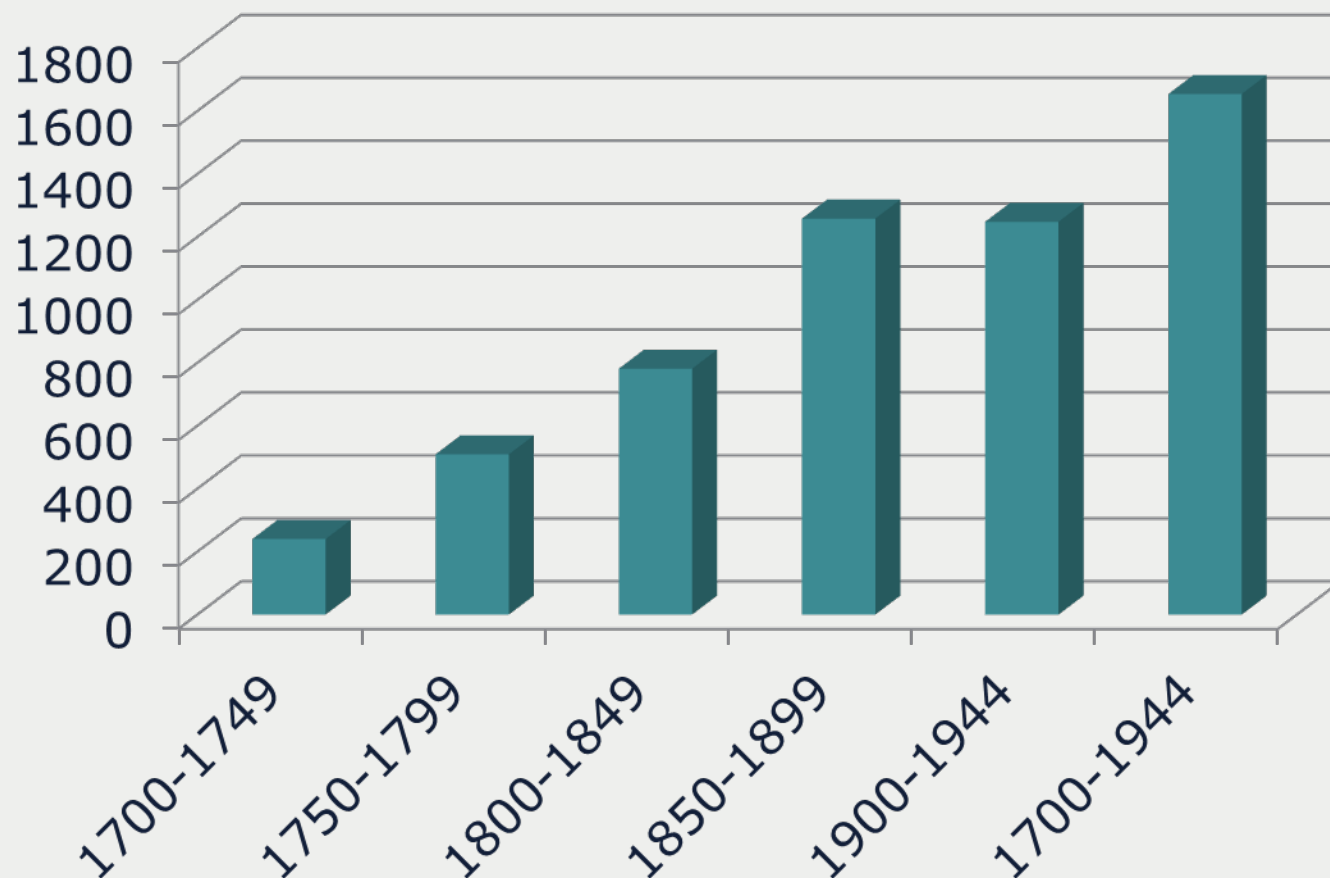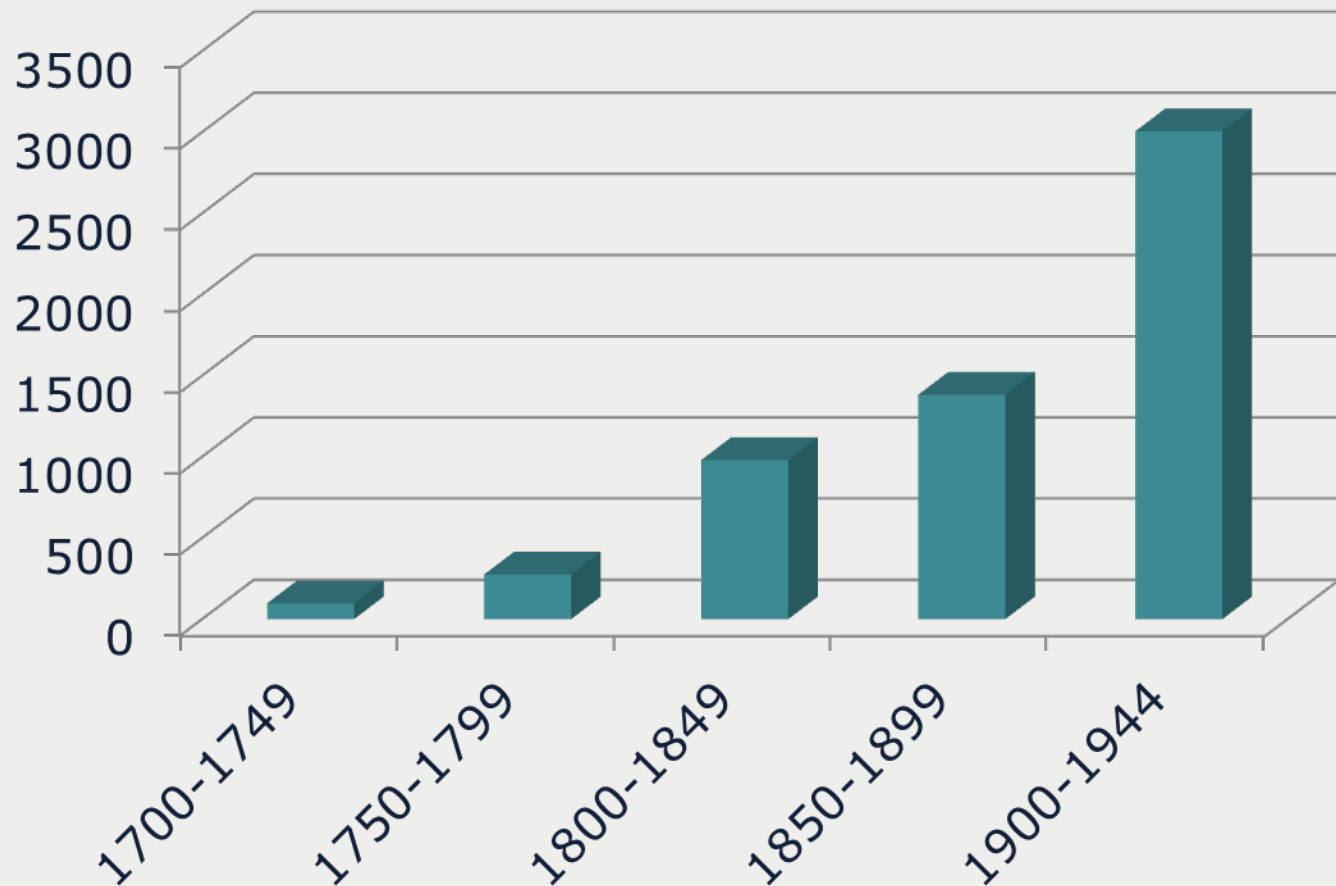| time period	mean	median	standard deviation	minimum	maximum
1700-1749	28.28	9	42.82	1	237
1750-1799	18.36	5	31.09	1	213
1800-1849	17.60	4	28.90	1	205
1850-1899	22.39	9	26.48	1	156
1900-1944	8.23	4	10.89	1	101

Newspaper titles per place of publication

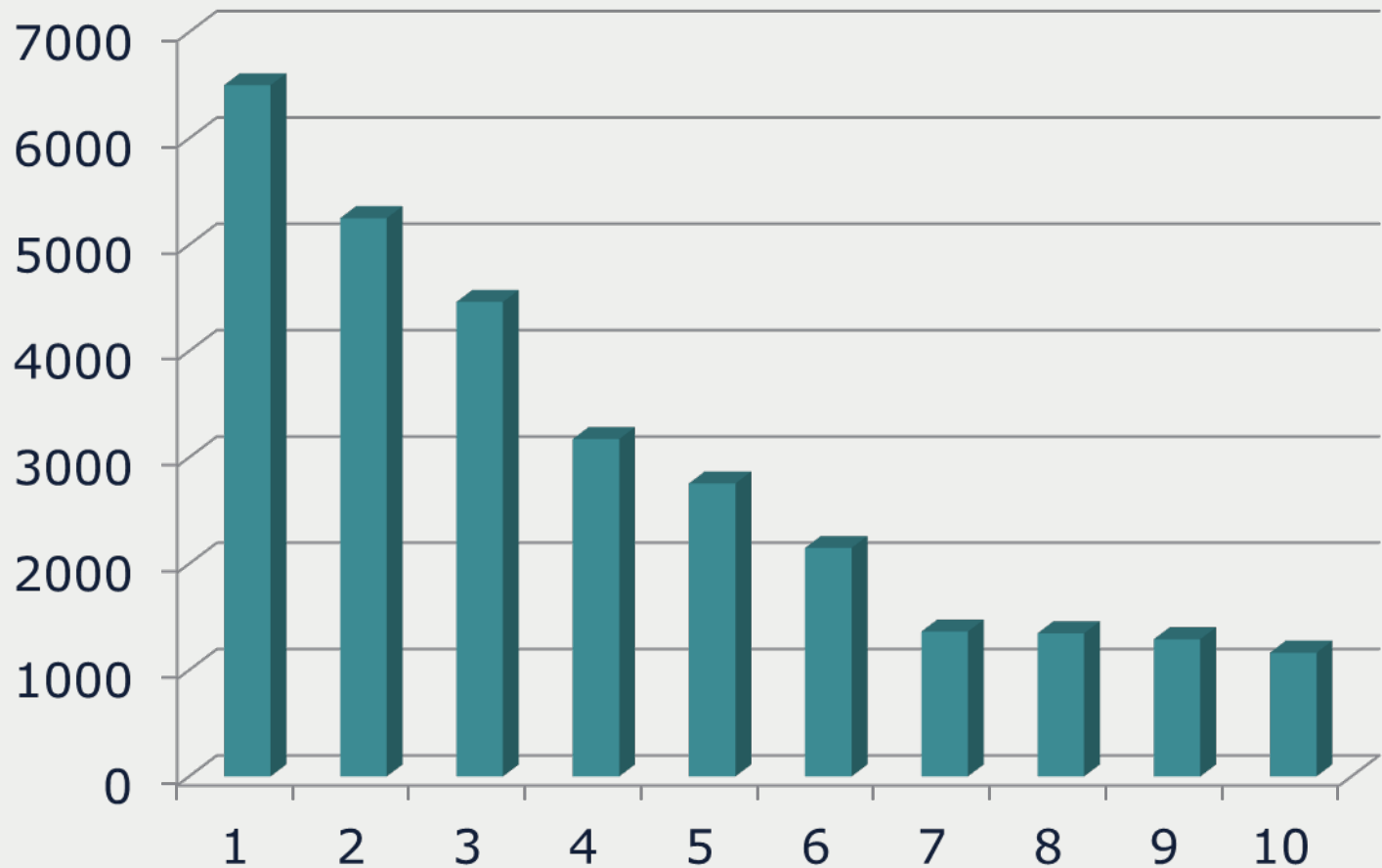# Newspaper titles per place of publication

Libraries with relevant holdings

Maximum number of newspaper titles per library

Top ten newspaper collections

Conclusions

- ➲ Cooperation is a necessity because
  - → Only few newspaper titles with long life-spans are fully available in one library
  - → > 7,000 titles are only available in one library only
- ➲ Consider future use cases before digitising
- ➲ Use realistic criteria when deciding on
  - → Source for digitisation: paper original and microfilm
  - → Technical parameters: resolution, colour, storage formats
- ➲ Monitor progress comprehensively
- ➲ Enable access
  - → Provide open licenses
  - → Optimise acces to data
  - → Aggregate content

Thanks!

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