Coordinating Newspaper Digitisation: Some Facts and Figures

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Overview

- Some caveats

- Newspapers titles

- Places of publication

- Libraries

- Conclusion
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?
ZDB data - newspapers

- Data basis: > 4,000 libraries in Germany and Austria
- Bibliographic metadata only, describing serial publications
- Quantities:
  - 1.8 million 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

- No. of Titles
- weekly
- daily
## Life-spans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>time period</th>
<th>mean</th>
<th>median</th>
<th>standard deviation</th>
<th>minimum</th>
<th>maximum</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1700-1749</td>
<td>28.28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42.82</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750-1799</td>
<td>18.36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.09</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>213</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800-1849</td>
<td>17.60</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28.90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>205</td>
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<tr>
<td>1850-1899</td>
<td>22.39</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26.48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>156</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-1944</td>
<td>8.23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.89</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>101</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Newspaper titles per place of publication

- Augsburg
- Stuttgart
- Dresden
- Nürnberg
- Hamburg
- Köln
- Leipzig
- Wien
- München
- Berlin

The bar chart indicates the number of newspaper titles per city, with Berlin having the highest number, followed by München and Wien.
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 access to data
  - Aggregate content
Thanks!

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http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/en/