The "Deutsche Biographie" as Historical Biographical Information System

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Abstract

In order to provide sustainable biographical information in the internet (Ebneth 1997) it has to be source-based, reliable and citeable as like as ordinary scientific data and research ever has. To become relevant in the digital age it additionally requires to be used, reused and re-mixed providing adequate interfaces and licenses.

Therefore the the Deutsche Biographie adopted following principles to provide biographical resources online. First it is based on dictionaries of scientific biographies who are based on archival research, collected and edited in a peer-review-like process. These biographies serve as a foundation of knowledge which is (2) enlarged by bibliographic metadata drawn from selected freely available authority files (GND). In order to provide further relevant and more actual material to its entries (3) the Deutsche Biographie is linking to enduring resources with institutional background.

The website www.Deutsche-Biographie.de offers faceted search capabilities, visual representations of selected interpersonal relationships and individual maps for geographical scope of the person's life.

In the near future the search and presentation modes will be made even more transparent by open search and visualisation *interfaces*. Users of different levels of expertise shall be equipped with suitable tools to search and visualize as well as analyse, share and export their results. Citeability will be extended to the visualisations, individual research queries and results and, reuseability will be admitted by providing open licenses and new remixing interfaces. DH experts will access the RDF-store and query in Sparql, or use the Neo4J-Graph-Database and query in Cypher. In order to meet these different user requirements a *research laboratory* will be installed providing access to information, providing individual search, analyses, customizable visualisations for intermediate users, for experts even more possibilities.

In addition to individual access the Deutsche Biographie will start to cooperate with other institution aiming to establish an *interoperable ontology of biographical information* ultimately leading to easier integration of scattered biographical resources worldwide.

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[1] The website www.Deutsche-Biographie.de is a service jointly managed by the Historical Commission and the Bavarian State Library. The Historical Commission is represented by Prof. Dr. Malte Rehbein (Univ. Passau), Dr. Bernhard Ebneth, Matthias Reinert, Maximilian Schrott; the Bavarian State Library, is represented by the dep. Münchener Digitalisierungszentrum. Speaker tba.

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