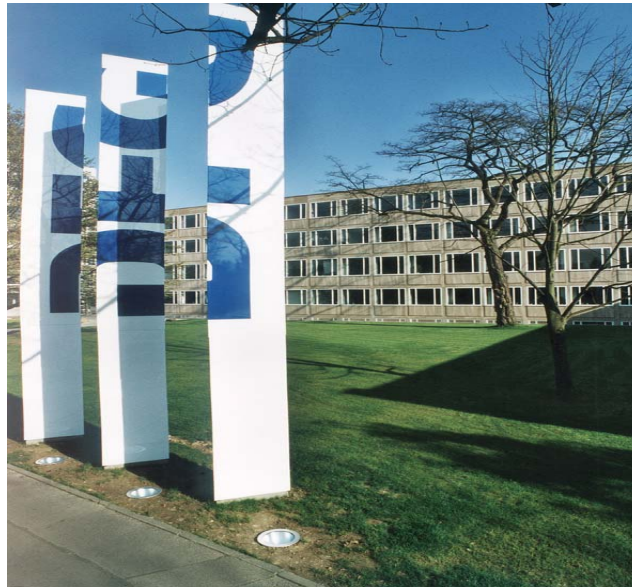


# Funding Policies for Supporting Infrastructure Projects



Berlin 4 Conference, Golm, 29.-31.03.2006  
Open Access to Cultural Heritage

# Open Access to Cultural Heritage?

„On the other hand, **we have what open access has become, irrespective of any declaration.** First and foremost, open access is an international movement, so while the Berlin declaration does mention cultural materials, that reveals its mild Europhilic tendencies. Not a bad thing, and probably inevitable. However, in international practice, **the term is used nearly exclusively to describe immediate and unfettered access to the research output of scientific institutions,** including universities. Hence the profusion of document servers all over the globe, and the very encouraging developments in the world of open access journal models.“

Source: Dale Askey: Goethe digital? In: InetBib, 14.03.2006

# Funding Program „Cultural Heritage“

## Retrospective Digitization of Library Holdings from 1996 onwards

(ca. 28. Mio. € funding money spent since then for 70 individual projects)

Books, Journals, Autographs

Dictionaries

Maps, Papyri, Musical Scores

Pictures, Photographs

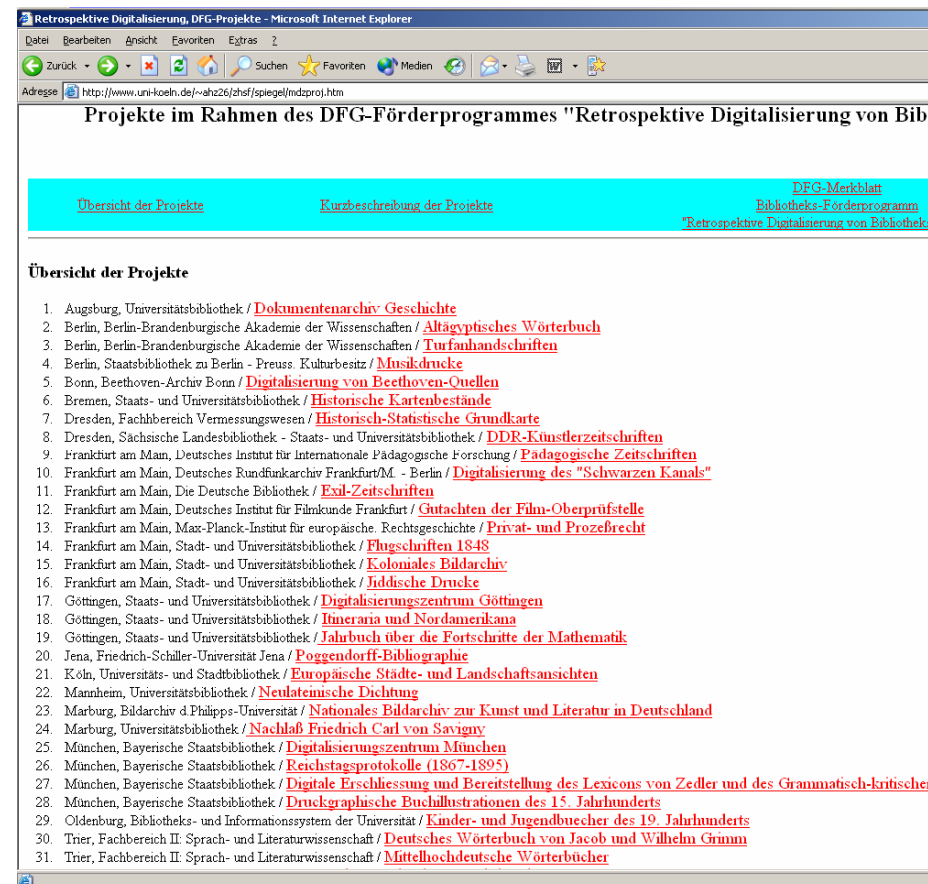
Audio and Video Files (far too rare)

## Evaluation process (2004/2005)

Digitized material is highly relevant  
for research in respective fields.

However, most researchers simply  
do not know of the material's  
existence.

<http://www.uni-koeln.de/~ahz26/zhsf/spiegel/mdzproj.htm>



# Bundling access to digitized resources

The true value of digitized material does not lie within the single projects and their resources but in bundling the projects under strategic aspects.

We needed a **focal point** as **centralised entry** to digitized collections

Implementation of the „Verzeichnis digitalisierter Drucke“  
(Directory of Digitized Prints, to be found at [www.zvdd.de](http://www.zvdd.de))



# Material-defined portals

## Manuscripta Mediaevalia

Central web-site to access digitized catalogues for the identification of about 63.000 medieval and early modern manuscripts

## Kalliope

Central index containing evidence of about 1.2 Mio. autographs from more than 500 libraries, archives, and museums; can also be use as on-line tool for the description of autographs

## Bildindex der Kunst und Architektur

Instrument to research a significant part of about 1.9 Mio. pictures to European Art and Architecture



# AWBI Strategy Meeting in October 2005: Plans for the Future

**3 main areas of interest in regard to the funding programme**  
***Cultural Heritage:***

## **Digitizing 16th and 17th century book collections**

**Can build upon the high-quality on-line bibliographies with metadata to about 100.000 titles from the 16th and already 235.000 from the 17th century (yet to be completed in 3 years).**

## **Indexing and digitizing the 18th century**

**Consequent extension for selected material of one of the most interesting periods of European history**

## **Research Libraries**

**Indexing and digitizing of selected segments from well-known research libraries**

**Exemplary digitization of the holdings of one special subject library**

**Calls for tender in different lines of action expected for autumn 2006**



It is not sufficient to regard the digitization of cultural heritage as a major contribution. Although important, what we really need is the **implementation and integration of cultural heritage material in *Virtual Research Environments*** where researchers can not only (re-)use the materials, but use them in a cooperative manner together with other researchers in order to learn from each other and to build structured **knowledge environments**.

The **Knowledge Exchange** clearly shows the interest in having virtual research environments built up not only in Germany (DFG), but in the Netherlands (SURF), in the United Kingdom (JISC), and in Denmark (DEff) – and possibly in many other European and Non-European countries as well.



## What do researchers ask for?

Portals need to be amended by the integration of discipline-specific working tools in order to **enable researchers to work within virtual research environments**.

The materials themselves need to be presented in ways that enable researchers to **take those materials** from various web pages **in order to re-use them and to build their own systems** with cultural content already openly accessible via the Internet.

***Importance of Service-Oriented Architectures***



# Problems unsolved, Challenges yet to come

## **Rights Management**

Especially in regard to providing open access to **recent audio and video files**, laws need to be issued that enable to openly access those materials for academics and scientists.

## **Sustainability**

Academics often think that their requirements are so special that it is justified to develop new tools tailored to those needs. However, **in many cases tools are already at hand and could be reused**. Their reuse should be encouraged by special funding programs aiming exactly at that.

## **Maintenance Costs**

In many cases, building up the infrastructure is paid for by grants provided from funding organisations. However, **maintaining the infrastructure also costs money** which somehow needs to be generated.

# Who pays for maintaining open access infrastructure?

## **Open access must not exclude commercial interests**

The already mentioned „Bildindex“ provides open access to ten thousands of pictures. If a researcher, a publisher, editorial staff or other interested parties wants to e.g. reproduce a picture from the index, Foto Marburg will provide him or her with a high-quality copy of the respective item that of course needs to be paid for.

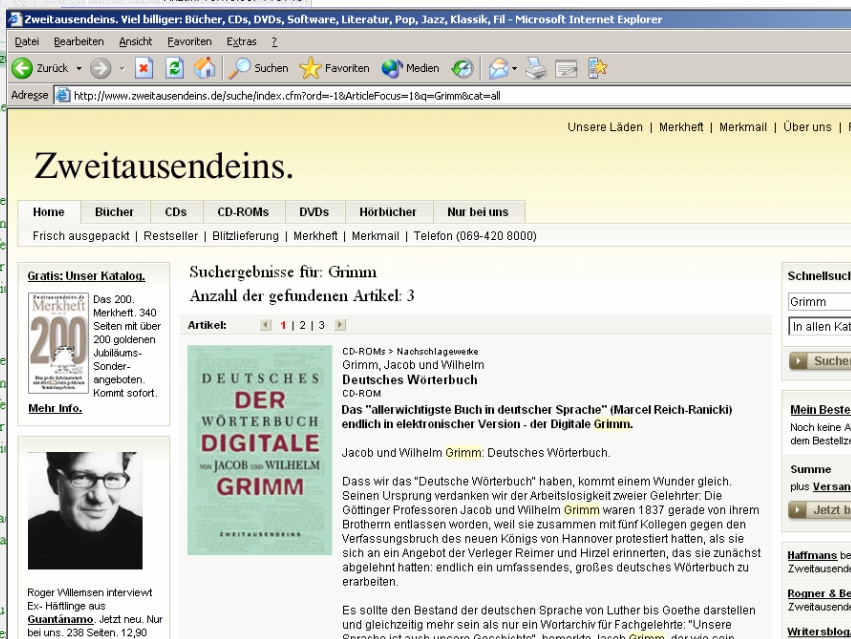
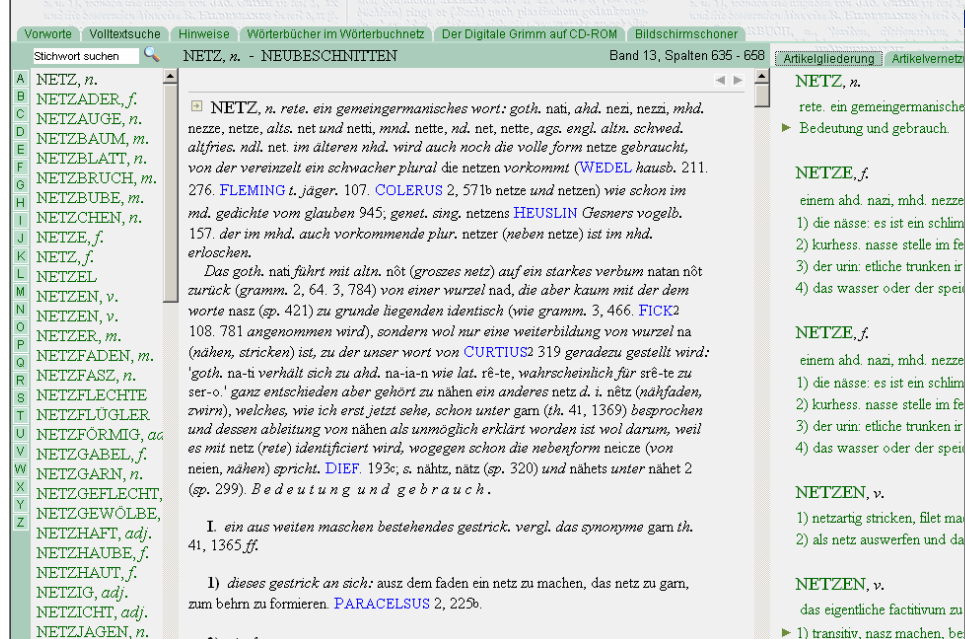
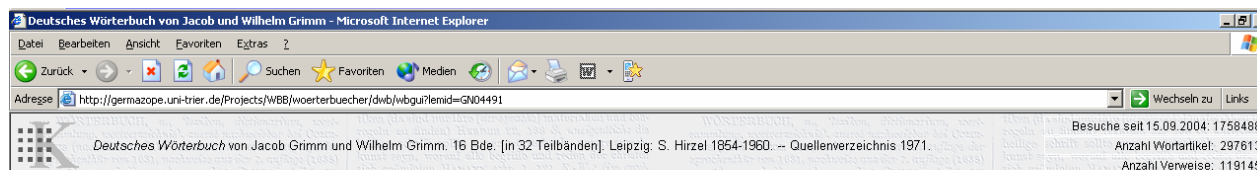
**We need business models** for the thorough maintenance of Research Infrastructures to openly accessible cultural content.

According to Arnoud de Kemp in „Börsenblatt“: The question is really **if users are ready to pay** for accessing cultural heritage on-line as long as many websites still need to be considered rather as user-unfriendly.

*Suggestions to be expected from BKM/FhG (Germany) and from a JISC working group „e-content framework“*

# Promoting private investments?

Digitised collections should, in principle, be available for scientific use free of charge and should be accessible online (open access). Most of the digitisation that is done in Germany is publicly funded, particularly by the DFG. The open access principle is by no means a barrier to additional commercial use of the content, however. Commercial products building on content that is available free of charge can be sold with considerable added value. The user acceptance by those people willing to pay for these additional services will decide the actual marketability.



## We need more coordination

In order to answer the survey issued by the European Commission concerning the **i2010 initiative**, the „Bundesbeauftragter für Kultur und Medien“ (BKM) asked all relevant players in the field of digitization to answer the survey cooperatively. Thus, for the **first time in Germany**, all relevant institutions and organizations took part in a **coordinated effort**.

The response from the **German „Digitization Coalition“** addressed exactly the same points as the actual „White Paper“.

## What is needed from the European Union?

The **EU should provide co-funding** for national digitisation programmes on a pro-rata basis in order to encourage the addition of content to the European digital library.

The development of **subject-specific search-tools** and **multilingual thesauri** is especially important for the scientific community.

**Technical standards** play a key role for the **interoperability** of resources.

What is also needed is a **central portal**, which can be accessed by, and ***integrated*** into, **national and local systems**.

Thank you very much for your attention!

**Questions welcome**

Dr. Johannes Fournier  
[johannes.fournier@dfg.de](mailto:johannes.fournier@dfg.de)

► Weitere Informationen unter:  
[www.dfg.de/lis](http://www.dfg.de/lis)

