



europeana  
newspapers



# Making Historic Newspapers Available Online: Why, Where and How



IFLA Newspaper Pre-Conference

14 August 2014, Geneva

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# Why Newspapers?

## Cons:

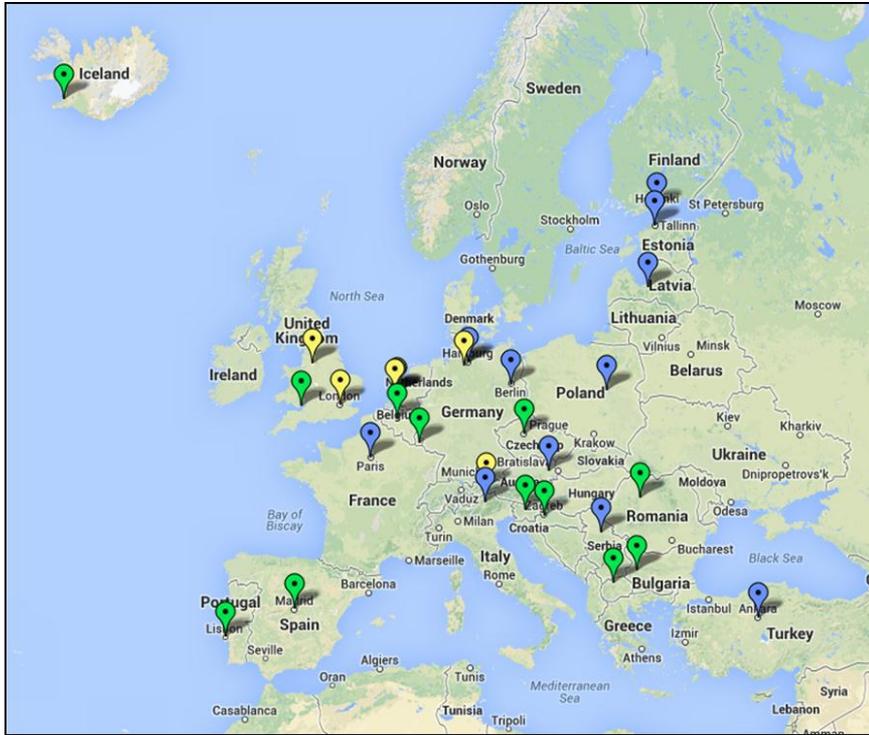
- Originals are cumbersome objects
  - Prone to damage and destruction due to paper quality
  - Missing issues and pages
  - Difficult to deal with from a catalogueing point of view
  - Poor bindings
  - Funny fonts and fading ink
- Microforms may also be cumbersome objects
  - Skewed images, text loss
  - More missing issues and pages, plus duplicate pages

# That's Why!

## Pros:

- “Newspapers are the second hand of history”
  - Provide insights into history’s microstructure
  - Unlimited thematic scope
  - Interesting for all fields of scholarship, but also for the layman
  - Massive digital newspaper text corpora allow for new ways of research
  - A European perspective: significant contribution to the shaping of identities of peoples and individuals

# The Europeana Newspaper Project – Who?



Blue – Content Providers

Yellow – Service Providers

Green – Associated Partners

# The Europeana Newspaper Project – What?

Country	Partner	Titel	Startdate (overall)	Enddate (overall)
France	BnF	80	1814	1944
Germany	SBB	6	1872	1940
	SUB-HH	16	1721	1945
Netherlands	KB	203	1618	1900
Italy	LFT	15	1813	1949
Estonia	NLE	43	1852	1944
Finland	NLF	11	1900	1910
Latvia	NLL	117	1868	1955
Poland	NLP	118	1914	1939
Turkey	NLT	22	1818	1928
Austria	ONB	275	1686	1945
Serbia	UB	45	1830	1944

20 languages

ca. 950 titles

ca. 10m pages refined

- 8m OCR
- 2m OLR
- 2m NER

# The Europeana Newspaper Project – What else?

- Tools for informed selection of newspapers for digitisation
- Specifications and tools for the creation and validation of OCR-ready images
- Large-scale, highly automated workflows for refinement (OCR, OLR, NER)
- Metadata best practice recommendations
- Transmission of data to European Portals and the Union Catalogue of Serials
- Presentation of results



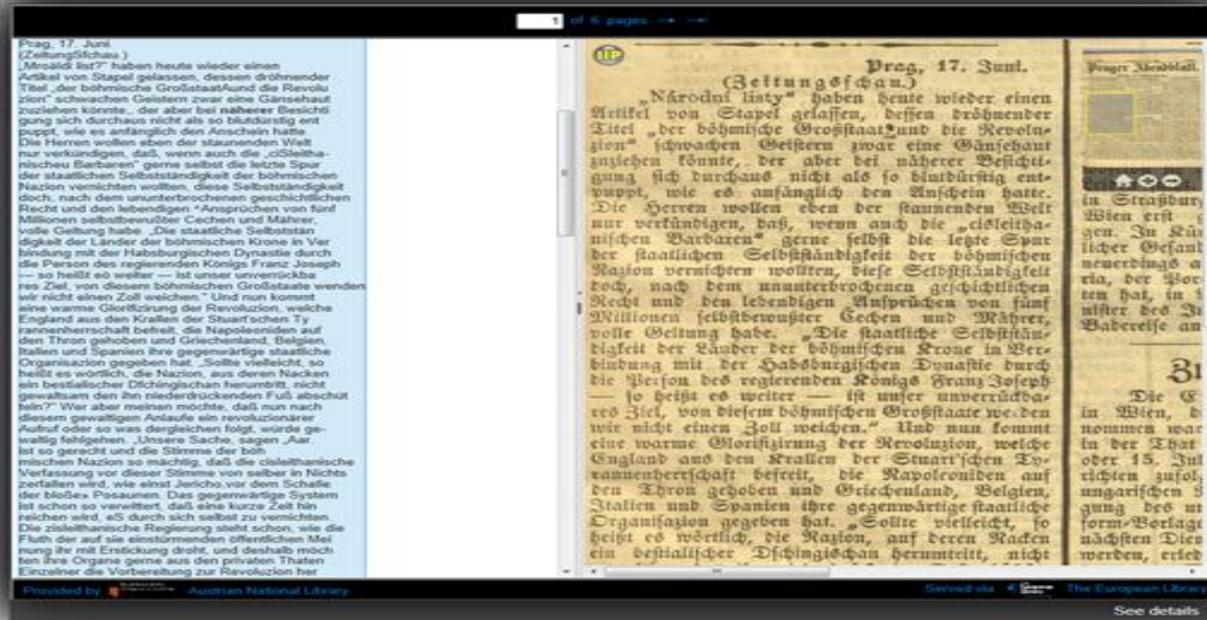
This project is partially funded under the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) as part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme by the European Community  
[http://ec.europa.eu/ict\\_psp](http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp)



# What does it look like ... in TEL?

The screenshot shows the website interface for 'The European Library'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About', 'Membership', 'For Current Partners', 'Log In', and 'English (en)'. A search bar contains the text 'bismarck' and a 'GO' button. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'HOME', 'DISCOVER', and 'ACCESS OUR DATA'. The main content area displays search results for 'bismarck', showing 10 items out of 90,804. The results are listed in a table with columns for 'Everything', 'Newspapers', 'Collections', 'Full text', and 'Remote Search'. The first four results are newspaper articles from 'FIGARO', 'Berliner Tageblatt', 'FIGARO', and 'FIGARO'. To the right, there is a 'REFINE' section with a search bar and a 'GO' button, and a list of contributors including 'Austrian NL', 'Staatsbibliothek', 'Hamburg State Lib.', 'Teßmann Library', 'NL of the Netherl.', 'NL of Latvia', 'NL of Estonia', 'NL of Poland', 'NL of Finland', and 'University of Bel.'. Below the list is a map of Europe with a green dot indicating the location of the contributor.

# What does it look like ... in Europeana?



# What does it look like ... in the Union Catalogue of Serials?

The screenshot shows the ZDB search results for the serial 'Das Vaterland'. The search criteria are 'search [and] ZDB-ID 2778812-X', sorted by 'Title'. The results page displays the following information:

- IDN:** 1054058644
- Title:** Das Vaterland [Elektronische Ressource] : Zeitung für die österreichische Monarchie
- Published:** Wien : Eursch 1860, 1. Sept. - 1875, 31. Dez. : mehr nicht digitalisiert
- Numbering:** Online-Ressource
- Note(s):** Hrg.: Adalbert Ott, später: K. Inthal; Periodizität: tägl.; Bibliogr. Nachweis: Grassauer, F.: Generalkatalog, Wien, 1896; Ungezählte Beil.: Beilage; Digital. Ausg.: Wien : Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, 2014. (European historic newspapers). - Digital. Ausg.: Wien : Österreichische Nationalbibliothek. (ANNO, AustriaN Newspaper Online)
- Related titles:** Druckausg. ---> [Das Vaterland](#); In ---> [European historic newspapers](#); In ---> [ANNO, AustriaN Newspaper Online](#)
- Place of distribution:** Wien
- URL:** <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/newspapers/title/3000052917525> [Digitalisierung. - KOSTENFREI!]; <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/record/3000052917525> [Digitalisierung. - KOSTENFREI!]; <http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?ad=ytj> [Digitalisierung. - KOSTENFREI!]
- Classification:** DDC-Sachgruppen der ZDB: 050 Zeitschriften, fortlaufende Sammelwerke
- Manifestation:** Zeitung
- Publication form:** Zeitung für die allgemeine Öffentlichkeit : Überregionale Zeitung
- ZDB-ID:** 2778812-X

# What about Services?

- Richest service portfolio available at local web pages (if you're lucky)
  - Calendar navigation, search in texts
  - filters to narrow down queries or result sets
  - mark-ups, annotations, links to other information resources, etc.
- Services at TEL
  - Calendar navigation, search in texts
  - Filters for searches: title, date, owning library
  - Filters for results: title, date, owning library, country, language

# What about further Services? – An Example

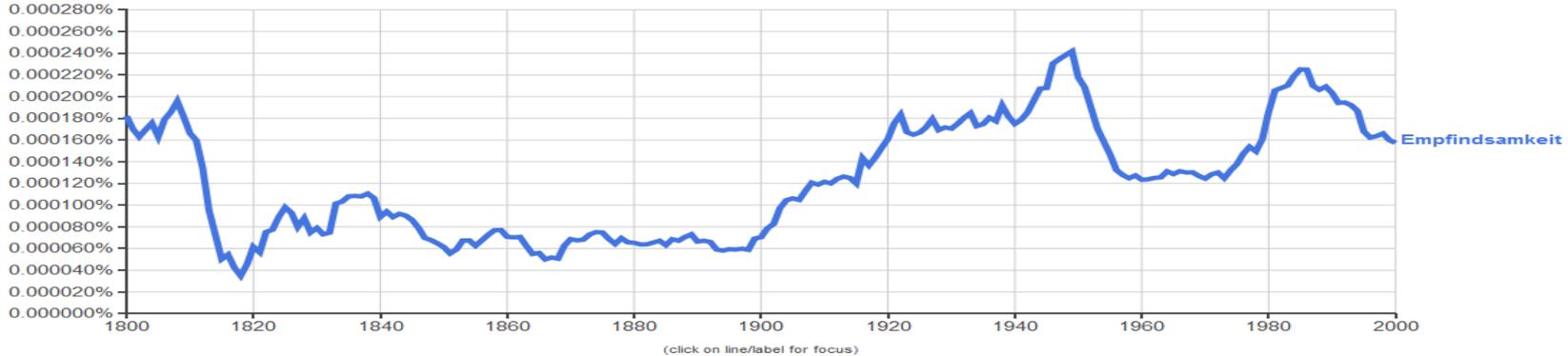
Google books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:   case-insensitive  
between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of

Teilen

Tweet

[Embed Chart](#)



Search in Google Books:

[1800 - 1816](#)

[1817 - 1941](#)

[1942 - 1953](#)

[1954 - 1986](#)

[1987 - 2000](#)

[empfindsamkeit](#)

German

Run your own experiment! Raw data is available for download [here](#).

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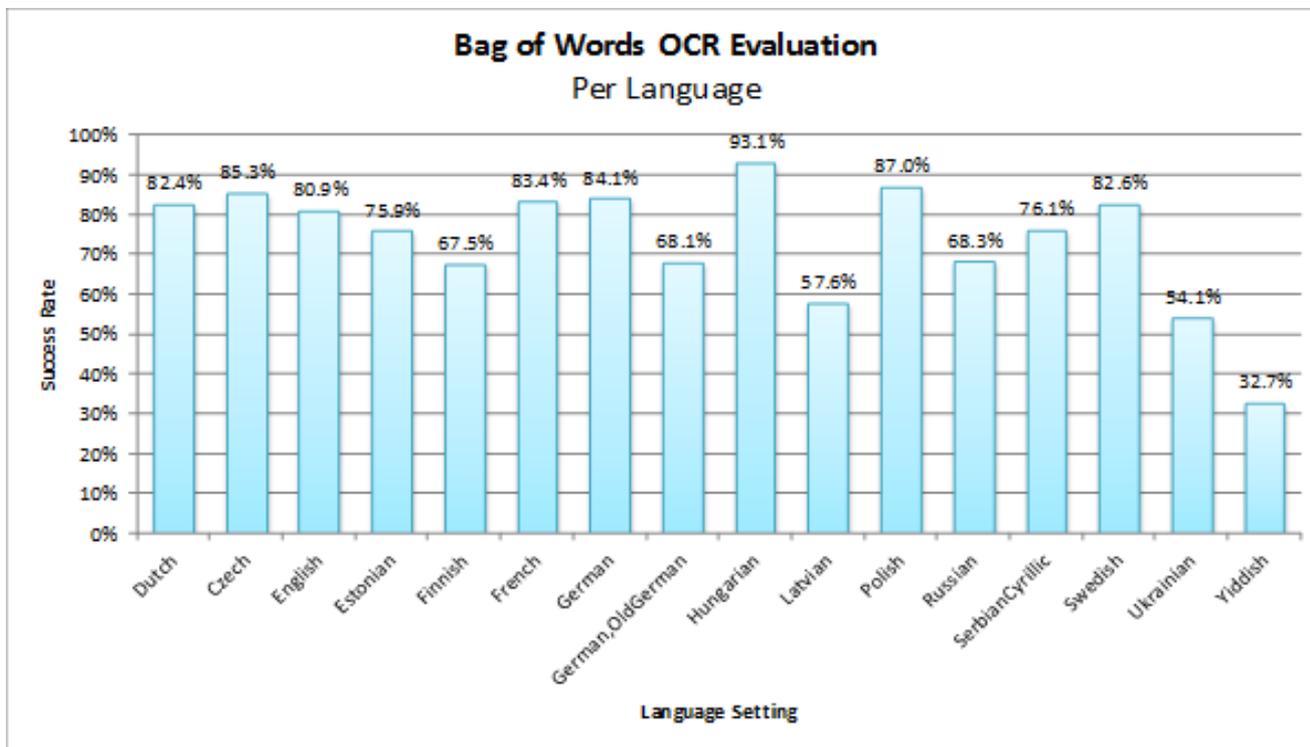
Empfindsamkeit  
(ca. 1720-1800)  
=  
Sentimentalism

# What about further Services?

- Natural language processing
- Text mining
- Visualisations
- Cross-media linking
- Semantic field analysis
- Links to other resources, librarian and non-librarian
- ...
- **LIBERATE YOUR DATA AND LEARN FROM YOUR USERS!**



# Digital Text Corpora: The Inconvenient Truth



# What About Digital Text Corpora?

- Provide possibilities for corrections where data is presented
- Options for improvement
  - Automated corrections (index and page level)
  - Software aided corrections
  - Crowdsourcing
- Challenges: data synchronisation, update intervals, versioning...



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# Thank you for your attention!

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