



UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

Sub-Committee on Education and Research

Newsletter 2017/1 (March)

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Editorial

by Lothar Jordan

A main part of this second Newsletter of the Memory of the World Sub-Committee on Education and Research is dedicated to the emerging network of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres, starting in Macau last November. As Memory of the World is a programme in the UNESCO Communication and Information sector, this network can be seen as a new tool towards Knowledge and Information Societies. It augments the Memory of the World Registers, mainly collecting information on documents inscribed at the national or regional level (or, if we have such a centre at UNESCO HQ one day, at the international level). But the MoW Knowledge Centres are not just specialised little archives or libraries (or parts of libraries). If they develop educational and research activities, they can build bridges to universities and – depending on the specific context – even to schools. And they could work towards achieving synergies with the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Intangible Heritage Programmes.

Building bridges between memory institutions and the academic world is one of our major concerns. The Statement of the German Historical Association in this Newsletter shows how urgent the need is for such bridges to be built. MoW and the new UNESCO 'Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form' encourage digitisation projects to safeguard and to give better access to the documentary heritage, or, to put it another way, to original sources. But what happens if, while we have more and more digitised documents, there are fewer and fewer people in the world that can use or even read these documents? This is a serious problem that has to be discussed by academic and memory institutions.

While heritage is one of the guiding ideas of Memory of the World, it covers a wider span than that. Jonas Palm's article on the necessity to safeguard information on nuclear waste sustainably in our Newsletter 2016 was the first example. In this number Shadrack Katuu and Mpho Ngoepe report on 'Education and Training of Archives and Records Management Professionals in Africa'. Such education and training will not only be helpful for safeguarding documentary heritage, but will be necessary for all kinds of administrations as well. It will help them to be run professionally; that is a basis for good governance.

And finally one point of information: Over the last 18 months the Memory of the World Sub-Committee on Education and Research has won quite a number of new partners as Cooperating Institutions and Corresponding Members. These will be visible in the updated lists on our part of the UNESCO website in May 2017:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/mow/scear_network_institutions_en.pdf;

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/mow/scear_members_en.pdf

Report

Memorandum of Understanding to Create Korean MoW Knowledge Center Signed in Andong

by Joie Springer



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (left to right) Joie Springer, Dr Yong-Doo Lee, Prof Dr Lothar Jordan, Prof Papa Momar Diop, and Dr Vu Thi

Within the context of an international conference commemorating the 1st anniversary of the inscription of the Confucian Printing Woodblocks on the Memory of the World international register, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for the creation of the Korean Memory of the World Knowledge Center (KMoWKC).

Dr Yong-Doo Lee, President of the Advanced Center for Korean Studies (ACKS) in Andong, Republic of Korea, and Prof Dr Lothar Jordan, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Education and Research, signed the MoU in the presence of international and local experts, speakers and ACKS staff. The signing was preceded by an opening ceremony and tour of the permanent exhibition hall where the woodblocks are displayed, and guests also had an opportunity to view the skills of various artisans in operation.

Over time, KMoWKC will be part of a network which is tasked with the collection of significant material, on all media, on MoW, including the way the Programme functions, its actions and responsibilities, its registers, projects, and history. The objective is to provide a framework for research and, ultimately, to serve as a repository of best-practice examples of preserving, restoring, digitizing and mediating the most significant documents to humanity. This would enable researchers, no matter what their location, to have access to documents in support of their work.

Emphasis will be given to ensuring, as far as possible, comprehensiveness of material relating to MoW in the Republic of Korea, and especially those documents listed on the international and the Asia-Pacific regional register.

To achieve its goals, the KMoWKC will be run in cooperation with the Memory of the World secretariat and, in particular, with SCEaR. It will be managed by an Advisory Committee of national and international experts, and will also develop operating guidelines in cooperation with SCEaR. KMoWKC is planned to be opened in 2018.

Among the anticipated activities is the organization of events involving universities, memory institutions (archives, libraries, museums), schools, representatives of politics and the economy, the general public, and the media, including, but not limited to, those related to other UNESCO heritage programmes (World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Intangible Heritage, etc).

By showcasing the range of activities which are part of UNESCO's mandate, KMoWKC, in common with the other centres to be created around the world, will encourage researchers, teachers, students and pupils of all ages to become more familiar with the scope of what UNESCO does and has achieved. Access to the material collected will strengthen the basis of gaining knowledge and improving information literacy; the ability to assess information and use it purposefully. Contextualization of items listed on MoW registers can also serve to ensure deeper understanding of how the past continues to affect the present.

It is therefore essential to solicit the cooperation of professional associations that are also active in the area of documentary heritage and its preservation, as well as those in academia. These combined efforts would attract a broader spectrum of people to use the different Knowledge Centres.

A number of activities have already been initiated within the MoW Programme as part of long-term goals intended to develop academic courses and modules for incorporation into existing curricula of institutions of higher learning and secondary schools. The preservation of digital documents in particular, and awareness of the issues affecting our digital memories, need particular attention. All areas of society today are increasingly recorded on digital media —whether it is education, health, national security or more personal and social interactions. Unstructured data which is stored in the cloud ranges from some frankly insignificant tweets, to important records of aspects of human behaviour which could disappear forever. KMoWKC and other centres can be effective advocates in making the public more aware of the very real risk of digital amnesia that can affect us all.

Consequently, Knowledge Centres have the potential to be the most effective tools for implementing the MoW Programme. By raising awareness of the need to preserve and protect documentary heritage, and providing the means for greater education and research, they are worthy contributors to the objectives of the Programme.

Joie Springer is a consultant on documentary heritage issues. Previously the manager of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, she maintains close ties as a member of the Register Sub-committee of the IAC, a Corresponding Member of the SCEaR, and regularly undertakes activities promoting the Programme.

Report

New Ship in MoW Fleet Launched in Macau: The First Memory of the World Knowledge Centre

by Roslyn Russell

On 21 November 2016 members of the Memory of the World International Advisory Committee (IAC), and Chairs and members of the Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR), Register Sub-Committee (RSC), and the Sub-Committee on Technology (SCoT) gathered to launch the newest feature of the MoW Programme – the first MoW Knowledge Centre in the world. This was steered to this point by Dr Helen Ieong of the Macau Documentation and Information Society, and SCEaR Chair Prof Dr Lothar Jordan, with the support of the Macau Foundation and the City University of Macau.

The opening ceremony

The MoW delegates – Prof Dr Lothar Jordan, Prof Papa Momar Diop, Dr Helen Jarvis, Dianne Macaskill, Prof Vitor Fonseca, Jonas Palm, Jan Bos, Dr Rujaya Abhakorn, and Dr Roslyn Russell – met with City University of Macau, Macau Foundation, Macau Documentation and Information Society (MDIS) representatives and academic colleagues in the Library of the City University of Macau, where the new MoW Knowledge Centre occupies a prominent position.

The audience at the opening ceremony heard speeches by Professor Shu Guang Zhang, Rector of the City University of Macau, Dr Chon Chit Tang, President of Macau Documentation and Information Society, Prof Papa Momar Diop, Vice-Chair, IAC, and Lothar Jordan. Prof Shu Guang Zhang said that the City University of Macau was celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2016, and the opening of the MoW Knowledge Centre was a fitting present to mark the occasion.



Dr Helen H. K. Ieong,
Chair of the Board of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau

Lothar Jordan said that this may be seen in the future as a great day for MoW. Dr Helen Ieong has taken a pioneering role in establishing this first Knowledge Centre in MoW, with the Macau Memory project as a pilot for Education and Research. The City University of Macau took a pivotal role, and the University of Macau and Tong Nam School also contributed to demonstrating how MoW could interact with the education sector. The recent Recommendation on the Memory of the World programme reinforces the programme's goals of preservation of and access to documentary heritage – its preamble is based on relaying knowledge.

MoW is a flagship programme of UNESCO – and the new ship of the MoW fleet has now been launched. Prof Jordan announced that "a sister vessel is on the building dock already in a nearby country". A memorandum of understanding was signed recently to create a Korean MoW Knowledge Center with the Advanced Center of Korean Studies in Andong (see report by Joie Springer in this issue).

The speeches were followed by a lighting ceremony. Representatives of the City University of Macau, the Macau Foundation and MoW lined up with iPads (tablets) and on a count of 3, all slid them open, and an LED display appeared on the entry panel above. This was followed by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by representatives of the MoW Programme and representatives of Macau. Then a key was presented to Centre Director Dr Helen Ieong by Lothar Jordan and Rector Shu Guang Zhang. Dr Ieong then gave a brief introduction to the Knowledge Centre. She hopes that all MoW committees and sub-committees will send their publications to the Knowledge Centre, to further spread knowledge of MoW.



The lighting ceremony to open the Macau MoW Knowledge Centre



MoW delegates and Prof Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros after the opening ceremony

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City University of Macau



Macau Documentation and
Information Society

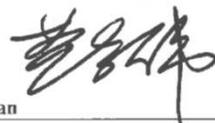


MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The following parties agree to cooperate in the establishment and development of the
Memory of the World Knowledge Centre--Macau



according to the attached Concept:

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme	Macau
For the International Advisory Committee (IAC): [Signature]  Prof. Papa Momar Diop Vice-Chair	For the City University of Macau: [Signature]  Prof. Shu Guang ZHANG Rector
For the Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR): [Signature]  Prof. Dr. Lothar Jordan Vice-Chair of IAC, and Chair SCEaR	For the Macau Documentation and Information Society: [Signature]  Dr. Chon Chit TANG President
For the Sub-Committee on Technology: [Signature]  Mr. Jonas Palm Chair	For the City University of Macau Library: [Signature]  Mr. Jin Wei YAN University Librarian
For the Register Sub-Committee: [Signature]  Mr. Jan Bos Chair	
For the MOWCAP: [Signature]  Mr. Ming Hua LI Chair	

Macau, on the day of the opening of the Centre, 21 November 2016

ATTACHMENT:

UNESCO
Memory of the World Programme



City University of Macau



Macau Documentation and
Information Society



UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (MoW),
Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR)
and

City University of Macau Library / Macau Documentation and Information Society

Memory of the World Knowledge Centre -- Macau

Concept

I. Preliminary Considerations

1. In its 11th meeting, 18-20 June 2013 (Gwangju Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea), the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the MoW Programme, in agreement with the UNESCO Secretariat and following the Director General's Action Plan (191 EX/11, part 1, objective 2), had approved the SCEaR's recommendation to explore the possibilities of creating a "Memory of the World Knowledge Centre" at UNESCO, Paris, and in its 12th meeting, 4-6 October 2015 (Abu Dhabi, UAE) the IAC had approved the SCEaR "Work Report 2013-2015", including its proposal to create "A System of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres" on all three MoW levels: international, regional, and national.
2. The task of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centres will be to collect all material of importance (printed, digital, and other) on MoW, its tasks, registers, projects, and history to provide a basis for research and a repository of best-practice examples of preserving, restoring, digitizing, mediating documents of all kinds. As MoW grows successfully, gets more and more attention from different sides, including the scientific and educational community, more and more relevant materials come out. But, as they are spread around the world, these materials are not easy to access to for those who want to use it in a wider, global or comparative perspective, or are looking for best-practice examples of education and training.
3. The range of the material collected by the centres should relate to their scale (international, regional, national).
4. The MoW Knowledge Centres should not only collect material and give access to it for purposes of research, education and training, but, together with the Secretariat and the respective bodies of MoW, especially the IAC and the SCEaR, and, if possible, in cooperation with other institutions, like NGOs from the field of heritage and preservation and from the academic world, furthermore with institutions of research and education (universities etc.), should play an active role in promoting its use, attracting users (researchers, but as well students working on a Master or PhD thesis) to come to the MoW Knowledge Centres. That should include school teachers and school students (about age 6-18). Furthermore it could be a place to make visible: achievements and needs, best-practice examples and innovative projects for an interested audience by an annual series of events (lectures, presentations, panels, etc.).
5. The MoW Knowledge Centres could be good instruments, too, to look for and to promote synergies with the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WCH) and Intangible Heritage (ICH) programmes.

UNESCO
Memory of the World Programme



City University of Macau



Macau Documentation and
Information Society



II. Definition and Mission

The **Memory of the World Knowledge Centre--Macau** joins the functions of a physical and virtual archive and library and of an institution for research, education, encounter, and exchange related to MoW and its tasks.

Its mission is:

1. To support the UNESCO MoW programme, in particular in the field of education and research, by collecting a) in a good choice all basic material (printed, digital, and other, like Guidelines, books, pamphlets, etc.) on MoW, its tasks, registers, projects, and history, b) in more completeness all material of MacauMoW projects, especially of Macaudouments or collections that are inscribed into one of the Registers of MoW;
2. to provide and facilitate access, both physically and digitally, to this material, in the long run helping to develop an effective MoW bibliographic database;
3. to help organize events (seminars, conferences, thematic debates, book and website launches, etc.) in the context of MoW's tasks, cooperating especially with NGOs and personalities from the academic world and from the field of memory institutions (archives, libraries, and museums);
4. thus to provide a basis that can be a partner for worldwide research and a repository of best-practice examples of preserving, restoring, digitizing, or mediating documents of all kinds;
5. to put special emphasis to foster education on the documentary heritage for school children (age 6-18) and their teachers, and help to develop educational materials that are of use in Macau schools, and material on the Macau documentary heritage that could be used in schools over the world;
6. by its collections and works to provide a solid ground for exploring synergies with the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WCH) and Intangible Heritage (ICH) programmes, if possible, giving good examples for the world.

III. Responsibilities and Modalities of Work

1. The **Memory of the World Knowledge Centre--Macau** (MoWKC Macau) will be carried by the **City University of Macau Library and the Macau Documentation and Information Society**. These provide a Board, a Director and staff, and control of management.
2. The MoWKC Macau will be situated in the City University of Macau Library.
3. The MoWKC Macau will be run in cooperation with UNESCO MoW, especially its SCEaR, other Sub-Committees, and MOWCAP, but as well the MoW International Advisory Committee (IAC), and the MoW Secretariat (UNESCO, Paris).
4. For this purpose the MoWKC Macau will install an Advisory Committee of international experts, among them representatives of its MoW partners, that can give advice to the Centre.
5. The MoWKC Macau will develop "Guidelines" for its work, in cooperation with the MoWSCEaR, and other partners.
6. Events (see: 2. Definition and Mission, 3.) at the MoWKC Macau should bring together:
 - a) Universities, memory institutions (archives, libraries, museums), schools, representatives of politics and economy, the general public, and the media;

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- b) MoW and other UNESCO programmes (World Cultural and Natural Heritage; Intangible Heritage).
7. Researchers and teachers, students and school pupils should become inspired to use the MoWKC Macau - thus also becoming more sensitive towards UNESCO and its tasks. A special scholarship programme (Ph D, Master, etc.) would attract young researchers to use the physical Centre.

IV. Board and its ex officio members

The Centre is steered by a Board that consists of three ex officio members (below 1.-3.), provided by the institutions that carry it, and of other members.

1. The Director of the Executive Board of the Macau Documentation and Information Society (or representative of the MDIS) will be the Chair of the Board, who will be responsible for local and international development, coordination and cooperation.
2. The Librarian of the City University of Macau will be appointed as the Administrative Officer of the Board, who will be responsible for the management and activities of the Centre,
3. The Director of the General Affairs Office of the City University of Macau will be appointed as the General-Secretary, who will be responsible for administration affairs, and giving advices about the university's rules and regulations.

Forum of Macau and UNESCO Memory of the World Programme – ‘Access to knowledge via access to archival material and documents’

The forum, held after the opening of the Knowledge Centre, explored a number of issues: the relationship between Macau and MoW Studies; Macau’s activities relating to MoW; the further development of MoW Knowledge Centres, and the possibility of establishing training courses or a degree programme on MoW for the local and Asia-Pacific region. The Forum was introduced by Lothar Jordan who spoke about the importance of preservation of and access to documentary heritage.

Prof Aliana Leong, Vice-Chair of University Council, City University of Macau, said that Macau’s history is richly documented – it is a place where east and west meet. Professor Shu Guang Zhang, Rector of City University of Macau, spoke about the UNESCO Memory conventions beginning with World Heritage in 1972, and the Chinese saying, ‘You don’t know what people are thinking about you’. Research should move out of the traditional box. He mentioned Marshall McLuhan's slogan, ‘the medium is the message’, the emergence of new forms of documentation, and the need to incorporate other disciplinary areas. Lothar Jordan spoke about new opportunities for building bridges to universities: "we are in a library in a university and talking about archival collections."

A general discussion followed about how UNESCO deals with different views of history. It is not UNESCO’s or MoW’s job to determine historical judgements – the Programme aims to preserve and make documents accessible. It is particularly important that the documents inscribed in MoW registers are authentic.

Prof Vitor Fonseca then gave a presentation on 'MOWLAC and MoW Brazil: evolution and challenges'. MOWLAC covers two large cultural regions – Spanish and Anglo-Saxon. There are 19 national committees but not all are active. Each MOWLAC member has a 4-year term, non-renewable, with Mexico and Brazil always represented with two members each, and 5 from other countries. Mexico, Chile and Brazil dominate the MOWLAC register, and most of the inscriptions are of archival collections. Prof Fonseca spoke about the possibility of joint nominations between Brazil and Macau; for example documentation relating to tea plantation labourers who went from Macau to Brazil. SCoT Chair Jonas Palm spoke about preservation and access, including technology to preserve originals. Acid paper constitutes a third of all records. Digital records are expensive to preserve – many people think that everything is digitised, but only 3 percent of the Swedish Library photo collection is digitised, for example.

Prof Papa Momar Diop gave the context of documentary heritage in West Africa where there is interaction between Memory of the World and the Intangible Cultural Heritage convention. He spoke of the ‘griot’, whose role was to transmit collective memory from father to son. Students at his university collect traditions from griots on tape.

Professor Beatriz Puente-Ballasteros of the Department of History, University of Macau, described the development of global microhistories relating to the medical activities of missionaries in China; and the introduction of chocolate into the Middle Kingdom as both medicine and commodity. She conducts source analysis courses,

beginning with the sources. This has resulted in an exhibition – *Sources, Voices and Histories* – that explores the notion of the *Wunderkammer* of representative examples arising from research (opened on 6 March).



Prof Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros speaking at the forum

The forum provided much food for thought on the potential of the MoW programme, MoW Knowledge Centres, and collaboration with the academic world.

Dr Roslyn Russell is a historian and museum curator and Rapporteur for SCEaR. She is a former Chair of both the Register Sub-committee and International Advisory Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, and currently Chair of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Committee.

Report

Promoting Education and Research for the Memory of the World Programme in Suzhou

by Helen H.K. Jeong

A "Seminar on UNESCO Memory of the World Program & The Development of Archives Work", hosted by the State Archives Bureau of the People's Republic of China and organized by the Suzhou Municipal Archives Bureau was held in Suzhou on 22-26 November 2016. Its purpose was to explore the Memory of the World Programme and to promote research and education. The hosts invited representatives of MoW as a follow-up to the opening ceremony of the MoW Knowledge Centre--Macau and other activities in Macau (see reports by Roslyn Russell in this Newsletter).

The seminar was held in Suzhou Convention Center, and was attended by Mr. Li Minghua, Director of the State Archives Bureau and Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee of MoW (MOWCAP), Mr. Qufu Tian, the Deputy Secretary of Suzhou Municipal Committee and Mayor of Suzhou, Mr. Xie Bo, Director of Jiangsu Provincial Archives Bureau. Guests from UNESCO MoW were Prof. Lothar Jordan, Vice-Chair of International Advisory Committee (IAC) and Chair of Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR), Prof. Papa Momar Diop, Vice-Chair of IAC, IAC members Prof. Vitor Fonseca, and Ms. Dianne Macaskill, Mr. Jonas Palm, the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Technology, and Dr. Helen H.K. Jeong from the Macau Foundation. The President of China Silk Association Mr. Yang Yongyuan, Suzhou Municipal Archives Bureau (Museum), Mr. Xiao Peng, etc., as well as experts from China, attended, and there were all in all 50 participants.



Experts from different parts of the world discussed and exchanged opinions on the management of historical heritage, the preservation of cultural relics, different memory

projects, the characteristics of silk archives and so on, with particular emphasis on the significance of social memory and the importance of research and education.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr. Li Minghua said that the Chinese government pays considerable attention to documentary heritage and memory projects, no matter whether they are in the past, present, or future; and will commit to working with communities and the general public in this area. He stressed that memory is the guardian of history for future generations.



Discussions in the seminar

Since Macau has established the first MoW Knowledge Centre (in the City University of Macau), with the purpose of promoting the MoW in Macau and the neighbouring regions, and fostering training and education, research and development, its experiences have also encouraged further discussion. The discussions in Suzhou encouraged plans to establish two Chinese MoW Knowledge Centres, one in Beijing, and the other in Suzhou.

Helen H.K. Ieong is Director of the Executive Board of the Documentation and Information Society, and Chair of the Board of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau.

Discussion

Source Criticism in the Digital Age: The Auxiliary Sciences of History as Central Expertise of History and Neighbouring Disciplines

A Statement by Eva Schlotheuber and Frank Bösch
on behalf of the German Historical Association

The following Statement of the German Historical Association (VHD) expresses concerns about the diminishing expertise among German university historians for the professional use of sources, be it medieval or digital ones. Thus the understanding of the cultural heritage, here the documentary heritage, and its transmission to the younger generation and to the public sphere are endangered. As this is not just a national problem, but true for a lot of countries, we print a translation (by Bill Martin) of this Statement to stimulate an international discussion. Perhaps the Memory of the World Programme could be one of the coordinators of endeavours to improve the situation.

The ability to decipher written and visual primary sources and render them useful for scholarly research is the foundation of all historically oriented disciplines – not only history, but the study of languages and literatures, philosophy, theology, art history and legal history as well. **Competence in source criticism, i.e. the skills needed to independently examine and scientifically appraise the transmission of a primary source from the past, is what distinguishes having an interest in history from real scholarship.**

Pre-Modern Sources

Skills such as paleography, codicology, epigraphy, diplomatics, numismatics, heraldry and sigillography are known as the auxiliary sciences of history, training in which is at risk of vanishing altogether from the map of German higher education. Between 1997 and 2011 the field lost fully a third of its professorships. This situation has been aggravated by a parallel decline in opportunities for studying Middle Latin, which traditionally involves training in paleography, codicology and library history.

These areas of knowledge and expertise are in decline not only among students but also among teachers, so much so that we are fast losing the ability to independently examine and assess the cultural record of the past. Even now, courses in reading and classifying antique inscriptions and papyri as well as manuscripts and documents from the medieval and early modern periods – even from the early twentieth century – are no longer available at most universities. Only a few universities now offer a regular curriculum in the auxiliary sciences of history – a discipline that was once one of the most internationally respected fields of German scholarship, attracting countless foreign researchers to German institutions with its extraordinary reputation. It was here that the production of the large-scale primary source editions (Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Inscriptiones Graecae, Monumenta Germaniae Historica) saw the rise of classical and digital editing techniques and source-critical methodologies that soon became the model

internationally. In those places where they were able to take root and be passed on to new generations of scholars, these practices continue to raise the bar today. Similarly, standards achieved in Germany for examining medieval and early modern manuscripts are seen around the world as exemplary thanks to decades of support from the DFG [German Research Association]. In this way, significant corpuses of sources have been systematically made accessible for further exploration – a deposit that clearly requires new generations of trained scholars to mine it.



Livy, Paris, Saint-Genevi: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Livy, Paris, Sainte-Genevi%C3%A8ve, Ms. 777.jpg?uselang=de](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Livy,_Paris,_Sainte-Genevi%C3%A8ve,_Ms._777.jpg?uselang=de)

An illumination in a manuscript of Livy, *Ab urbe condita* (ca. 1370), in the French translation of Pierre Bersuire. The manuscript belonged to king Charles V of France. The illumination shows mythical scenes concerning the foundation of Rome and previous mythical history. Paris, Bibliothèque Sainte-Genève, Ms. 777, fol. 7r.

Modern and Contemporary Sources

Above and beyond making pre-modern sources accessible, extensive knowledge of media criticism and source criticism is equally important for addressing the new challenges accompanying historical scholarship.

First, the statistical quantification of society and the rise of the social sciences has led historians to work increasingly with the results of complex collections of data without understanding how they came about. In order to avoid taking on this information naively, knowledge about relevant collection techniques is necessary.

Second, visual, aural and audiovisual sources play a prominent role in the history of the twentieth century, without historians necessarily being adequately prepared to analyze them. Even digital large-scale sources such as newspapers or social media present new methodological challenges. **Training in fundamental techniques for analyzing media is therefore indispensable for the historical auxiliary sciences.**

Third, history is no longer so strictly focused on the nation. The increasing global orientation of the field requires the source analysis of documents that do not conform to classical formats. Specific methods of historical research, such as oral history, have taken on new significance for the interpretation of globally circulating digital evidence, as have skills in investigating intercultural communication.

What Happens When Auxiliary Expertise is Missing

As it happens in other countries too, in Germany the DFG is currently setting up a project in collaboration with libraries and archives to systematically digitize open access historical sources. Rolled out in two pilot phases, the project will involve a considerable financial commitment. A significant portion of funding allocated for historical research and specialist information systems will be invested in digitization ventures and modern management systems for digital content. This is, in principle, quite welcome and promises to benefit German historical science, which is unusually well prepared for the challenges of the digital age. **But this significant investment will be lost to science and its potential remain untapped if the academic community continues to lose the skills needed to mine this immense and increasingly accessible cultural inheritance and render it useful for scholarship.** Instead, it should be flanked by an endeavor to establish the auxiliary sciences in all history departments so that instruction can be provided not only in working with historical sources but, as well, in Digital Humanities. The same goes for archivally based philology and other historically oriented fields whose specific approaches to cultural inheritance can only be reproduced through academic training.

Institutions of higher learning have not sufficiently acknowledged this double dilemma: on the one hand, the knowledge we are losing now will be very difficult to resuscitate at the university level later; on the other hand, we are failing to teach skills that are up to the digital challenges facing our discipline. Both are necessary today, and they meet with considerable interest from students and junior academics. The