

**The Bavarian State Library  
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**

**Dr. Claudia Fabian (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek)  
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*Slide 1*

German Resources Project

History at the Bavarian State Library

It seems a challenge to focus on "History" in presenting the collections, traditions and current activities of the Bavarian State Library, choosing as a viewpoint possibilities of cooperation and resource sharing with libraries on your side of the Atlantic Ocean.

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In the context of the famous collection development strategies, a shared acquisition responsibility among German research libraries, designed, coordinated and financially supported by the German Research Society, the BSB has been indeed since 1949 responsible for

History (in general)

Prehistory and Early History

Classical Antiquity including Old history as well as Middle and New Latin Philology

Byzantium

History of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, France and Italy

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In 1998 the modern collection in the focus point "history" was estimated as comprising 690.000 books and 19.300 periodicals, among them 4.300 current titles. The annual growth of this part of the collection is round about 14.000 volumes.

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According to these figures, History constitutes 10 percent of the library's entire collection which is estimated at 7,5 million books. The BSB is also responsible for other collection focus points, especially East Europe and Music, but I will not develop on that, although aspects of our East European responsibility also cover history.

To see "history" only in the light of the DFG-collection development plan and with figures for post-war-holdings would be too narrow an approach.

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History is an underlying principle throughout the collections of the library, rich in manuscripts, incunabula and early printing. The library is also responsible and financially supported for further developing this early book collection as a national center for 15th and 16th century books. The carefully developed post-war-holdings on history are firmly rooted in the history of this library which since its early beginnings in 1558 has had a focus on history due to the contents of the collections which constituted the nucleus of the library at its foundation and the additional vast influx of books at the time of the secularization in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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The BSB also serves as a regional library which in keeping with the federative structure of Germany entails its overall collecting responsibility for all kinds of Bavarian literature. Since 1663 the library has received legal deposit of all books printed in Bavaria (and Munich still considers itself as second placed editing town after New York City). This includes "minor" works of only local or regional interest and scope. We all know that "minor" in history may promise future value as a "primary source". Last but not least "Bavarica" of any provenance are a special concern, with emphasis again on history, and Literature as well. This translates among others into the Bavarian bibliography accessible online throughout the world.

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The library has always been proud of its rich heritage in collection which is reflected in its concern not only for further collection development but also for adequate description - that is, cataloguing - of all holdings as a prerequisite to make them known and fruitful. I prefer to spare you our pioneering historical catalogues, which are interesting as in very early times a first verbal subject catalogue and several systematic catalogues were developed and partly are still in use for early prints - the current activities of the library center in providing "digital library access" to the whole collection. Machine readable cataloguing, including extensive subject cataloguing, does not only describe the whole modern and continuously growing collection, and history at the core. A special concern has always been the conversion of the old catalogues and thus the old and historic parts of the library holdings.

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Very soon the library decided to present its collection in the larger context of other collections on a basis going from regional to national and international information tools.

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A complete overview of our machine readable catalogue accesses can be found on our homepage, but you should note that our holdings from 1501-1840 are completely converted in

machine readable form and accessible through our OPAC even from this part of the Atlantic together with books from 1953 till today. A more comfortable Z 39.50 interface is expected to be in place in August this year. The holdings from 1501 to 1840 are also available on a special CD-ROM providing more sophisticated access points, and through the Bavarian regional catalogue.

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They are also part of the Hand Press Book database of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) which lies with RLG - thus underlining the policy of the library to make its resources known and used in worldwide access. Our local OPAC since last year has been enriched with records for the holdings from 1953 to 1981 which have been retroconverted from a digital image catalogue which is still linked to the records.

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I could dwell for quite some time on the library's bibliographic activities, also concerned with the historic parts of the collection and the overall history of printing: on the bibliography of German imprints of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century (*Slide 11*), on creating authority files for persons of antiquity, the Middle Ages and from 1501 until the mid- 19<sup>th</sup> century (*Slide 12*), but I would invite you to contact me later to discuss any sharing or reuse in these resources, which I would greatly welcome. I know that first initiatives from the United States have been undertaken by the Digital Scriptorium project as well as by contributing holdings to our bibliographic file of German imprints of 16th century (e.g. Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis)

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As all libraries today we are forced to concentrate our activities on our strong points evaluating them under the demands of strategic plans. Not surprisingly, we focus on history when it comes to digitizing documents. Through our homepage you can see this digital collection cared for by the Münchener Digitalisierungszentrum grow. It relies on the paper collection but aims at providing up-to-date access to the digitized documents.

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In this digital world all is about cooperation and resource sharing as secondary digitization of prints in itself is only meaningful in the context of general access and world-wide research, and let us hope one day also of preservation. The exemple shown on the slide is taken from the incunabula illustration project.

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The BSB intends to participate in the retrospective digitization of ten "classical" German history periodicals, in the context of a German JSTOR initiative. The technical problems of this initiative are settled, what remains to be solved are the legal copyright problems, not easily tackled and where cooperation of libraries and shared concern are vital. We also see us as partners in the Cultural Material Alliance. Our digitization of incunabula illustrations points into

this direction, as well as plans for broadsheet digitization. Contemporary history could be illustrated by digitizing the famous photoarchive Hoffmann containing IIIrd Reich's photographs.

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Digital publications with remote access, especially periodicals, in our focus-point areas like history, are objects of particular concern in current "collection" development and supported by a long-term preservation project. As for traditional documents, the access must be in principal free of charge and opened for everybody - not only the local user - and assured for ever. Policies of access (licenses) and preservation in continuing the tasks as a general focus point on history are examined and put into practice by a project team in the library.

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The DFG requires us to offer "holdings" in the focus points on a nationwide scale. For E-Journals and documents originally stored on data carriers, but available on a server in the local library net, new legal and technical issues arise. Thorny licensing issues have to be tackled. Joint effort of libraries is necessary to overcome these obstacles. The BSB now reached a point where document delivery - printing electronic documents on paper - against a cost for each article is allowed on a national level. That is a start.

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Maybe it is in describing the electronic publications that cooperation works best. Libraries still can add value to these publications and their metadata in integrating them into the context of their reference systems. As these documents are accessible everywhere, description should be done once for all. We see this easily understandable principle taken up by the CORC project. In the BSB, we catalogue the electronic journals in the national periodical database (Zeitschriftendatenbank - ZDB) from which all German libraries can derive the record, and we integrate them into a special database for electronic journals which provides specialized information on these forms of publication and allows for the financial and legal administration of access.

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The digital library is not only built by primary or secondary digital documents, but mainly consists of large amounts of digital metadata - cataloguing records - to use the old-fashioned word.

Their value increases and changes in a growing digital world. They are supplemented by metadata information pointing directly to the electronic object. New information access which we call "gateway" is opened. Book-marks, link lists etc. may grow beside a catalogue, but - be aware of it! - like a catalogue. Our digital metadata have an important role to play in this information world, as they point to documents which still make the memory of mankind, of

research and progress and are not yet supplemented by any other information tool. At least that is and will be true for subjects like history.

Selected records can go into the growing subject specific gateway world, and have a major role to play there. The BSB participates in university and research projects like a Server for Early Modern History, contributing records for history fully catalogued with extensive subject headings and structured according to the subject access of the server. A joint project with among others the University of Michigan integrating one of the central research areas of this server, witchcraft, into a geographic information system on witches persecution, shows how this joint library and research development continues on an international scale. The BSB has also been approached for participation in Gnomon, a bibliography for classical antiquity, where again records for one of our focus points of acquisition would be of particular value.

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Reuse of records for research purposes adds value to the work of the library and modifies this work. Detailed subject access (already necessary for intelligent selection of records) becomes more and more important. A transparency of information must be achieved, a mutual enrichment linking libraries and research activities and this can be done in the digital environment without any national or geographic boundary. Internationally agreed systematic access for adequate selection of records and presentation in subject specific gateways and for the further development of user-specific alerting systems is as important as the integration of more detailed information like abstracts, table of contents, information about articles.

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Even the best record is not the document itself and documents make our richness. Sharing metadata, sharing electronic resources re-opens our minds for sharing in document delivery without what the modern development in library policy from holding to access would not work. In the "global village" access is not only for local users and in a policy like the one of the DFG collection development plan we have learnt this since long. Systems of document delivery and inter-library-loan exist and can be further developed and used. Again digitization is a means of providing easy and quick access even to documents which would never travel. Document delivery may be a one-way-system easily abused for commercial purposes. In research policy it must be supplemented and may become meaningful by a reliable coordination in collection development and holding policies among partner libraries. Having been forced to cancel periodicals the BSB can do that with a better conscience and without losing efficiency for the user if supported by document delivery agreements with libraries which still hold the periodicals in question. Such agreements link us to other libraries in Bavaria and Germany, but also to the British Library and we will participate in RLG's shares programme. A Z 39.50 interface which allows virtually everybody to easily consult our local catalogue and from there connect into the circulation system and learn about the availability of the document will be in place in August. Aspects of fees, time and mutuality can be overcome in a trustful cooperation among libraries, which has already a long tradition in library history.

The intellectual sharing of knowledge and factual sharing of resources, traditional and modern riches, will constitute our library work in the future. Thus our responsibility will go far beyond our own institution and its "selfish" interests, and that will be a major change in library history, which is going to cover and modify all our traditional activities.