

Designing Distant Views for Cultural Collections

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Even if places of preservation are not generally known to be early adopters: The digitization of cultural heritage objects and information is happening since quite a while and has worked its way into museums, archives and other cultural collections. Those interested in cultural-historical questions can benefit from these developments by utilizing novel access and viewing techniques for the experience, analysis and communication of cultural information.

The presentation takes a look at the recent history of visualization-based interfaces to cultural collections which support activities of “distant reading” or “distant viewing”. While traditional, pre-digital overview techniques (such as collection catalogs, site plans, advance organizers) support visitors to cultural collections with mostly print-based and static overviews, web-based interfaces to digitized cultural collections allow for multiple types of access, to augment and support the observation, interpretation, and exploration activities of various user groups in an interactive and scalable fashion (Windhager et al., 2018).

What has proven to be essential for the development of such novel interfaces is a participative approach to their design. Methods of data visualization and web design have been standardized in recent years, but no out of the box-tool or visualization script can do justice to the collection and context-aware representation of cultural-historical riches. To that end, the talk will make the case for transdisciplinary processes of co-design, and for the contextualization of individual objects and collections in the growing widths of cultural-historical knowledge graphs (<https://intavia.eu>).

Conflict of Interests Disclosure

No Conflict of Interests to disclose.

References

Windhager, F., Federico, P., Schreder, G., Glinka, K., Dörk, M., Miksch, S., & Mayr, E. (2018). Visualization of Cultural Heritage Collection Data: State of the Art and Future Challenges. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*. DOI: 10.1109/TVCG.2018.2830759