A journey through Salzburg's past. Developing a digital showroom for a regional museum association

Eva MAYR, University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria

The association of Salzburg's museums and collections brings together 99 regional museums – with different collections, structures, and sizes. Already early on, the association created a shared collection database for all museums, which went online in 2010 with a small selection of objects. Ten years later, the pandemic increased the need to develop a more accessible, modern interface to the collection. As a possible solution, collection visualizations can provide intuitive, multi-facetted overviews on cultural object collections (Windhager et al., 2018).

In this presentation, we discuss the development of the digital showroom https://salzburgerregionalmuseen.at/ (Mayr, Windhager, Smuc & Ebner, 2021) - bringing together the museum association's and a research perspective. Important considerations for the development were a generous visual interface to the collections and a participatory design approach, which brings together the perspectives of multiple stakeholders: members of the museum association, the collection database, users, and visualization designers. The resulting interface combines a three-dimensional timeline, on which cultural objects are positioned according to their time of origin (including indicators of uncertainty) and clustered by their regional origin, with a categorial visualization, which allows visitors to dive into the collections' taxonomy. As a special feature, curated stories guide visitors through objects from multiple collections on a common topic.

Conflict of Interests Disclosure

No Conflict of Interests to disclose.

References

Mayr, E., Windhager, F., Smuc, M., & Ebner, H. (2021). Ein neuer Blick auf die digitale Sammlung der Salzburger Regionalmuseen. Salzburger Volks.kultur, 45, 95-99.

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 TVCG, 25(6), 2311–2330.