

## Circular economy!

### Strategies for Data Management and Usage in ZMWS/UWK & LSNÖ

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The presentation provides an in-depth examination of strategies for data management and usage at the Landessammlungen Niederösterreich (LSNÖ) and the Centre for Museum Collection Management (ZMWS/UWK). LSNÖ currently hosts several millions archaeological objects, making digitalization of all objects a challenge that forms a core of current efforts.

The LSNÖ follows a comprehensive approach to finds data collection, initially capturing all information about objects in the TMS/Collections collection database. A current provenance project conducted by LSNÖ is integrating provenance information into this database. The data preparation and digitalization take place on an object-related basis, in a lean format, but with the capacity of the database expanding to collect further data.

LSNÖ uses a relational database to capture all information while minimizing the volume of generated data. This approach allows to "reduce" data by ensuring essential sources, such as inventory books and find slips, are digitized to avoid loss of valuable information.

The data stored directly in TMS Collections is saved from the moment of entry in the high-security standards governmental data center of Lower Austria with mirrored data backup. This data management strategy, together with the export of data to platforms such as Europeana and Kulturpool, ensures the long-term preservation of data.

Information from the relational database is reused repeatedly, especially for exhibitions and loans for external exhibitions. In these cases, object-related data is regularly reused. Additionally, the themes of LSNÖ exhibitions vary, allowing for the recycling of materials and information in different contexts.

During research inquiries that focus on broader themes, objects and associated data are also reused. Therefore, it's accurate to say that the data in LSNÖ follow a "reuse" and "recycle" pattern to ensure maximum utility and efficiency. This also applies to digital datasets that are stored outside the inventory database (e.g. documents und pictures of Lower Austrian find spots, excavation documentation, grey literature, data stemming from research projects etc.).

Sustainable long-term archiving is essential in the data management strategy of the LSNÖ. All data is stored in the network/cloud, where it is likely further secured. The export of selected data to Europeana and Kulturpool ensures the data's preservation for future generations, hence making it a significant cultural heritage resource.

LSNÖ recognizes the high potential of data in the context of Linked Data and is working to use thesauri that can also be utilized by others. This approach increases the data's utility for other researchers. However, there is also a need to create ontologies and thesauri across institutions and link them through URIs.

Within LSNÖ, there's interest in making images of archaeological objects freely accessible in better quality and under more favorable usage conditions, although this process is not yet complete.

In conclusion, the reflection and discussion of these data management and usage challenges in a round table offer a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences and develop best practices.