

# insights

ISSN 2410-6798

1/2015

Archives and people in the digital age

Upper Austrian State Archives | G. Marckhgott

## Let's go digital!

In a new light

### Illuminated charters

Through the eyes of a *psychotherapist*

### In search of one's roots



#### Legal notice:

Publishing and distribution: ICARUS – International Centre for Archival Research, Erdberger Lände 6/7, 1030 Wien · Place of publishing: Vienna · Advertisement sales: Dr. Dagmar Weidinger · Art direction: Mag. Alexander Schatek · Printing: Alanona Druckerei gmbH, Wien · Editor-in-chief: Mag.a Kerstin Muff · Editorial office: Dr. Dagmar Weidinger · Translation: Mag. Eva Maria Burghofer · Photographs: Cover photograph © Luiza Puiu · Re-orders: [editor@icar-us.eu](mailto:editor@icar-us.eu)

insights provides information about the international archival community today, including archival institutions as well as the related user groups.

ISSN 2410-6798

„The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.“

# editorial

Dear Readers!



This first issue of **insights** represents a milestone in the history of **ICARUS**. Initially intended as a mere newsletter for the Friends Association **ICARUS4all**, the project quickly developed into something bigger – it became an information interface between the institutions of the **ICARUS** network and the (private) individuals of the **ICARUS4all** community. In line with its subtitle ‘**archives and people in the digital age**’, this magazine wants to provide an insight into both of those worlds.

One thing is perfectly clear: Archives are not only authorities, reading rooms or storerooms for safekeeping. They are first and foremost a place of work for people who rise to the challenges of the digital age just as much as the diverse community of archive users. Especially the latter benefit from completely new research possibilities that the continuously growing amount of historical content and digital communication platforms provide. In the digital age the traditional boundaries between these two groups don't exist anymore. The feedback we get from users is essential for keeping the technical interfaces user-friendly and developing them in a sensible way. To report errors in digital copies so abundantly available online, but also to share one's own research results continuously expands the public knowledge about certain historical documents.

**insights** aims for reporting on and with these people and institutions: The stories are about their projects, their plans and strategies and how both sides will strike a common path into the future of digital archives. In the spirit of **ICARUS**' philosophy of co-operation, innovation and crossing borders, we want to create a forum not only for the exchange of information, but for the creative dialogue between archives and researchers.

I hope you will enjoy reading our first issue of **insights**! We look very much forward to your feedback, wishes and comments.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Aigner  
Präsident ICARUS

- 4 **Authors**
- 6 **rewind/fast-forward**
- 6 Sources for the history of Central Europe in the digital age
- 6 One conference, unlimited perspectives
- Column**
- 7 **It's the course of things**  
by Hermann Schlösser
- 8 **Cover Story**
- 8 **Let's go digital!**  
A look at the Upper Austrian State Archives  
by Thomas Trescher
- 12 **Interview**
- 12 **Bernhard Schläge:**  
**In search of one's roots**  
by Dagmar Weidinger
- Community**
- 14 **The democratization of sources**  
by Georg Gaugusch
- 15 **Open archives in the German-speaking area**  
by Joachim Kemper
- 16 **Research**
- 16 **Illuminated charters**  
by Andreas Zajic
- 18 **The added value of digitization**  
by Daniel Jeller
- Focus**
- 19 **A change in thinking thanks to the Internet**  
by Thomas Aigner
- Projects**
- 20 **The first 500,000**  
by Werner Berthold
- 21 **co:op: Breaking new ground together**  
by Kerstin Muff
- 22 **Human footprints – İnsanların İzinde**  
by Werner Matt
- Know how**
- 23 **Orphan works – new legislation**  
by Dagmar Weidinger
- 24 **Members**
- 26 **Facts & Figures**
- 28 **Press comments**
- 29 **Events**
- 30 **ICARUS4all**



© Luiza Puiu



**Thomas Aigner**

has been President of ICARUS since 2008. After graduating in History and Archival Sciences in Vienna, he took over the management of the Diocesan Archives of St. Pölten in 1995, which have since been a pioneer in the digitization of archival material.

© privat



**Werner Berthold**

studied History and German Philology at the University of Vienna. He works at the Lower Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and is responsible for the archival information system AUGIAS at the Lower Austrian Provincial Archives. Berthold is in charge of launching an archival programme at the community archives in Lower Austria.

© privat



**Christina Eggeling**

is a historian, art historian and visual artist. She is head of the Cultural Department at the Instituto Cervantes in Vienna and supports university lecturer Dr. Adelheid Krahl as a scientific associate for research and teaching at the University of Vienna.

© privat



**Franz Fischer**

works as a researcher of Digital Humanities at the Cologne Center for eHumanities (CCeH) of the University of Cologne. He is a founding member of the Institute for Documentology and Scholarly Editing (IDE) and coordinates the Marie Curie Initial Training Network on Digital Scholarly Editions „Di-XIT“.



© privat

**Georg Gaugusch**

studied Technical Biochemistry at the Vienna University of Technology and works as a Managing Partner at Wilhelm Jungmann & Neffe in Vienna. Since 1992 he has been putting all his heart and soul into the Heraldic-Genealogical Society „Adler“.

© Luiza Puiu



**Daniel Jeller**

is a historian and responsible for IT, digitization and the Monasterium portal at ICARUS. Next to his work he is programming for Digital Humanities projects and does research into the cultural implications of digitization.

© privat



**Joachim Kemper**

is a historian and archivist. Since 2011 he has been head of the Municipal Archives of Speyer, and since 2012 head of the Department of „Cultural Heritage“ (municipal archives, museums, memorial sites) of the city of Speyer. He is also a member of the Executive Board of ICARUS.

© privat



**Adelheid Krahl**

is a legal historian, historian, German philologist and archivist; doctorate from the LMU Munich in 1983, habilitation at the University of Vienna in 2002, since 2002 university lecturer at the University of Vienna, Department of History. Since 2010 Executive Board member of ICARUS.

© privat



**Werner Matt**

is the director of the Municipal Archives of Dornbirn, board member of the Working Committee of Austrian Communal Archives, and for many years has been coordinating a large number of EU projects, among them „Roots and Wings“, „digitalExtra“ and „SMILE-VET“.



© Luiza Puiu

**Kerstin Muff**

was born in the Dominican Republic in 1983 and studied Theatre, Film and Media at the University of Vienna. Already born a globetrotter, her professional and private motto is: The more diverse the better!



© privat

**Milena Petkova-Encheva**

holds a PhD in History and specializes in the research of Ottoman Diplomatics and Palaeography at the American Research Institute (ARIT) in Turkey. She is head of the Department for International Relations at the State Archives of Bulgaria in Sofia.



© Philipp Naderer

**Luiza Puiu**

was born in Timisoara/Romania in 1989. She studied Theatre, Film and Media as well as Sociology. Puiu lives and works in Vienna as a freelance photojournalist for Austrian and international media.



© Josef Polleross

**Hermann Schlösser**

is the editor of the weekend supplement „extra“ of „Wiener Zeitung“. He holds a PhD in Literature Studies, English and German Philology and writes about travelling as well as the problems linked to remembering and forgetting, collecting and organizing.



© Luiza Puiu

**Thomas Trescher**

works as the editor-in-chief of the monthly magazine „DATUM“ and is a freelance author for „Terra Mater“. Together with Luiza Puiu he published an irregular series on unusual little museums in Vienna for „Wiener Zeitung“.



© Luiza Puiu

**Dagmar Weidinger**

is the press officer of ICARUS and writes as a freelance journalist for newspapers and magazines. She holds a PhD in Art History and is fascinated by the human psyche. For „insights“ she explored the links between psychotherapy and ancestry research.



© privat

**Andreas Zajic**

heads the Department of Edition Projects and the Study of Sources (MIR) at the Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and has been working as an expert for charters in the FWF project „Illuminated Charters as „Gesamtkunstwerk““.



© Luiza Puiu

**Corinna Ziegler**

studied Ancient History at the University of Vienna. After many years of work at the Archaeological Park Carnuntum she joined ICARUS in 2012, where she has since been active in project management and membership services.

International Conference  
**Sources for the history of Central Europe in the digital age**

## En route to a shared identity

by Adelheid Krahl

**I**n September 2014 a conference at the University of Vienna was dedicated to the opportunities we are offered by the digital age when it comes to researching the history of Central Europe. The event highlighted special areas of historical research as well as exclusive sources and archive material on the history of Central Europe.

### A challenge called digitization

All speakers took up the topic of digitization and agreed about its distinctive added value for preserving the cultural heritage of Central Europe

and the related challenges it poses to archives and historical research.

### Co-operation with ICARUS

The conference made evident how important it is for the Department of History to co-operate with ICARUS and the international archival databases when it comes to the study of source material and academic teaching in the area of Digital Humanities at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies. This is particularly true of the Monasterium portal, the Matricula database as well as online mapping. ■

Conference host:  
University Lecturer  
Dr. Adelheid Krahl

Venue:  
University of Vienna,  
Department of History

Date:  
16 - 17 September 2014

Co-operation partners:  
University of Vienna, Department of History, Austrian Institute of Historical Research (IOeG), the Archives of the Dioceses of Passau and St. Pölten, ICARUS

The results of the conference were published on the blog „En route to a shared identity“.

Link:  
[dighist.hypotheses.org](http://dighist.hypotheses.org)

Please see [page 19](#) for an exemplary article on the conference. ■

## One conference – unlimited perspectives

von Kerstin Muff



**f**rom 27 to 29 April 2015, the Břevnovský klášter (Břevnov monastery) in Prague is hosting the international conference on „Archival Co-operation and Community Building in the Digital Age“. The event is dedicated to specific topics concerning the international co-operation of archives. A special focus lies on promoting the relationship between the archives themselves and the co-operation with their respective users in the digital age. To-

pics will include genealogical online sources, public-private partnership models, digital cadastral maps and space-related genealogy, crowd sourcing and open-source co-operation within the archival community, as well as education and learning in the digital age.

Frédéric Kaplan of the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland will officially open the conference with a keynote presentation on „The Venice Time Machine Project“. ■

Link:  
[icar-us.eu/events](http://icar-us.eu/events)

## Found treasures

# It's the course of things

by Hermann Schlösser

Not so long ago in a little town in Germany there lived a lady who had amassed and broken up again a beautiful collection. Here's what happened: In her late mother's large inheritance she came upon several shoeboxes tied up with string. Within them were some 2000 picture postcards from different periods and countries. Most of the cards were sent by post somewhere down the line – „With kind regards from golden Mainz, yours sincerely, Karl-Heinz“ –, others were purchased as collector's items and left blank. And now, all these postcards were piled up in a random jumble.

### Screen, plan, organize – give away!

Motivated by the mixed-up pile she had inherited, the lady began to screen and sort through the clutter. She bought wooden card boxes and assigned each card its own place. The Leaning Tower of Pisa belonged to „Italian sights“, The Via Mala Ravine to „Switzerland“, and a very old view of the railway station in Kreiensen went into the box „German railway stations“. For there were so many different motifs relating to Germany that they had to be divided into sub-categories. Next to geography there was also a section for historical scenes (the Walk to Canossa, the Battle at Kunersdorf and so on) or literary subjects, like Hamlet's cemetery scene or Wil-

helm Tell's apple shot. It became quite a lovely collection.

But no sooner had she finished sorting the collection, when the spry lady lost interest in it. She had nothing in common with that sluggish lindworm Fafner, who sings „Here I lie and here I hold, let me sleep“ in Wagner's Ring des Nibelungen. Sociable as she was, she wanted to share her treasures with other people. And she began giving some of them away. A lover of historic railways got the postcards of railway stations. The many portraits of Bismarck, Hindenburg and Queen Victoria went to a historian, and so on. And while she passed on considerable parts of her carefully sorted collection, she was happy to see that the material was circulating and being used again.

### The collection is flowing

Of course, she did not give away all of her stock; large parts were found by her three children after she passed away. They, too, did not want to keep the greying views from all over the world. So they followed their mother's example and continued to give away everything that aroused interest. What was left was sold on ebay. And what

couldn't even be sold there, found its last resting place in the garbage bin – like so many heirlooms before. Finally, everything the grandmother had amassed and the mother had sorted, the children had broken up. It is the course of things. I am, by the way, one of those „children“. I still have one of the postcard albums from the lost collection; it contains a series of slightly kitschy, coloured views of Goethe's life. ■

## Alte Ansichtskarten

info

All those who do not want to break up their collection should have a look at the topotheque. This online platform for local history provides ways and means to archive your private treasures (photos, videos, or old postcards).

There's only one condition: Your hometown must already have an online topotheque as well as a topothequer. For more information please visit:

[www.topothek.at](http://www.topothek.at)





Interview: Gerhart Marckhgott | Upper Austrian State Archives

# Let's go digital!

by Thomas Trescher, Photographs: Luiza Puiu

Still until the end of 2015, Gerhart Marckhgott will be managing the Upper Austrian State Archives, his greatest merit being the fact that visitors have become fewer and fewer.



Dr. Gerhart Marckhgott has been working since 1984 at the Upper Austrian State Archives and was one of the pioneers of the digitization movement in Austria.

Digitization – a blessing for the collections



First there's a rattle, then a snap, and then it opens. Slowly Gerhart Marckhgott pushes back the doors of the safe, dons his white gloves and takes out the sacred objects of the Upper Austrian State Archives: a property tax register of the 13th century, beautifully illustrated manuscripts, Schedel's World Chronicle from 1493. But Marckhgott is looking for something else, as he fetches two folders from the safe - „There he is“ - with the word „HITLER“ written on them in red capital letters.

Among other things they contain „all the files the authorities collected about his evading military service“. His aunt's household journal is also part of the documents. „For instance, she made a note whenever Adi received money again. Here for example: ‚Adi, 580 crowns‘. And there's his niece's Gugelhupf recipe, the one he liked so much. All of a rather anecdotic value“, says Marckhgott. „It's hardly worth locking up in here, but he's still such an intriguing subject“.



Detail from the housekeeping book of Johanna Pölzl, Adolf Hitler's aunt.

The head of the archives is himself much more enthusiastic about other things, for instance the files of Diocesan Bishop Josef Rudigier, who in the 1860ies became the first man of the cloth to be indicted by a secular court. „At the end he was pardoned by the emperor, but at that time it was quite the scandal in Europe“, he explains. Marckhgott is not interested in the market value - the archives must not engage in trade anyway - only in the historical value.

Apart from the „icing on the archives' cake“ kept in the safe, the seven floors and 4,320 square metres of the functional building at Anzengruberstrasse in Linz hold everything that has to be recorded by law in Upper Austria since 1971, as well as those objects that the archivists consider historically important. The building was purpose-built for the archives; the rooms are lower than usual, „adjusted to the height of the racks in the depots“. A total of forty kilometres of files have been amassed since

the archives' foundation in 1896; in addition there are microfilms, old maps and realia, „those are mostly things that get thrown away when they are no longer needed - tickets, flyers, and so on. Just like the advertisements in your mailbox that you throw away in passing. 50 years later they have become quite interesting“.

Is it then worth collecting

Billa flyers in the hope they will be valuable one day? „Maybe“, says Marckhgott, out of politeness: „But you have to be very lucky there“.

Since 1984 he has been working at the Provincial Archives, since 2003 as their manager. His team of some 55 employees „organize, manage and develop“. For a long time now, the romantic notion of an archivist, fighting through dust and cobweb in search of hidden treasures, has nothing to do with real life anymore. The future of the archives lies in the

Internet. „Today, the act of archiving and making available happens primarily in the digital world. And there is no end to the implications“, Marckhgott adds. The archives' centrepiece is now in the basement, a server of some 200 Terabyte memory, and of course there's also a safety backup of all records somewhere else. „That's the wonderful thing about digitization. What if the house burns down? We had to close several large collections because of wear and tear, so that we would not lose them completely“, he adds.

#### Release, don't hoard

However, not everything stored in archives is open to the public. There's hardly a country in the world as secretive as Austria, where so many documents and files are being locked away for far too long; much to Marckhgott's displeasure: „We should not keep files to lock them up and have them viewed only ▶

„Is it worthwhile collecting supermarket flyers?“  
„Maybe.“



- **First name, last name:**  
Gerhart Marckhgott
- **Job/Position:**  
Head of the Upper Austrian State Archives
- **My favourite memories from my professional life:**  
The company outings
- **What my team appreciates most:**  
My short memory
- **When I retire, I am going to miss most:**  
Discussions among experts
- **When I retire, I am looking forward to:**  
Carpe diem et fac quod vis
- **When I am alone in the archives ...**  
I can think best.
- **Coffee or tea? Original or digitized copy?**  
It's the tea I can pass up most easily.
- **I am impressed...**  
When, once again, the archives made the impossible possible.
- **I am proud ...**  
Of our office atmosphere
- **I am good at ...**  
Analyzing and organizing.
- **My „favourite object“ in the archives:**  
The office protocols of the Ethnarchy
- **Three things I love about archives:**  
The quietness, a wide range of topics, surprise discoveries
- **My connections to ICARUS:**  
Co-operation already at a time when digitization was still considered a fashionable version of discarding.

► thanks to some act of sovereign grace. Archives that do not display their records might just as well be disposed of.”  
Soon however, he will not have to struggle with such sources of annoyance anymore. In Marckhgott’s office there’s a calendar of 2015, its first days already highlighted in pink. Those are the days he could tick off. For at the end of the year he will retire, and he can hardly wait. „It is quite a stressful job”, he says; after that he plans „to do something sensible”. And this is why

he will spend his retirement - in the archives. „We have a huge collection, the Ethnarchy (Statthalterei) – the predecessor of the provincial government – which is very exciting and complex in terms of logic and structure as well as extremely interesting with regards to contents. I would like to describe and interpret it in my spare time.” As head of the archives Marckhgott was no longer able to indulge his passion for research, and he wants to catch up on it - making his profession his hobby again. ■

## From the team’s point of view

Josef Goldberger (Head of Records Management): „One of the most important qualifications of an archivist – and this may come as a surprise for outsiders – is the ability to throw things away. Especially when it comes to the 20th century you would drown in paper if you didn’t assess thoroughly and discard.”

Theresia Lasinger (Info Team reading room): „Over the past years I was most surprised to see how quickly users accepted our digital reading room, despite their initial scepticism. Even one of our most faithful local history researchers, meanwhile well over 90, uses the digital registers and cadastres.”

Franz Scharf (Department of Judicial Records): „My ‚toughest‘ archiving job was a mid-summer discarding activity in the attic of the district court in Raab. 35 degrees in dust and dirt – all you could do was change from your dustcoat into your swimming trunks.”

Cornelia Sulzbacher (Staff section Project Management): „Those are exciting times for archivists – digitization, networking and new software programmes open up opportunities that were still unheard of only ten years ago.”



„There's hardly a country in the world as secretive as Austria.“

## breadcrumbs from the annual reports of the Upper Austrian State Archives

**1986:** Despite the fact that it will take years until the most important records have been captured, the head of the department is confident that the introduction of automated aids is an important step towards coping with the tasks and problems of archives in modern times.

**1987:** The most important step in the long term was to install two personal computers, one of which was connected to the regional computing centre via a dedicated line.

**1993:** In Spring, following thorough preparation and planning, all offices of the administration building were connected through new power and data lines set in cable ducts.

**2003:** Acquiring a microfilm scanner was the first important step into the digital future of the archives.

**2004:** Meanwhile, computers as individual work tools have become state of the art; now it is essential

to monitor developments from a „business point-of-view“ and integrate them into an overall strategy.

**2006:** Unspectacular at first sight, but certainly a momentous step in the long run, was the release of the archives' new homepage.

**2007:** One should not only have online access to the indices, but to the archival records themselves.

**2008:** Within the scope of the Monasterium project, the documents and charters of the Upper Austrian monasteries were made available online.

**2011:** A switching to data archive software and inventory systems (AUGIAS) is expected to happen over the coming years..

**2014:** Scientific research and co-operation, source preservation, the description and interpretation of records which are then made available in a user-friendly way – all of this can no longer be accomplished without digital tools.

- **Name:**  
Upper Austrian State Archives
- **Adress:**  
4020 Linz, Anzengruberstrasse 19
- **Opening hours:**  
Mon – Thu 8.30 AM – 5.00 PM
- **Website:**  
[www.landesarchiv-ooe.at](http://www.landesarchiv-ooe.at)
- **Oldest collections:**  
Aristocratic and monastic archives
- **Latest collections:**  
Still at the offices of the Upper Austrian government
- **Funniest object / best-known archival item:**  
Olympic bronze medal 1936 for poetry / Rental from Baumgartenberg (ill. manuscript, 1335)
- **Number of digital copies:**  
Millions – and getting more each day
- **First digital copy:**  
Digital photograph of a newspaper page (approx. 1998)
- **Biggest loss should the archives burn down:**  
56 jobs
- **Most loyal visitor of the reading room:**  
The retired hobby genealogist

portrait



The body psychotherapist and health practitioner Bernhard Schlage has been living and working in Hannover for more than 30 years. From there he sends out his clients into the world to find their ancestors and, in doing so, a cure for their

symptoms. In an interview with ICARUS he tells us about the connection between genealogy and psychotherapy, his family-related love of the river Danube, and why the knowledge about our ancestors can make us strong and healthy.

**Bernhard Schlage** | Body Psychotherapist, Hannover

# In search of one's roots

Text: Dagmar Weidinger

**m**r. Schlage, you are a health practitioner and at the same time dealing intensively with ancestry research. Do you have your clients draw up family trees in their therapy sessions?

**Bernhard Schlage:** Indeed, I recommend my clients and the participants of my workshops to do some research into their family history. However, it is not so much a family tree with names and birth dates I am thinking of, but the social history of our ancestors. When I become more familiar with the social experiences my ancestors made and the conditions under which they had to live, I as a client for instance will find it easier to empathize with my grandmother's stern and tough demeanour, knowing that she had to live life on the run for two years. And even though my grandmother doesn't talk about this time because she is too heavily traumatized, I as her granddaughter can meet her with much better understanding and sympathy.

Is it the wartime experiences of one's ancestors and their memories of flight and expulsion that play the

biggest role when it comes to ancestry research in the name of psychotherapy?

Yes, because issues like atonement and shame as seen in perpetrators of both world wars, or feelings of guilt and grief in families who have a history of victimization and expulsion are very common in European families. One has to keep in mind that these events only just happened in the generation of our parents or grandparents. As a rule, they can have a very stressful, albeit unconscious effect on us, the later generation. In 2004 the German Medical Association issued a sensational recommendation for physicians to advise patients born between 1945 and 55, who suffer from cardiovascular diseases or depression, to routinely attend psychotherapy sessions, as one can assume family-related strain.

There are many depressive people who are suffering from an obscure longing or grief which isn't actually their own. They are just adopting a part of the family history or the family memory, that is to say the part

that has not yet resolved the issues of flight or expulsion. Very often such events are hushed up in the families. In such cases, I like to assign family members with the task of exploring their ancestors' history of expulsion. For example, several years ago I treated this woman around 40, whose parents came from Hungary. She herself was born in Germany, attended school here, learned a profession and finally married and had a son. And even though she loved her husband very much, she felt that she always behaved in a somewhat ambivalent way towards him, which frequently ended in fights.

As I knew about her parents' origin, I advised her to start with travel-

„Ancestry research and psychotherapy belong together.“



ling to her ancestors' original home country. She quickly found out that her forefathers had actually been

driven away twice, as her grandparents already had to flee from the German-speaking areas of Romania to Hungary, only to leave it again for Germany as political refugees in Soviet times. Getting to know her grandparent's homeland had an immediately liberating effect on her. She had a strong feeling of being rooted in the Hungarian culture with all its colours and liveliness. Since then she has been practicing Hungarian and started travelling into her old „home country“ once a year, where she strongly feels: All is well! The arguments with her husband became fewer the more she explored her family history.

So, ancestry research can have an immediate effect on a person's wellbeing here and now?

Absolutely. The New Zealand Maoris, for instance, say that our mental stability and health directly depends on how far back we reach in our ancestral memory.... not just to balance shortfalls, but to remain deeply rooted and integrated in one's own family and culture. A Maori who doesn't know at least four generations before him, is already considered mentally unbalanced. In principle, genealogical work indeed has healing powers. I myself

was going on bicycle tours along the Danube for 20 years, again and again – from the Black Forest to the Black Sea, just following an obscure longing for the country and the people in it, until I discovered that one of my line of ancestors came from a Lower Bavarian village right on the river Danube.

**Let's keep talking about you: What were your personal reasons to start doing ancestry research?**

There was always a bit of a muddle in our family. For example, my grandmother sometimes called me by her son's name and there used to be people we called aunts or uncles, even though they weren't aunts and uncles at all. At one point I started raising the question: Who is who? And so I travelled – still by car at that time - to my parents' and grandparents' hometowns to have a look into the books of the civil registries and the church registers. I found out that both in my mother's and my father's family there had been an amazing number of separations, losses, re-marriages etc. and – above all - an in those days unusually large number of divorces. And I knew immediately that time and again there must have been a strong interest to hush up people, to marginalize them or to deliberately place them in the centre of the family. Clarifying these circumstances has brought a lot of new orientation into my life.

**Why has ancestry research become so popular today? Is it because so many people have comparatively few family ties, yet a strong longing for a feeling of home?**

That is certainly one of the main reasons. People feel increasingly estranged; sociologists talk about the atomization of social contacts. The downside of a society that sets too much store by individual freedom is the destabilization of the individual's identity.

There comes a time in one's life when everyone raises the question: Where do I come from, where are my roots? In this context we have to be very careful not to interpret this in a political sense. It is not about saying one's place of birth is one's home, and whoever was born elsewhere must be expelled from the country. That would quickly lead to an ideology of „blood and soil“, as propagated by the National Socialists. In fact, in today's heated debate about „the fear of foreign infiltration“, we have to ask ourselves how to find a position which connects us (again) with our cultural roots without repeating the mistakes of the past, when ancestry research was used as well... however to a completely different political end.

For many people today, knowing one's family roots has become a mentally stabilizing anchor, a reconnection with family traditions and long forgotten ancestors. Maintaining relationships serves international understanding across national borders, towards our European neighbours, as to this day all those cultures have been linked through the events of both world wars in a very complex social way. Systems theorist Gregory Bateson said that our social connections are the common thread along which the history of humanity develops. ■



A change in thinking thanks to the Internet

# The democratization of sources

by Georg Gaugusch

The evolution of the Internet over the past 20 years has fundamentally changed our everyday life just as much as it changed the world of science. Interestingly enough, those areas of the historical sciences that are normally not defined by short-lived, day-to-day business but long-term considerations have been equally affected by these universal changes. Archives were always places of looking backward, an attitude that certainly rubbed off on many

an archivist. In the long term, however, ignoring the Internet and its possibilities inevitably means that archives would lose their right to exist – an option which would reduce any preserving activity ad absurdum. If you haven't yet found your place in the digital world of today, you will be considered dispensable in the blink of an eye when it comes to the digital creation of knowledge. Surely as a consequence, the question will arise why such an evidently comfortable reservation should still have the right to exist. Creating knowledge in the digital world is a completely different process compared to the earlier traditional methods. While in the past sources were pro-



„Not using the Internet reduces every preserving activity ad absurdum.“



Vornbach marriage register, 1683 -1715  
Archive Bistums Passau

Indices from the Upper Austrian State Archives

cessed in a serial way – checking once collected facts at a later stage was only possible to a limited degree – they can today be worked on in parallel, provided that they are electronically available. Ideas and concepts which arise while working on a source can be checked, verified and questioned on the basis of other sources without much lead time. By using database solutions we are able to answer highly complex and interconnected sets of questions, which only a few years ago would have been considered unanswerable because of the huge number of almost inaccessible, yet required sources that were impossible to have at hand at the same time.

And in fact, we do not even need particular means, huge budgets or magnificent buildings: Just the will to let go, the will to understand knowledge not as being power, and most of all the will to redefine the work of an archivist. Today, an archivist has the possibility to inspire interest for history in a wide audience; he or she has the power to reveal historical connections that previously went unnoticed. As for Central Europe and the area of the former Austrian empire, there's the unique opportunity to fade out nationalistically characterized concepts and again give wider space to historical interpretation free of national borders.

## Conference Series

# Open archives – made possible by the Internet?!

by Joachim Kemper

„Open archives“, that is the overall motto of a series of conferences to be held, after all for the third time, in Germany in 2015. The series is dedicated to exploring the possibilities we are offered by the Internet when it comes to the more systematic opening of archives to the user community.

**t**o be precise: The question is how to enable archives to strengthen their co-operation and improve the transfer of knowledge between them and their community with the help of digital tools, social media and Web 2.0.

After Speyer in 2012 and the State Archives in Stuttgart last year, the conference will take place in Siegen in North Rhine-Westphalia this year. The question mark that was still part of the title in 2012 („Open archives?“) was already left out in Stuttgart. And for a good reason: Web-based archives that are using social media and the tools of digitization and digital presentation have finally arrived in the German-speaking area (normally rather „late adopters“).

Undoubtedly, there is still plenty to do before the archives eventually „get“ to their users, but: The issue of „social media“ has been put on the agenda of all regional archival days, which are very important in Germany (and frequently large in terms of numbers of participants). The latest „German Archival Day“



Social media do not only prompt digital discussions.

even dedicated a separate panel to social media. In addition, other advanced training events teach colleagues who are less familiar with Web 2.0 how to benefit from the various applications in a simple way. Work groups at the „Association of German Archivists (VdA) and the Umbrella Association of Communal Archives (BKK) are also dealing with recommendations and concepts. Both work groups, whom the author of this text is a part of, have made considerable progress. And one thing becomes more and more evident: Web 2.0 means more than just using its most popular, but also most controversial application (Facebook). Picture networks, the short message service Twitter or even the possibilities of blogs play a no less important role. What we still lack is a better way of linking

national activities in the archival Web 2.0. ICARUS is again co-hosting the „Open Archives“ conference. The programme, which will include a number of international contributions, will be published shortly on the conference series' blog. ■

Date:  
3-4 December 2015,  
Siegen, Germany

Conference languages:  
German and English

email:  
[Joachim.kemper@stadt-speyer.de](mailto:Joachim.kemper@stadt-speyer.de)

Twitter:  
[@Jo\\_Kemper](https://twitter.com/Jo_Kemper)

Blog:  
[archive20.hypotheses.org](http://archive20.hypotheses.org)

info

Episcopal collective indulgence (detail) for a Mount of Olives relief at the charnel house of St. Stephen's cemetery in Vienna, displayed in Avignon 1343, Diocesan Archives Vienna.



The beautiful looks of legal texts

# Illuminated charters

by Andreas Zajic

Many people will think medieval charters a somewhat bland object of research. After all, they are legal documents that still today appear very formulaic in text and design.

Project for a database of illuminated charters, funded by the FWF

In fact, however, there are a comparatively small number of records among the vast archival collections of the world, which were artistically embellished far beyond the usual custom of simple pen-drawn initials. Using a technical term from the field of book illumination, such vellums are called illuminated charters.

But why decorate charters so lavishly, when this was completely irrelevant from a legal point of view – with the exception of the large group of grants of arms (see photograph)? Obviously, the key to the answer lies in its striking effect, respectively in the fact that the charters were used to appeal to the public. The collective indulgences of the 14th and 15th century are a very good example: Not just one person, but whole groups of bishops and

cardinals of a curia granted indulgence charters. As it was common pious practice in the Late Middle Ages (which is not confirmed, but accepted by the official theological doctrine), the recipients multiplied the 40 or 100 days of indulgence granted by each bishop or cardinal with the number of issuers. Thus, an indulgence granted by twelve issuers was twelve times as „valuable“ for the recipient, than one issued by a single church dignitary. According to the charter's text, those who donated money for church building projects were among the ones to profit from these remissions of temporal punishment for one's sins. This early form of modern crowd sourcing in the Middle Ages was then advertised by means of poster-sized and brightly coloured indulgence charters

that were clearly meant to have a long-range effect. There were also other illuminated charters that served as memorable and impressive showpieces.

**Project for a public database**

A project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) has made it its objective to present an open access database of illuminated charters, which at the beginning is to offer some 600 objects from archives all over the world, completed with detailed registers (precise synopses), art historical descriptions and historical comments on the objects and characters in question as well as art historical information. The metadata – if possible, a picture should be linked to each object – are being compiled in a joint virtual working environment and finally presented in the collection of „Illuminated Charters“ of the [www.monasterium.net](http://www.monasterium.net) website.

**Monasterium as a platform**

That the core results of the project are to be published through Monasterium has a good reason:



# ers

Already at an early stage the charter portal had provided the project team good opportunities to research for relevant sources. Because the search for illuminated objects merely on the basis of antique literature proves to be difficult: Very often historians and archivists were hardly interested in an object's embellishments and ignored its occasionally very impressive decorations, whereas art historians rarely ever recognized the potential of illuminated charters for the research of book illuminations. In fact, it was very often well-known illuminators who were asked to produce the high-quality charter decorations, but whose work was exclusively judged by codices in the past. Un-

## Illuminated charters

info

are, in a narrower sense, originals embellished with pictures which were produced by using (opaque) colours and gold leaf and which are historicized, i.e. they have a visible reference to the subject of the charter, the issuer, the recipient or the beholder.

like many manuscripts however, charters bear an exact date. Since the illuminations were almost always added soon after the documents were written, we are able to date and attribute art historical relevance much more precisely to objects that were previously difficult to put into a chronological context.

### Scientific pioneer work

In many ways the project enters uncharted scientific territory and in doing so, explores the various possibilities of interdisciplinary co-operation: For practical reasons experts of the Austrian Centre for Information Modelling of the Centre for Digital Humanities at Graz University have been made leading project members next to a historical and an art historical project group from the Institute for Medieval Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. Special technological questions - like for instance: Did the performing artists use the same colour pigments over a longer period of time and did they use the same expensive materials for emperors and gentry alike? - are to be answered in co-operation with the Centre for Image and Material Analysis in Cultural Heritage (Vienna University of Technology,

Grant of arms by Emperor Frederick III for the brothers of St. Georgen and Bösing, Vienna, 19 June 1459, Hungarian National Archive.



University of Vienna and Academy of Fine Arts Vienna). The fact that illuminated charters are so unique is particularly important for the scientific relevance of the research. Therefore, in the medium term the subject is to be continued at an international level. Also in this respect [monasterium.net](http://monasterium.net) should provide an excellent starting basis. ■

Link:  
[illuminierte-urkunden.uni-graz.at](http://illuminierte-urkunden.uni-graz.at)

info

Conference  
Sources on the  
history of Central Europe  
in the digital age

The conference sparked the interest of many colleagues from home and abroad.



## En route to a shared identity – the conference blog

by Christina Eggeling

Owing to the topics of the conference, so highly interesting for the scientific research of every genealogist and historian, and in order to provide immediate access to additional relevant information via links to the Internet,

it was important to have a conference blog. Thanks to the more or less real-time publishing of the blog it was possible to pass on information to the participants very quickly. Also, the authors were able to engage in the scientific discourse more directly by

posting their articles on the blog, and thus present their results more effectively.

As an example of the conference, please read below an extract of Daniel Jeller's lecture on „The added value of digitization“.



The conference was conceived by Adelheid Krah.

# The added value of digitization

by Daniel Jeller

Since its formation in the 17th century, diplomatics, or in other words the study of old documents like the famous Ostaríchi Charter, has become one of the most important tools of historical sciences. Originally developed to determine on the basis of the structure of a text or the appearance of a document whether or not it was a fake, the methods of diplomatics are today used to explore the complex life of the Middle Ages.

The long tradition of continuous development in this scientific discipline provided an incentive to adopt computer technologies on the rise already at an early stage. The advantages were obvious. Computerized text can be copied and processed without any problems. In addition, it is easy to circulate high-quality pictures of documents through the Internet very quickly

today. Altogether this makes for digital copies of documents that enable us to work on the sources at the same time and without geographic restrictions. As the amount of available data steadily grew and applications became more and more advanced, researchers were able to focus on new aspects. Starting in 1975 in the US, for instance, the DEEDS Project of the University of Toronto started using statistically ascertained idiosyncrasies in texts by way of comparison for the chronological classification of previously undated documents. To do so successfully requires an extensive amount of comparative data for the computer programmes.

The online portal Monasterium, supported by ICARUS, and its database of half a million charters allow for similar research. Among other things, interested parties can resort

to a pool of more than a hundred thousand listed people and places within some 70,000 full texts. Which makes Monasterium the biggest collection of its kind. In future those algorithms will help to increase the data pools even more by using statistical methods similar to the ones of the DEEDS project. There are first attempts to find places and people in similar documents with the help of charters and manuscripts already fully described. So we can expect diplomatics to keep staying in tune with the times. ■

For more conference results please see our blog „En route to a shared Identity“.

Link:  
[dighist.hypotheses.org](http://dighist.hypotheses.org)

info

A change in thinking thanks to the Internet

# Unambiguously ambiguous

by Thomas Aigner

Things often seem to be unambiguous - depending on one's point of view. Most of the time, however, they are not. „Always expect the unexpected“ hits the mark quite well.

Exploring a subject more deeply will often turn seemingly simple things into something much more complex. The events in the wake of an article on Matricula/ICARUS, published in a Sunday's issue of Austria's largest daily newspaper („KRONE Bunt“) serve as a good example.

On 4 January 2015, said article was published, very professionally written by Martina Winkelhofer and read by an interested audience of several hundreds of thousands. Given an average coverage of 2.6 million readers, this represented an exposure of completely unknown proportions for Matricula and ICARUS. As a consequence, the number of server hits skyrocketed within hours, which did not only exceed the capacities of our server, but virtually brought it to its knees. Our first reaction was: „How embarrassing! There they are, hundreds of thousands of people who want to visit our websites, and all they

get are error messages...!“ After we had digested the first moment of shock, we started analyzing: Where are the problems and how can we make the best out of this situation? We soon found out that the overload was caused by the Matricula database, not by its parent website of ICARUS, so we closed down the first temporarily and informed visitors with an appropriate message. We were especially pleased to see that the vast majority of users fully understood this unforeseen emergency and reacted encouragingly. This got us motivated to fix the problems as quickly as possible. Such moments of crisis are very good opportunities to remember the basics, to grow and to learn. And that's exactly what happened here: Making historical sources available online must be a common concern of both researchers and preservers that needs to be undertaken together. It is imperative that both sides join forces in building and operating these online resources, if they are to be sustainable. The clo-

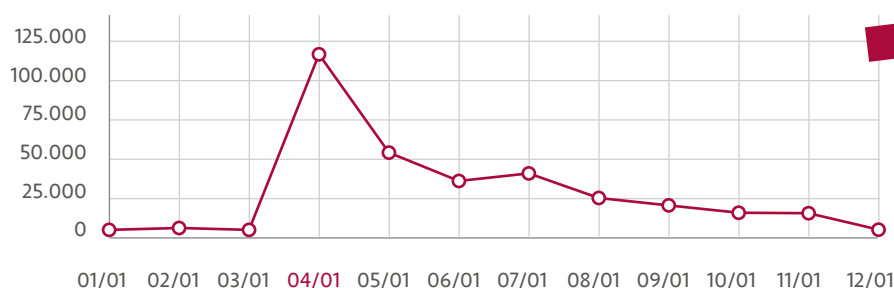


© Klemens Groh

ser people co-operate and the more the general public participates, the faster the amount of digitized items will grow and the more powerful the supporting systems will become.

Our users who were until then considered clients or petitioners, have now become important supporters and co-producers of the digital future of historical files. Seen in that light, the server problems of 4 January 2015 were not embarrassing at all, but in fact the starting point for game-changing technical improvements and a massive strengthening of the ICARUS community. The remarkable increase in the number of members of the Friends Association ICARUS4all is just another signal that people are ready to offer active support. ■

Daily page views

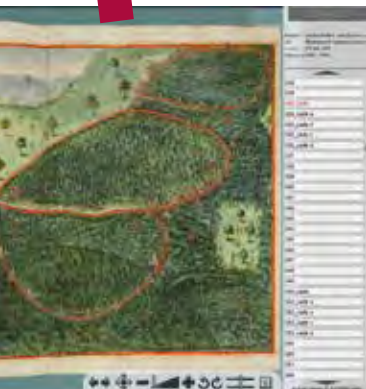


4 January 2015:  
Hit rates explode –  
a promotion from  
the regional league  
into the national  
league

Orphan registry A, Stiftsherrschaft Dürnstein  
1600-1698 (NÖLA KG Krems 33/56)



Border inspection of the forests  
of Heiligenkreuz  
1687 (NÖLA HS StA 1316)



The Lower Austrian State Archives  
in the World Wide Web

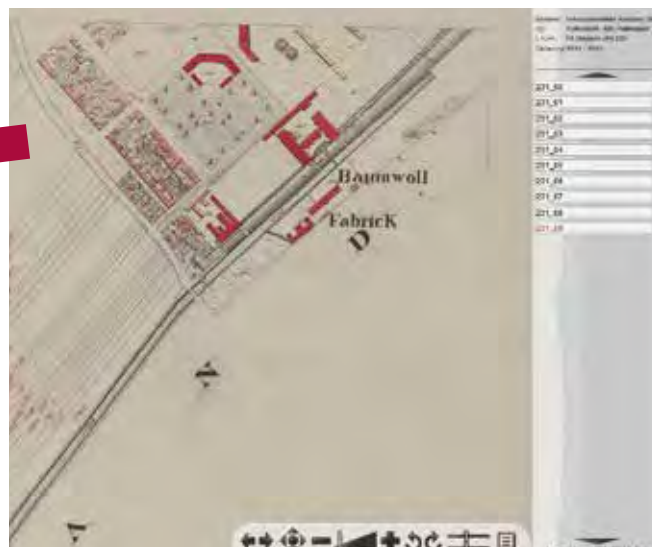
# The first 500,000

by Werner Berthold

Next to the long-term archiving of electronic files it is the positioning in the World Wide Web that poses the biggest challenge to archives today. This includes putting archival objects online, which are then accessible around the world 24 hours a day, independent of opening hours. According to current opinion this will not apply to the entire stock of an archive, but mostly to archival objects in high demand, which are (therefore) particularly endangered, and to other cimelia worth protecting. In this context, the Provincial Archives of Lower Austria have started offering individual collections or parts of it on [www.noela.findbuch.net](http://www.noela.findbuch.net).

One of the most viewed collections of the Lower Austrian Archives is the Franciscan Cadastre, which was created between 1817 and 1824. As a rule drawn on a scale of 1:2,880, all of the maps (2,320 files of a total of more than 10,000 sheets) are already available on the Internet. Each file has a parcel protocol, only some 60 of which relating to the Weinviertel are online yet. As soon as personnel resources allow, the missing documents will be digitized and put online as well. The protocol journals of the ruling authorities, magistrates, parishes etc. (land registers, office journals, warranty books, inventory protocols, marriage registers, bills of sale registers

Available  
online now:  
Franciscan  
Cadastre  
(NÖLA  
FK Mappen  
UW 231)



and orphan registers), all of which are filed in the section of „Court Archives“, constitute the major part of the digitized objects available online. They are particularly important for the research into regional, local and everyday history as well as property or family records. The books of the Waldviertel courts were the first to be digitized. Very decorative, but of course also informative, are the books of heraldry made available online (for instance the Friedesheim Book of Heraldry of 1599, The „Old Book of Heraldry“ of the 16th century or the „Book of Heraldry of St. Christoph am Arlberg „ of 1579), as well as the „Trenbach Chronicle“ (1550-1624). Last but not least, there is the informative, but less decorative „Book of Mills“ of 1661. Let us not forget

to mention those documents already put online (currently some 2,700 pieces) that are not yet available in „mom“. Among them are the Documents of Stetteldorf, the Charters of the Propstei Gloggnitz and the Hardegg Charters (Herrschaftsarchiv Seefeld). The documents collection of the Estates Archives is being processed as well. In this case, the plan is to digitize 5,500 objects. Above listed archival objects can also be found on [www.archivnet.findbuch.com](http://www.archivnet.findbuch.com) and to some extent on [www.crac.findbuch.net](http://www.crac.findbuch.net). The uppermost level of the collections is available on the European archival platform „Archives Portal Europe“, [www.archivesportaleurope.net](http://www.archivesportaleurope.net). As at 12 January 2015, a total of 500,000 digitized objects have been available on the Internet. ■



Promoting cross-border co-operation  
between archives and the general public

**co:op** community as opportunity:  
the creative archives' and users' network

# Breaking new ground together

by Kerstin Muff

**C**o:op is the youngest child of the ICARUS family: Together, 17 institutions from 11 European countries successfully launched this project to strengthen and promote the co-operation between archives and other institutions preserving our common cultural heritage and to encourage involving the general public. The kick-off meeting in Prague between 27 and 29 April marks the start of the project activities.

## Wanted: an active community!

The co:op project fully reflects the spirit of the ICARUS network: It builds on the already vast experience of the entire community. Actually, co:op goes one step further, beyond making archival records available and documenting our common cultural and historical identity: In the age of digital information technology and the constant availability of information through the Internet, it is not only important to have democratic access to knowledge by means of digital tools, which is more and more taken for granted, but to focus on the amazing potential that lies in the critical production and expansion of knowledge.

It has become more and more important to actively question and include the general public as seismographs and creators of their own socio-cultural dynamics, in order to encourage awareness of individual responsibility and the right to have a say.

## One project – many ways

In the course of the project a large number of activities will be initiated with the objective to deliberately include the general public, tap their potentials (crowd sourcing) and promote the close co-operation with archives. The scope of activities ranges from further developing possibilities for the open source description of archival records, to the expansion and deepening of university teachings based on and with the help of digital archive portals such as Monasterium, to the organization of international conferences that invite researchers and users to meet and exchange at eye level. It will be possible to consolidate historical documents from private individuals digitally, which will serve to enrich our common history with personal details (topotheque). Finally, there will be educational initiatives of the creative kind that aim for encouraging young people to explore „archives“ as such, unbiased and guided by their own curiosity, thus sharpening

their awareness of cultural identity. The Community – consisting of institutions and users, in other words the general public – carries the seed of novelty, of the original, of progress. Let us use and encourage it together! ■



Term:  
1 December 2014 –  
30 November 2018

Budget volume:  
3.983.379 €

Funding framework:  
Creative Europe Programme,  
Category 2 –  
Cooperation Projects

Website:  
[www.coop-project.eu](http://www.coop-project.eu)

info

Co-ordinator  
**Francesco  
Roberg**,  
Head of the Old  
Department of  
the Hessian State  
Archives in Mar-  
burg, Head of the  
Department of  
Archival Principles  
2 of the Hessian  
State Archives

A new approach to an urban culture of remembrance

„Home in Carinthia, all you could do was break stones.“

„I always used to cry when I had to leave my family behind in Turkey...“

# Human footprints – İnsanların İzinde

by Werner Matt

Under the title „HUMAN FOOTPRINTS - İNSANLARIN İZİNDE“, the project highlights 18 spots in the city that are related to the history of migration. It is a shared project of the Diversity Archives Vorarlberg and the Municipal Archives of Dornbirn, presented and communicated by means of a booklet, an app and the homepages of both archives.

Especially the app makes it very easy to find the various spots and listen on site to professionally produced audio stories in German, Turkish and English.

The more we concerned ourselves with questions of identity and remembrance, the more important it became to depict urban history as a network of different identities and recollections. The project „Invisible City“ with Robert Fabach and Arno Gisinger was a first step in this direction, namely to repossess the city as a social and cultural space. In 2014, the 50th anniversary of the Recruitment

„Now, my dear wife, the „so-zis“ or social democrats are usually young boys without moustaches...“

Agreement saw the start of the successful partnership with the Diversity Archives. The „city’s memory“ became a network of various recollections and identities. The focus lies on mutual learning, on relinquishing the privilege of sole interpretation, on co-operating at eye level and agreeing on a common denominator. This common basis could, for instance, be the „Code of Ethics“ of the International Council on Archives (ICA) or the „Code of Professional Ethics“ of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). ■

## Project „Human Footprints“

[stadtarchiv.dornbirn.at/menschenspuren](http://stadtarchiv.dornbirn.at/menschenspuren)

[www.vielfaltenarchiv.at/menschenspuren](http://www.vielfaltenarchiv.at/menschenspuren)

Dornbirn Municipal Archives, Marktplatz 11, A-6850 Dornbirn, Austria

Opening hours:  
Tuesday to Friday,  
10:00 AM - 12:00 noon  
and 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Contact:  
[stadtarchiv@dornbirn.at](mailto:stadtarchiv@dornbirn.at)  
Tel. +43 5572 306 4901

Link to the dictionary and the genealogical database:  
[lexikon.dornbirn.at](http://lexikon.dornbirn.at)



## ICARUS answers

## „Orphan works“



© Alexander Schatek

The unknown author

Have you ever wondered what the everyday work of the ICARUS team looks like behind the scenes? Did you ever ask yourself how the records are transferred from the archives into the Internet? What are the technical tools behind the portals? And what about copyrights and such? Questions upon questions?

Simply send your questions to [editor@icar-us.eu](mailto:editor@icar-us.eu) and we will answer them in our next issues here in this column „know how“. We are keen to find out whatever questions you may have and how we can be of help!

This time Elisabeth Eder (topothequer in Traismauer) asked us about the recent change in copyright law concerning the so-called „orphan works“.

Dear ICARUS Team, I am in charge of a topotheque and have been working with the local heritage centre as of late. In both areas I am frequently met with questions about the copyright of documents, objects, but also photographs. I heard about a recent change in copyright law concerning „orphan works“. What exactly does this mean for me as a topothequer respectively museum staff when I come across a picture without copyright specifications?

Elisabeth Eder,  
Topothequer, Traismauer

Dear Ms. Eder,  
Thank you for your letter. Let's start with a definition: The technical term „orphan works“ that you are using refers to works of which the copyright holder and/or the expiry of the copyright are unknown. Works are

subject to a 70-year blocking period (starting with the date of death of the creator). Within this period they can only be published with the consent of the copyright holder or their legal successors. In the case of „orphan“ works, when no date of death can be established, this period is extended to some 140 years, as one has to adopt a fictive date of death and assume that the author was still young when he or she created the work. Archives and collections have long been aware of this problem, but it was not until the increased online publication of digitized archival records that the topic has become a burning issue. Therefore, on 13 January 2015, Austria passed an amendment to the copyright law in accordance with the laws of other EU countries. The amendment provides that in the future orphan works kept in institutions can be made

available for free in the public domain, if it serves the common good. This refers to the following groups of works:

- a) Books, professional journals, newspapers, other works published in written form and
- b) Audiovisual material.

As a consequence, photographs are still excluded from this legal provision. Since you are a topothequer who is mostly dealing with photographs, the amendment has little effect on your work. Things look different with regard to the documents and audiovisual material of your local heritage centre. You may publish them for free, but you have to report it to the Supervisory Body of Collecting Societies. It's a very complex procedure, and there is no practical experience yet when it comes to dealing with this very recently established authority.



Elisabeth Eder

© privat

The State Archives of **Bulgaria**

# Bulgaria's archives open their gates

by Milena Petkova-Echeva

Since 2011 the State Archives of Bulgaria (ДЪРЖАВНА АГЕНЦИЯ „АРХИВИ“) have been a member of ICARUS. In 2008 they started digitizing their archival records. A look at ASA's activities makes one thing clear: Here, people are working on the future of European archives at a spanking pace.

**t**he biggest and most recent innovation of the Bulgarian Archives was the introduction of BAIS (Bulgarian Archival Information System) in 2014, a centralized information management system that consists of both internal, administrative areas as well as public ones. Its aim is to provide access to information about the records preserved in the State Archives. BAIS is accessible for free on the Internet and literally brings the collected records into everyone's living room. Since the start of the project 1.5 Million of a total of almost 6 Million descriptions could be fed into the system and thus made open to the public. Until 2019 all descriptions are supposed to be integrated into the information system.

## Talking archives

In the age of digital information the Bulgarian State Archives had to develop a strategy for not only attracting new users, but also facilitating up-to-date access to archival information. Thus, in 2012 the archival

portal „Talking Archives“ ([www.archives.bg](http://www.archives.bg)) was launched. The on-line portal's objective is to make archival information publicly available, support the interests of its users and meet the public demand to have free and public online access to historical documents about the history of Bulgaria which are stored in the State Archives as Bulgaria's documented heritage.

## Online photo archives

What arouses public interest most is the photoarchives page ([archives.bg/photoarchives](http://archives.bg/photoarchives)): It was integrated into the archival platform in 2014 so as to allow users quick and easy access to the vast photo records stored in the Bulgarian archives. Today, [photoarchives.org](http://photoarchives.org) keeps some 40,000 photographs and postcards online, which - in chronological order - reveal moments in Bulgarian history from 1830 to this day. Users can comment on the records, add digitized copies of their own private collections to the different categories and thus, by way of crowd sourcing, determine and describe places.

Currently the page for a new topic is being launched: It is dedicated to the wars of Bulgaria between 1878 and 1945 as well as both World Wars.



© private

## Other archival records:

- The protocols of the Political Office of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party 1944-1989  
[archives.bg/politburo](http://archives.bg/politburo)
- Documents on soldiers killed in the Balkan Wars (1912-1913)  
[archives.bg/balkanwars](http://archives.bg/balkanwars)
- The Jewish Community in Bulgaria  
[archives.bg/jews](http://archives.bg/jews)
- Police files of public persons before 1944  
[archives.bg/policefiles](http://archives.bg/policefiles)
- Files of the People's Court 1944-1945  
[archives.bg/narodensud](http://archives.bg/narodensud)

The State Archives of Bulgaria consist of 29 archives with 125,000 metres of archival material





CCeH

The Swiss author **Hermann Burger** working in Calascino sopra Brissago, **August 1970**. His debut novel *Lokalbericht* will be published as a genetic digital edition princeps within the framework of a cooperation project with the CCeH.



© private. In: Schweizerisches Literaturarchiv, Bern

# The Humanities in the digital age

by Franz Fischer

The Cologne Centre for eHumanities (CCeH) is a teaching and research centre at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Cologne. A locally and internationally well-renowned competence centre for Digital Humanities, it supports a large number of research projects from the stage of planning to their systematic technical implementation. The reason for which is that neither the Humanities nor archival management are imaginable today without the use of digital processes, be it description practices, analyses or forms of publication. As an ICA-RUS member and project partner of „Community as Opportunity – the creative archives’ and users’ network“ (co:op), the CCeH perpetuates the long-standing co-operation of the University of Cologne in the technical realization of projects like



**Judgement of the Dead** (around 600 BC), P. Cologne 10207, University of Cologne, Egyptology

Monasterium ([www.monasterium.net](http://www.monasterium.net)) and the European Network on Archival Co-operation ([enarc.icarus.eu](http://enarc.icarus.eu)). Large-scale editing projects include ancient Egyptian funerary texts and papyrus rolls, Greek curse tablets, fragments of Late Antiquity historians and decrees by Carolingian rulers and archival records from the estates of modern writers like Fernando Pessoa and Hermann Burger as well as the sociologist Niklas Luhmann. In addition, the CCeH coordinates the Marie

Skłodowska Curie network DiXiT to boost new systematic approaches, common standards and sustainability in the field of digital editing. By establishing a data centre for the Humanities (DCH) the CCeH is developing solutions for the permanent protection, accessibility and presentation of data and resources in the Humanities.

Link:  
[cceh.uni-koeln.de](http://cceh.uni-koeln.de)

info

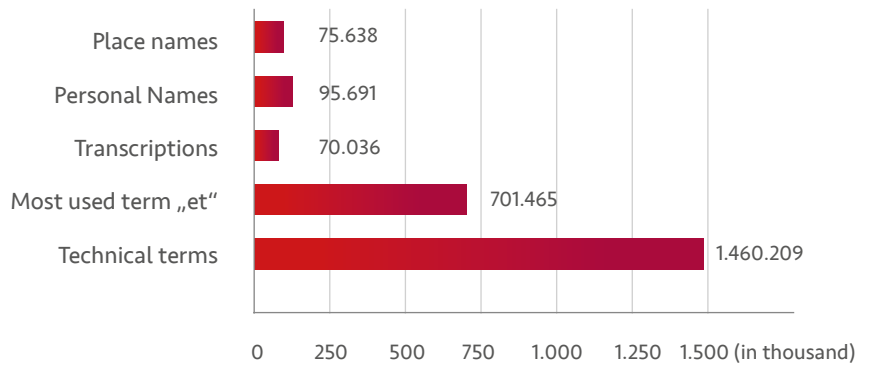
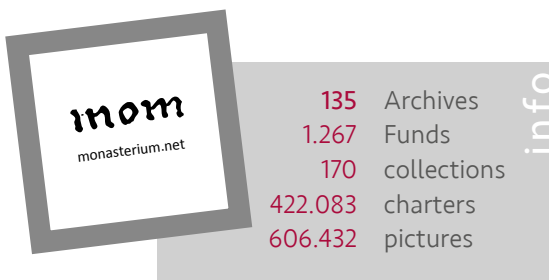
## Our most recent members

- Swedish National Archives | **Sweden**- University of Jyväskylä | **Finland**- Strahov Monastery | **Czech Republic**- Historical Archives of Novi Sad | **Serbia**- Museum of Slavonia in Osijek | **Croatia**- Computer Genealogy Society | **Germany**

Statistical facts about our services

# Raise the curtain!

by Kerstin Muff and Daniel Jeller



Number of **contents** as at 31. 01. 2015

Being Europe's virtual charters archive, Monasterium makes free, inter-disciplinary and international research possible: From the mere description of charters to the use

of available information in teaching and education. Monasterium is the digital collecting point for those charters of European history that chronicle the political, economical

and cultural development since the Middle Ages, and it provides free access to the corresponding digital copies.

[www.monasterium.net](http://www.monasterium.net)

## The biggest „seal-hedgehog“

On 31 July 1619 the estates of the Bohemian crown lands confirmed the constitution of the State of Bohemia as a confederation. A total of 96 aristocratic seals ratify this resolution. If there are particularly many seals attached to a charter, one talks about a „hedgehog“.

To be seen in more detail at:

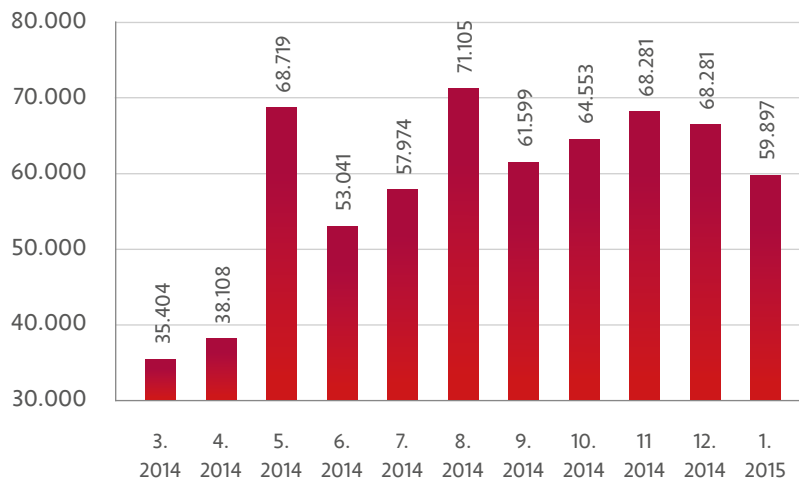
[monasterium.net/mom/CZ-NA/ACK/2327/charter?q=1619](http://monasterium.net/mom/CZ-NA/ACK/2327/charter?q=1619)



Top 10 search items

Wien	129
Knör	119
Alservorstadt	110
Weyer	88
Heidenreichstein	86
Obergrafendorf	76
Grünau	70
Wilhelmsburg	64
Mödling	64

7.646.584 pages online



Hit rate development over the last year

The online portal for church registers facilitates free viewing of the registers of the individual religious communities - the most frequently used and best explored historical sources of all.

Therefore, it allows us to easily access these important historical sources without limits, across borders and denominations. [www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu)

[www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu)



40	topotheques online
144.812	search terms
31.832	files online

The advantages of the network

A picture of a tobacconist's in Haslach an der Mühl, uploaded by topothequer Thomas Engleder into the topotheque of Haslach. The date is uncertain. But there in the window display is a poster – and probably a current one of that time: An invitation to the Vienna trade fair. The Prater topotheque holds several poster stamps of the Vienna fair. Each fair had its own advertising motif, which was shown on posters, advertisements and stamps. A



The fair poster in the display

quick comparison revealed that the poster in question referred to the Autumn Fair of 1935. And so we could at least establish the earliest date the photo could have been taken.

The number of topotheques and the amount of entries in the individual topotheques is on the rise. It is particularly pleasing to watch the dynamics that develop within the communities. To have residents add to the documentation of their regional history with private and previously dormant material has become hugely popular.

[www.topothek.at](http://www.topothek.at)

© Franz Bayerw

## Dear Readers!

In the future this page will be reserved for letters to the editor. For our first issue of *insight* we have compiled a number of press comments on ICARUS for you.

Please send  
your letters to:  
editor@icar-us.at

## Press comments

„You would like to know who your ancestors in the 18th century were? Or build a family tree? This can be easily done from home now! (...) Genealogical research has never been easier. Instead of elaborate research trips, you simply open the homepage [www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu) and access any of the currently digitized parish registers for free.“

*Krone bunt*, 4.1.2015

Martina Winkelhofer

„More and more communities start making their history available by way of topotheques. Thanks to private photographs the online archives cast a new light on village life. This participatory tool was invented by an inhabitant of Wiener Neustadt who wanted to sort his childhood memories.“

*Augustin*, 9.12.2014

Reinhard Krennhuber

„Einige Diözesen stellen die alten „Some dioceses put the old church registers of their parishes online to be used as open data, which makes the work of genealogists and historians so much easier. (...) The Diocesan Archives of St. Pölten pioneered the digitization of church registers by starting the project „Matricula“ ([www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu)) in 2008. „This platform is like Youtube for registers“, says Thomas Aigner, head of the archives in St. Pölten, in an interview with Kathpress.

[religion.ORF.at/KAP](http://religion.ORF.at/KAP), 12.2.2015

Day of Genealogy Germany, **Gotha, 2 October**

## Research without boundaries

Under the motto “25 years of German Unity – 25 years of cross-border research” the annual Day of Genealogy will take place in Gotha this year.

ICARUS4all is delighted to be represented by Thomas Aigner and his lecture on “Co-operation, not competition – The ICARUS experience”. The lecture will deal with the origins of the ICARUS network [www.icar-us.eu](http://www.icar-us.eu), which was born out of the practical need of the individual archives and universities to tackle the challenges of the digital age together, and finally led to the creation of expert portals such as Matricula for church registers, [www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu), Monasterium for charters, [www.monasterium.net](http://www.monasterium.net), or the topotheque for

privately owned historical sources, [www.topotheque.eu](http://www.topotheque.eu). The experiences made clearly show that the old patterns of thought and behaviour have become obsolete, and that a new and more open approach is required to meet the needs of the day.

There has also been a massive paradigm shift concerning the role of the institutions that preserve our cultural heritage, their previous users and various research communities. The old one-way road from the archive being the provider to the user being the consumer has given way to heavy two-way traffic. The traditional boundaries between institutions and private users have disappeared; they're all in the same boat now with one common

concern: To describe and digitize as much historical information as possible, be it as pictures or database files.

The lecture will elaborate on the experiences gathered during the process and introduce the audience to the approach of the ICARUS network. And most of all, it will go into detail about the newly established Friends Association ICARUS4all ([4all.icar-us.eu](http://4all.icar-us.eu)), which is to be a platform for the continuous exchange of ideas and inspirations between experts, communities and private researchers. ■

Link:  
[www.genealogentag.de](http://www.genealogentag.de)

info



# Termine

Below is a list of the most important upcoming events of **ICARUS** and **ICARUS4all**. Our online event calendar will keep you updated and offer you detailed information on the individual events.



## 27 –29 April 2015 · Praha, Czech Republic International Conference

„Archival Cooperation and Community Building in the Digital Age“

Břevnovský klášter (Břevnov Monastery)

## 27 –29 April 2015 · Praha, Czech Republic ICARUS-Meeting #15

Břevnovský klášter (Břevnov Monastery)

## 27 –29 April 2015 · Praha, Czech Republic co:op Kick Off Meeting

Břevnovský klášter (KBřevnov Monastery)

## 18 Mai 2015 · Brně (Brno), Czech Republic Excursion to the Moravský zemský archiv v Brně (Moravian Provincial Archives in Brno)

As it is one of the first activities of our Friends Association **ICARUS4all**, we cordially invite all members to our excursion to the Moravský zemský archiv v Brně (Moravian Provincial Archives in Brno). We plan to have guided tours of the archives in German and offer opportunities to talk to Czech archivists. For members of **ICARUS4all** the excursion is free of charge (except catering).

## 18 –19 June 2015 · Rottenburg, Germany Southwest German Archival Days 2015

The 75th Southwest German Archival Days will take place in Rottenburg near Tübingen this year. Under the motto “The **ICARUS** experience: Border crossing, innovation, community” Thomas Aigner will speak about the history of **ICARUS** from its origins to the formation of the new Friends Association **ICARUS4all**.

For more information on the programme and ways to register, please contact the State Archives of Baden-Württemberg.

For more detailed  
information  
please visit  
[icar-us.eu/events](http://icar-us.eu/events)

## 22 June 2015 · Salzburg, Austria Chroniclers' Conference

Local Chronicles – Chances, risks and new approaches, Salzburg Provincial Archives

This year's Chroniclers' Conference organized by the Salzburg Provincial Archives in co-operation with the “Bildungswerk Salzburg” is dedicated to regional and local chronicles and the related chances, risks and new approaches. In his lecture Thomas Aigner will present the history of **ICARUS** from its origins to the formation of the Friends Association **ICARUS4all**.

For more information on the programme and ways to register please contact the Salzburg Provincial Archives.

## 2 October 2015 · Gotha, Germany 67<sup>th</sup> Day of Genealogy Germany

Under the motto “25 years of German Unity – 25 years of cross-border research” the annual Day of Genealogy Germany will take place. For more information on the event please see the organizer's website [www.genealogentag.de](http://www.genealogentag.de) as well as our article on [page 28](#).

## 14 October 2015 · Třeboň, Czech Republic Excursion

to the Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni (State Regional Archives in Třeboň)

The Friends Association **ICARUS4all** cordially invites all members to an excursion to the State Státní oblastní archiv v Třeboni (State Regional Archives in Třeboň). We plan to have guided tours of the archives in German and offer the opportunity to talk to Czech archivists. For all members of **ICARUS4all** the excursion will be free of charge (except catering).



1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Board meeting at the Upper Austrian State Archives, Linz on 11 November 2014, from left to right: Gaugusch, **Lorenz Mikoletzky**, Hubert Schopf, **Gerhart Marckhgott**, Manfred Wegele, **Willibald Rosner**, Gerhard Tausche, **Karl Fischer**, Felix Gundacker, **Tomáš Černušák**, Alexander Schatek, **Cornelia Sulzbacher**, Thomas Aigner, **Gerhard Floßmann**

## ICARUS4all

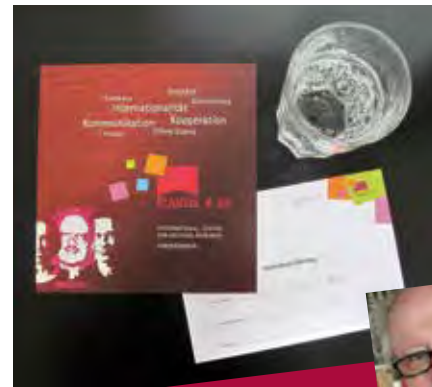
# The family is growing ICARUS for everyone!

by Corinna Ziegler

Digitization and the Internet have fundamentally changed the ways of accessing and exploring historical documents. This process comes with huge challenges to all those involved - preserving institutions, researchers and interested parties alike.

For some time now **ICARUS** has been offering free access to historical documents to research one's own family and regional history with the help of well-known online portals such as Matricula ([www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu)) and Monasterium ([www.monasterium.net](http://www.monasterium.net)). To provide and further develop such free access to these important historical sources **for everyone** is therefore one of **ICARUS'** major concerns.

While in earlier days it had mostly been institutions that ventured into such undertakings alone, private individuals now have the chance to partake in the sustainable preservation of historical records and their presentation by becoming a member of the Friends Association **ICARUS4all**.



**Lorenz Mikoletzky**  
Director General  
emeritus of the  
Austrian State  
Archives

„These days the Friends Association ICARUS4all is probably the best platform to share one's thoughts on the topics digitizing documents at a national and international level. The challenges that come with this task are extremely complex. It will only be possible to solve them by establishing a dialogue and a constant exchange of ideas within a wide discussion forum. In this context the association and its services provide the ideal framework, always striving to be a „meeting centre“.

... **In short:** By becoming a member you can make a valuable contribution to the effective funding of free-of-charge online offerings such as Matricula. And by sharing ideas and comments they can be improved and expanded on a continuous basis. In our magazine in-sights, to be published semi-annually, members will receive regular information on current developments and projects of the local and international archival community and be able to exchange opinions and experiences with archives and other scientific institutions during events. ■

As its first activity, ICARUS4all invites all members to a free excursion to the **Moravský zemský archiv v Brně** (Moravian Provincial Archives in Brno) on **18 May 2015!**

For more detailed information on membership and the planned excursion please visit our website:

[4all.icar-us.eu](http://4all.icar-us.eu)

info

# Things worth knowing about our Friends Association ICARUS4all

The **Executive Board** is responsible for the management of our friends association:

**President:**

Lorenz Mikoletzky  
Director General emeritus of the Austrian State Archives

**Vice President:**

Margit Ksoll-Marcon  
Director General of the Bavarian State Archives

**Vice President:**

Gerhart Marckhgott  
Head of the Upper Austrian State Archives

**Secretary:**

Alexander Schatek  
Project Manager Topotheque

**Deputy Secretary:**

Cornelia Sulzbacher  
Upper Austrian State Archives

**Cashier:**

Heidemarie Bachhofer  
Diocesan Archives St. Pölten

**Deputy Cashier:**

Rainer Hunger  
Producer of historical film documentations

**Controller:**

Herbert Wurster  
Diocesan Archives Passau

**Ex officio:**

Thomas Aigner  
President of ICARUS und Head of the Diocesan Archives St. Pölten

**Co-opted:**

Willibald Rosner  
Head of the Lower Austrian Provincial Archives

Manfred Tschakner  
Provincial Archives Vorarlberg

**Hubert Schopf**

Provincial Archives Salzburg

The **Advisory Board** of ICARUS4all supports the Executive Board in all matters of scientific and economic concern (in alphabetical order): Helmut Böhm, Association for East Bavarian Local History Research | Tomáš Černušák, Moravian Provincial Archives, Local History Society Brno | Karl Fischer, formerly Municipal and Provincial Archives of Vienna, Society for History of the City of Vienna | Gerhard Floßmann, Lower Austrian Bildungs-und Heimatwerk | Georg Gaugusch, Heraldic-Genealogical Society „Adler“ | Felix Gundacker, GenTeam | Elisabeth Kreuzwieser, Federation of Museums in Upper Austria | Günter Ofner, Familia Austria | Wolfgang Pledl, Bavarian Association for Local History Preservation (Forum Heimatpflege) | Willibald Rosner, Lower Austrian Provincial Archives, Association for Local History in Lower Austria | Christina Schmid, Society for Local History and the Preservation of Monuments in Upper Austria | Hubert Schopf, Provincial Archives Salzburg, Society for Local History Salzburg | Juraj Šedivý, Comenius University Bratislava | Michael Stephan, Municipal Archives Munich, Historical Association Upper Bavaria, HV Oberbayern | Gerhard Tausche, Municipal Archives Landshut, Historical Association Lower Bavaria, Federation of Bavarian Historical Associations | Manfred Wegele, Bavarian Association for Family History, German Working Committee of Genealogical Federations (DAGV) | Thomas Winkelbauer, Institute for Austrian Historical Research ■

## Membership

Become one of the pillars of ICARUS so as to contribute to its solid foundation and make sure that its digital online services remain available while new projects can be developed!

As one of the benefits of your membership you will be able to look behind the scenes of European archives and research institutions on the occasion of various events (excursions, lectures, round tables) and receive information about recent developments and projects within ICARUS and the archival community at a local and international level through our newsletter and the *insight* magazine!

Become a member by using the membership form enclosed in this magazine or by registering online at [4all.icar-us.eu!](http://4all.icar-us.eu)

# Membership Form:

I hereby agree to become a member of the Friends Association ICARUS4all.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Regular membership (35.- € p.a.)
- Regular membership, reduced (10.- € p.a.)
- Supporting membership: Amount/year: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to my name being published on the website of the association (for supporting members)

Place, Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
A termination of the membership of the Friends Association ICARUS4all is possible at all times. The association must be informed in writing within a period of at least 1 month.

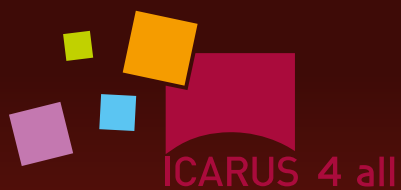
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please affix stamp

ICARUS4all  
Erdberger Lände 6/7  
1030 Wien







INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
FOR ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

- - Declaration of Membership - -

Become ...

... a part of ICARUS4all,

where **archives,**  
scientific  
**institutions,**  
**researchers** and  
**interested**  
parties meet at eye level!

More information on:

[4all.icar-us.eu](http://4all.icar-us.eu)





THE CREATIVE  
ARCHIVES' AND USERS'  
NETWORK

Co-funded by  
the European Union





