NFDI4Objects
Research Data Infrastructure
for the Material Remains of
Human History

Community Cluster

Provenance Research

Chairs: Meike Hopp (TU Berlin); Petra Winter (ZA, SPK); Angela Berthold (representative, MK, SMB)

SC Decision: 15.12.2023

Bodies Involved: TA2 (SPK, LEIZA), TA6 (KSW, FAU), N4O Linked Open Data CCluster, N4O Authority Data CCluster, TUB-DP (44), DNB (08), TUBr (46), UBH (39), plus var. Participants

External Linking: NFDI4Memory, NFDI4Culture, Deutscher Museumsbund: FG Dokumentation, Wikimedia Deutschland e.V. (kuwiki), Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung: AG - Digitale Provenienzforschung, DZK - Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste, Network Colonial Contexts-EVIFA, Deutscher Bibliotheksverband e.V., Kommission Provenienzforschung und Provenienzerschließung

Subject and Objective

A pool of scientists who conduct digital provenance research in museums, archives, libraries, etc. In this CC, the individual object and its acquisition history form the starting point for provenance research.

The topic of the CC is the establishment of the use of authority files in the digital publication of previous owners and sellers. These preferably internationally recognized authority files are intended to help identify people and entities in connection with acquisition processes across collections and to reconstruct networks.

By using common, standardized authority files for people and corporations and the resulting information gain, object biographies can be traced across databases from various institutions, starting from the individual object, and objects that formerly belonged to a collection or person can be brought back into their original context.

Out of Scope

The Community Cluster deals exclusively with the needs of provenance research in the digital space with regard to previous owners and sellers; relevant legal questions and possibilities for presenting provenances in relation to the object, for example in exhibitions, are excluded.

Intended Work Results

Survey of how previous owners and sellers are presented in databases for provenance research.

Development of recommendations for recording provenance data for different object categories.

Establishing the use of authority data in digital provenance research. Furthermore, modeling for uncertainties and gaps regarding various provenance data of an object will be discussed.

Assistance and communication of the results.

TRAIL 2.4: Digital provenance research: Methods, concepts and authority files on personal names

The basis of this TRAIL is the personal metadata about objects and their provenance. The aim of the project is to categorize and catalog existing resources and create new personal authority data. This personal authority data is to be published using a comprehensive vocabulary server. Semantic modeling of the network with the help of personal authority data and other resources creates the prerequisites for more in-depth analyses.

Targeted sub-work areas (implemented in the form of TWGs):

1) Individuals and corporations as previous owners in the years 1933-1945 (creation of GND entries, modeling and linking in wikibase)

2) Semantic annotation of texts with person's and corporation's data as well as linking to objects using the example of coin collectors and coin dealers in the Ottoman Empire: The correspondence of Arthur Löbbecke (1882-1915)

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Whitepaper:

Standardization and mapping of provenance data

Link between different repositories, interfaces, FDM

There are connecting points for:

TRAIL 2.1 Exploring the RDM landscape in museums and collections

TRAIL 2.2: Evaluation of fuzziness and wobbliness in numismatics and ceramology

TRAIL 2.5: A workflow for enhancing iconography authority data in the Wikimedia Universe

TRAIL 2.6: Solving vagueness modelling issues in numismatics and ceramology