

Floppy Disk Magazines

Preserving Forgotten Digital Heritage



Softdisk #2

APPLE II
English, 1981 - 1995

The first magazine published on 5.25" floppy disk



Bad Mag #2

Amstrad/Schneider CPC
English/German, 1992 - 1993

Bilingual German-British-Irish zine of the international democoder scene and the only diskmag on 3" disk

About

Diskmags were born-digital journals published on electronic media in the 1980s and 1990s. Some were commercial products; many of them were created by young enthusiasts for communication in the home computer scene.

Today, they give insight to a highly creative, early digital and multi-medial culture in the first decades of microcomputing. But the state of preservation is poor, as neither libraries nor archives did collect diskmags systematically.

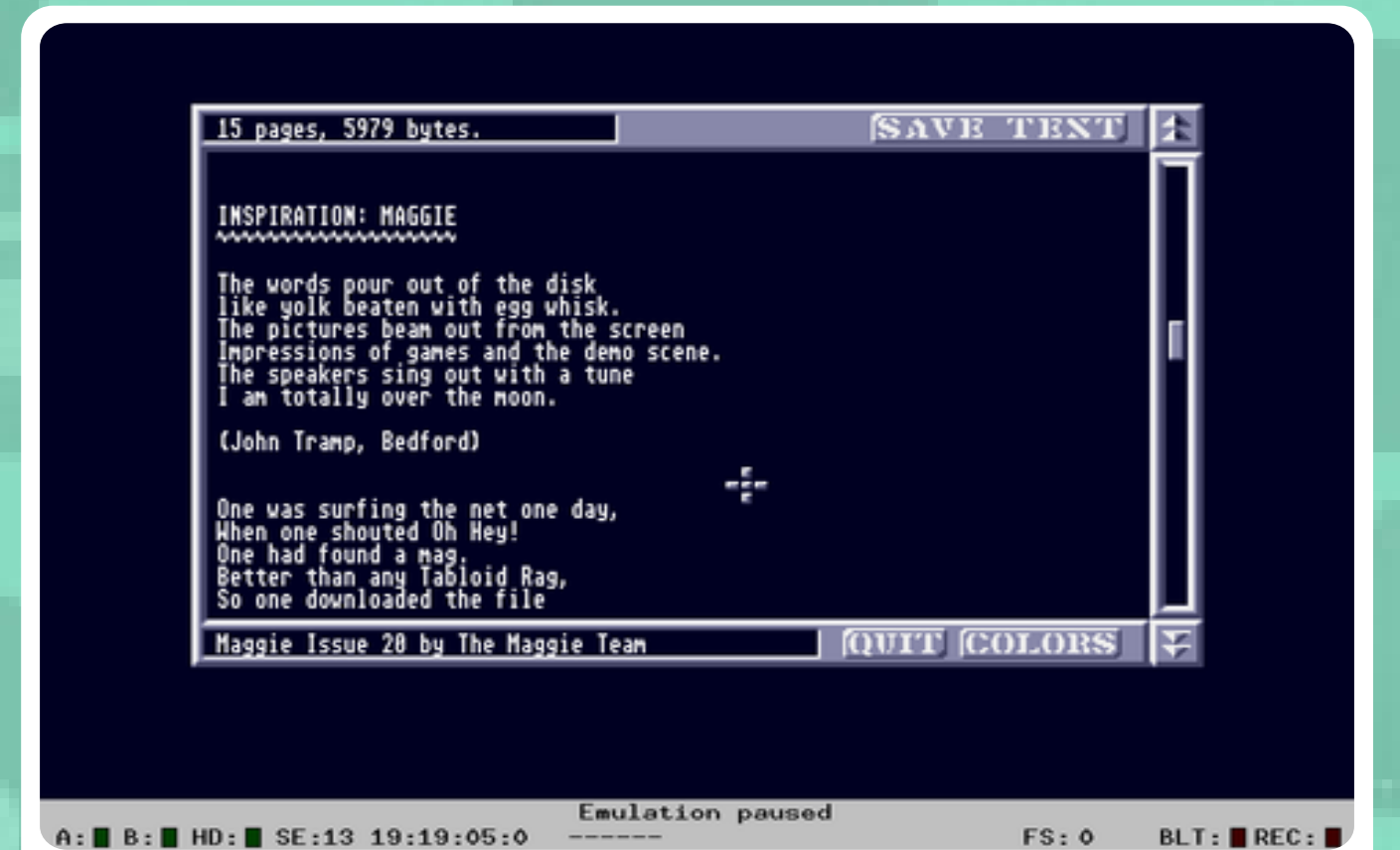
This one-year project, funded in 2023, aims at preserving this valuable cultural heritage by creating a scientific collection and a digital text corpus for further research.



Le Petit Amiga Illustré #8

Amiga
French, 1992 - 1996

Francophone diskmag with a wide variety of scene contents and a colorful menu system

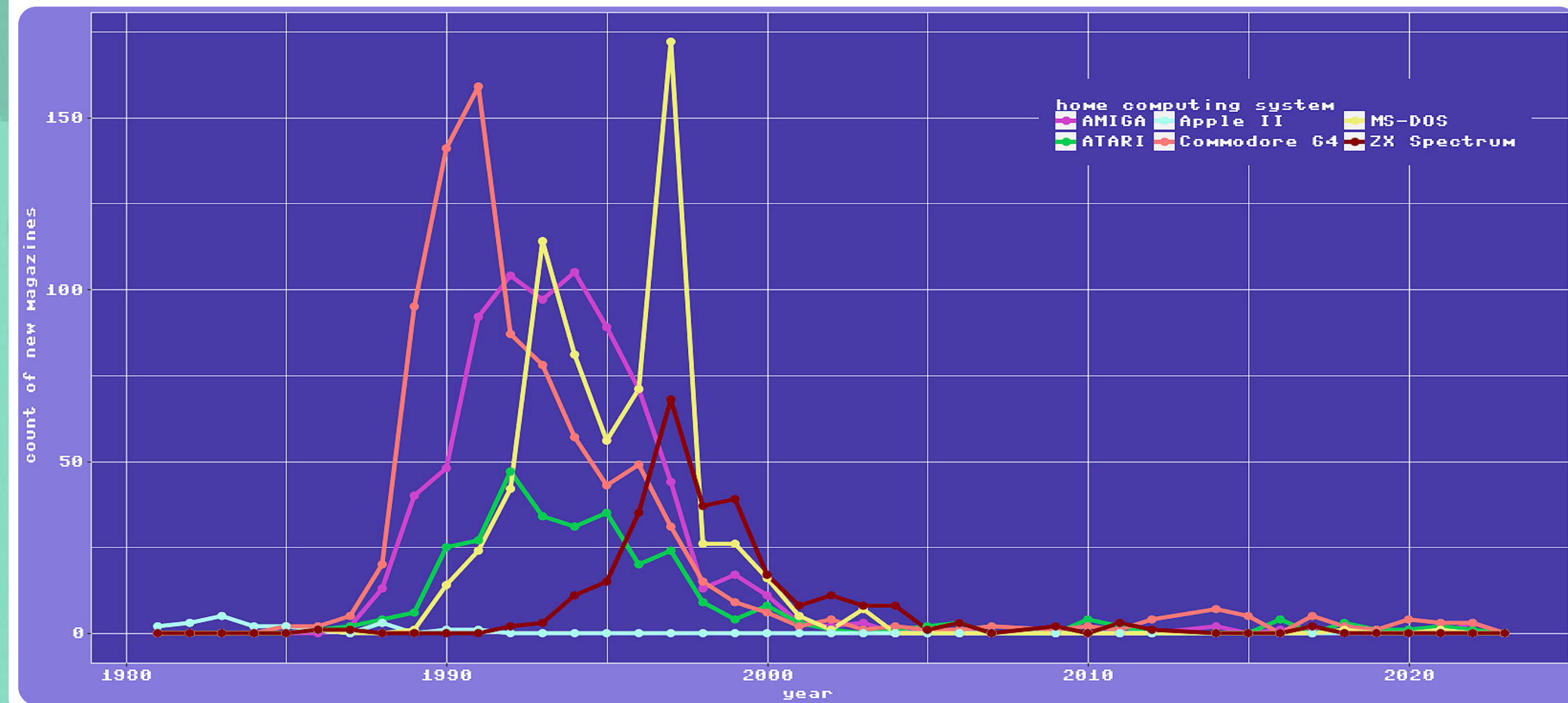


Maggie #20

ATARI ST
English, 1990 - 2016

Multimedia diskmag which also contained poetry and other literary forms... and a poem about diskmags!

Disk Magazine publications across systems



Warp #2

ATARI ST
English, 1995 - 1996

Star Trek fanzine with a fascinating menu



Yahoo! #1

MS-DOS
English, 1994 - 1995

Demozine with built-in database about the demoscene and its history



Magic Disk #1

Commodore 64
German, 1987 - 1993

Popular commercial diskmag on hardware and software, especially for gamers and hobby programmers



Optron #16

ZX Spectrum
Russian, 1997 - 2001

Ukrainian non-commercial disk magazine, developed and published by various creators from Lviv



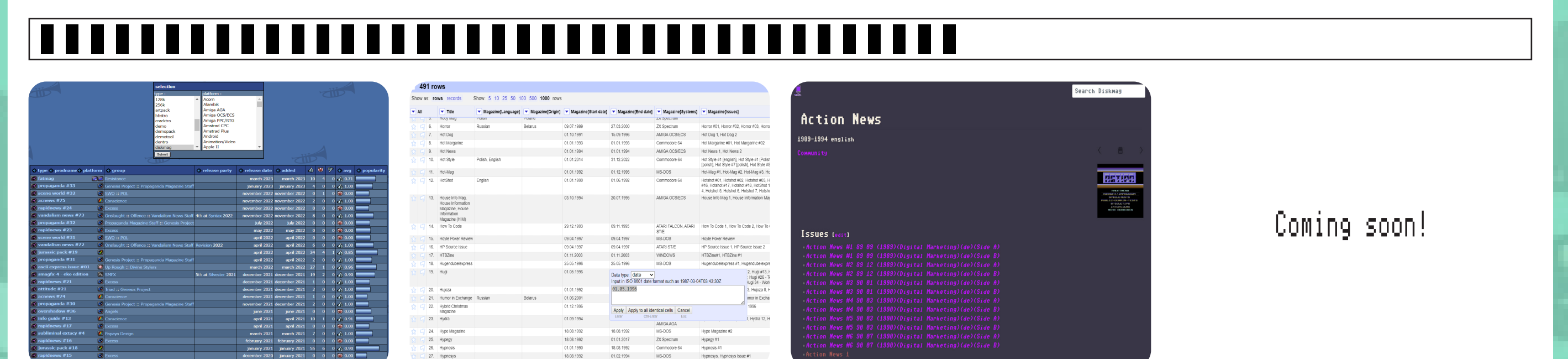
Digital Talk #113

Commodore 64
English/German, 1993 - now

Active fanzine of the retrocomputing community, still published on original floppy disks

Project Progress

- 1. Data collection**
 - Prehistory: a number of fan databases and collections of diskmags and related information
 - Next step: applying data scraping techniques to gather data and references
 - Outcome: five comprehensive datasets with 2.000+ unique magazine titles and references to 20.000+ issues
- 2. Data preparation**
 - Measure 1: design a cohesive structure for the available datasets
 - Measure 2: data cleaning and standardization with OpenRefine
 - Measure 3: transformation of single datasets into object relational data model
- 3. Data publication**
 - Configure a Semantic MediaWiki instance and open it to members of the diskmags community to create and edit records
 - Configure a FactGrid instance to generate authority records for diskmag titles and related entities
 - Include binary data of original disks where legally and technically possible
- 4. Further steps**
 - Next project stage: create a text corpus of German diskmags
 - Extract text from binary disk images (requires decompression and uncodification)
 - Collect and digitize images of printed material (covers, disks, manuals)
 - Study the collection and the corpus with computational methods



Coming soon!