Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

UNIVERSITÄTSARCHIV HAMBURG

How to Archive a Corona Archive Project?

The University of Hamburg's Coronarchiv and the SIARD file-format

Francesco GELATI, Head of Section Digital Services and Internal Consultancy & Sönke RAU, Deputy Head of Section University Archives, Universität Hamburg.
https://coronarchiv.blogs.uni-hamburg.de ; https://www.archiv.uni-hamburg.de ; archiv@uni-hamburg.de

The story of *coronarchiv*

In 2020 the *coronarchiv* was initiated by three German universities: Universität Hamburg, Ruhr-Universität Bochum and Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen.

It is a multilingual, participatory, online portal aimed to collect, store, preserve, make accessible and exhibit digital objects documenting the historical time of the pandemic.

People from all over the world (mainly Germany but also South America, Africa and Asia) uploaded texts, videos and images about how they experienced the Covid-19 pandemic. See e.g. this puppet advertising a Corona test centre.

„Aufblasbare Puppe als Werbemittel für Schnelltest-zentrum in Worms/Rhein" by Christian, CC BY-SA 4.0, coronarchiv, online at: https://coronarchiv.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/item?id=16567

The project has been led by Hamburg's Faculty of Humanities, Department of History, who will soon hand the project over to the University Archives, which will ensure long-term digital archiving.

What about its long-term digital archiving?

Since the *coronarchiv* is a mid-size website, the first option to be explored was web-archiving. The freeware Heritrix developed by The Internet Archive and the ISO-standard file-format WARC (ISO 28500:2009) are today worldwide adopted.

Yet the *coronarchiv* is not only a website, but also a relational MySQL-database run by the open-source Content Management System (CMS) Omeka-S. That is why the University Archives decided to convert the database in SIARD files.

The non-proprietary SIARD file-format was developed by Switzerland's Federal Archives and is based on four internationally recognized standards: XML, SQL:2008, UNICODE and ZIP64. It permits archiving mark-leading database types: MySQL, MS Access, Oracle and PostgreSQL.

„Where is the Toilet Paper?", by qwack, CC BY-SA 4.0, coronarchiv, online at: https://coronarchiv.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/item/?id=16346

Open-source, free tools and file-formats

Omeka S: CMS, developed by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media https://omeka.org/s/

SIARD: Software Independent Archival of Relational Databases: https://dilcis.eu/content-types/siard

Database Preservation Toolkit (DBPTK), a tool developed by Keep Solutions: https://www.keep.pt

Other digital projects at the University Archives

Hamburger Matrikelportal
Scanned register cards and biographic infos about all 35'000 students who enrolled in Hamburg between 1919 and 1935.

https://www.matrikelportal.uni-hamburg.de/

Hamburger Professorinnen- und Professorenkatalog
More than 5'900 members of the teaching staff from the university's foundation in 1919 until today can be searched online.

https://www.hpk.uni-hamburg.de/