

Tutorial/Workshop Session 3: Guido Koller (@GuidoKoller) (Swiss Federal Archives): Interpretation of Digital Records: The Swiss Federal Archives' case

According to Koller, problems relating to archiving/preservation and metadata management are at least partly solved. Still at stake are however questions on how to make records best available and how to interpret digital records.

Archives have a 30 year ceiling, newer documents are available for consultation on request

Looking at the archive, how it works with digital records

He discusses search problem with OCR (e.g. numeric data/statistics that are printed as text strings)

short intermezzo: DODIS search ([Fehler! Linkverweis ungültig.](#))

Archives in the digital age (BAR perspective)

1980s: digital born data created in the administration

- oldest data: statistical office; magnetic tapes are lost (hardware not available, magnetic charge lost)

1990s: digital finding aids

2000s: digitalization, archiving digital data

- OAIS standard

2010s: big issue: context information

- until now essential distinction between primary data and metadata

- fulltext searching makes metadata less important; for contextualisation however metadata matters

- (relational) databases are flattened (SIARD tool)

User needs

- data driven analysis; PDF is not very suitable for data analysis

- worst to best quality: Pdf->Excel->CSV (Comma-separated value)->XML- >Permanent Link/linked data

- collaborative web (e.g. user generated comments)

Conclusions/challenges

- developing infrastructure for access

- organizing spaces of information ("proto VRE")
- building up knowledge (internally to meet the challenges, externally as a data contributor)

Discussion

- metadata description on file or document level? consensus: the level is less important than the quality
- federated search on several archives/single point of access desirable
- abandon absurd rules (3 pictures of manuscript material per day and user in one cantonal archive)