

A central digital online resource for academic collections in Germany

Martin Stricker, Berlin



Short overview

- » A national portal for digital presentation of objects of collections and of collections as scientific infrastructures
- » Metadata and digitizations of the whole spectrum are being aggregated
- » Data will be enriched, linked and presented on the web

Short overview

» An **open system**:

- » aggregated data may be in different forms and formats
- » open machine-readable access to data for re-using systems and applications
- » participation in German Digital Library and Europeana
- » open (free) licenses when possible

» **Starting points**

mission | initiative | network | environment

» **System details**

data model | aggregation | access |
vocabularies | collection description

Our mission

WR

WISSENSCHAFTSRAT

Drs. 10464-11
Berlin 28 January 2011

Recommendations on Scientific Collections as Research Infrastructures

»Germany has a diverse array of collections that are available to users as a **valuable infrastructure for their research**. The **considerable scientific potential** of collections has been utilised countless times before, providing material for scientific publications and exhibitions. (...) The potential of scientific collections for research should be utilised more effectively in the interests of the **scientific system**, and also in the search for answers to current questions with **urgent relevance for society** as a whole.«

Scientific infrastructures

- » Academic collections as essential infrastructure for current research, teaching and public education
- » „Academic Heritage“ can be integrated as „History of Science and the Humanities“
- » Digital resources for academic collections should be positioned as part of digital research infrastructures

Initiative – who we are

- » *Coordination Centre for Scientific University Collections in Germany*
- » *Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research*
- » *Lead: Cornelia Weber*
- » *Team: 3 academic staff members (project management, communication, digital) + more*

Initiative – our goals

- » Provide location- and discipline-independent support
- » Coordinate projects and strategies for university collections as heterogeneous and decentral research infrastructures
- » Digital portal should conform to these aims and be a member of the network with a connecting role

University collections in Germany

- » 820+ collections
- » There has been and is already significant digital activity



Wissenschaftliche Sammlungen Scientific Collections

ERNST MORITZ ARNDT
UNIVERSITÄT GREIFSWALD



Wissen
lockt.
Seit 1456

Objectresearch

Object of the quarteryear



Victor-Schultze
Collection



Eldena-Wiek bei
Greifswald



Eldena-Wiek (Ausschnitt)

Scientific collections of the University of Greifswald

Foreword

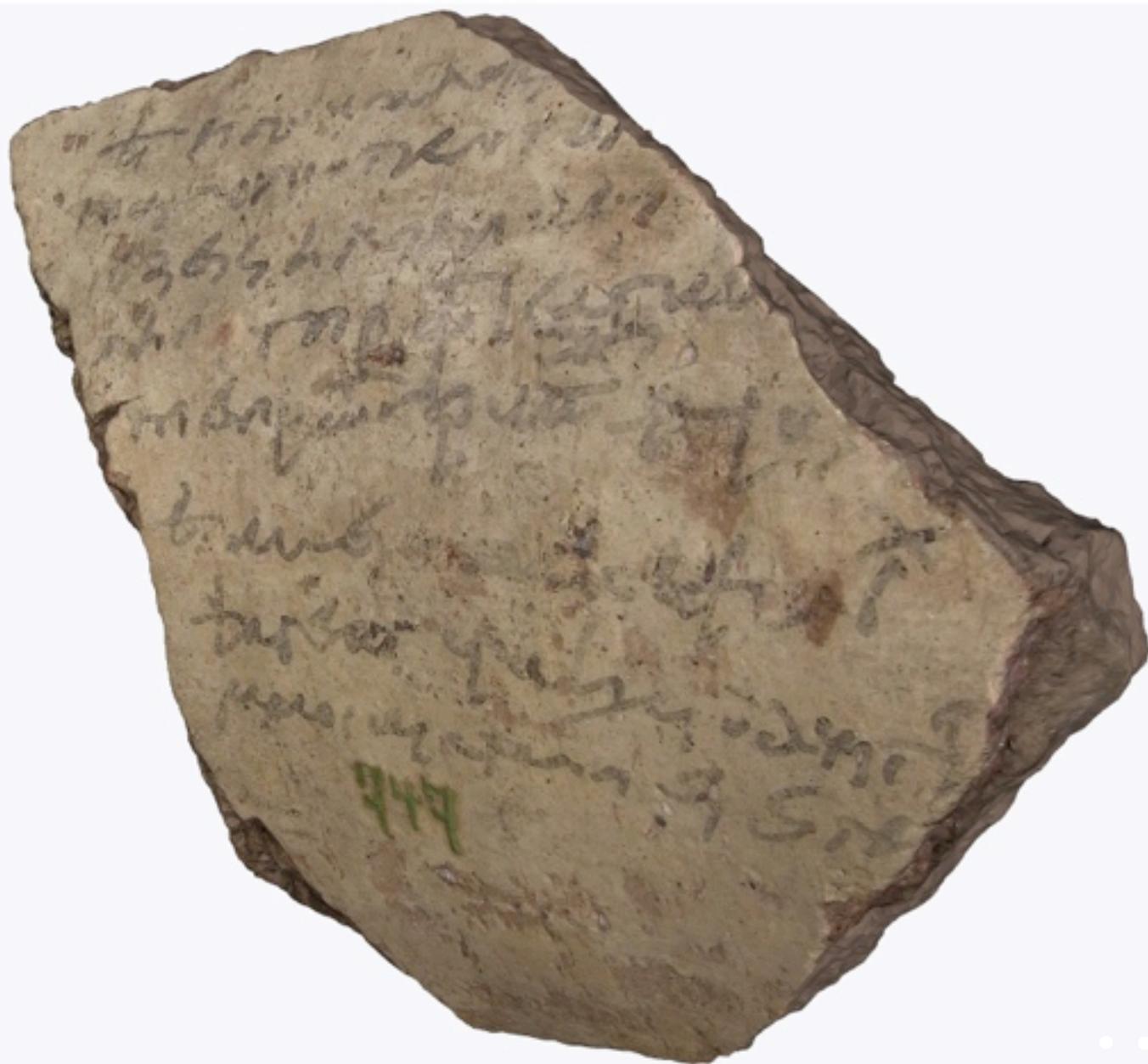


Objectresearch



Navigation

- ▶ Scientific collections
- ▶ Research
- ▶ dc00229
- ▶ News
- ▶ Terms of use



University collections in Germany

- » 820+ collections
- » There has been and is already significant digital activity
- » More is to come, partly based on activities at university-level and based on projects funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

University collections in Germany

- » Central national portal
 - » aggregate and link as much as possible of rich metadata and high quality digitizations
 - » function as gateway to decentral resources (on object-, collection- and digital resource-level)
 - » increase visibility and usability of collections

Environment

- » Academic collections as part of 2 (digital) domains
 - » cultural heritage
 - » scientific research environment
- » Digital infrastructures should participate in both areas
 - » cultural heritage standards
 - » Semantic Web technologies as most obvious option for digital research infrastructures

Internal data model

- » Graph-based, probably RDF and OWL
- » Metadata Standards
 - » CIDOC CRM as reference
 - » Europeana Data Model (EDM) and/or LIDO (Lightweight Information Describing Objects) as probable core standards
 - » further standards may be used and integrated

Data aggregation

- » Stages:
 - » physical data acquisition
 - » analysis, QA (possibly request to provider for data revision)
 - » ingestion
 - » mapping (attribute types, vocabularies)
 - » enrichment

Data access

- » For humans: web portal with search, browsing, visual images (if available, preferably high resolution)
- » For further processing by applications: interfaces
 - » OAI-PMH/LIDO
 - » SPARQL endpoint
 - » Linked Data

Vocabularies & authority files

- » Use of authority files for persons and corporate bodies (GND/VIAF)
- » Integration of standard controlled vocabularies if applicable (must be in German, open license, in broad use)
- » Own vocabularies:
 - » object types / object genres
 - » academic disciplines
 - » materials (?)

Collection description

- » Description of academic collections as scientific infrastructures
- » EDM-based data model: collections, holdings, publications, digital resources, facilities, involved persons, activities
- » Custodians and contact persons will be invited to curate the data via a web interface

Roadmap

» Internal Beta

network members are invited to curate descriptions of their collections
winter 2013/14

» Public Beta

first version of object data presentation
summer 2014

Thank you!

Martin Stricker

stricker@wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de

