



Lunchtime Lecture

22.11.2023, 12:00 (s. t.)

Institut Zentrum für Informationsmodellierung, Elisabethstraße 59/III, Lehrsaal SR 81.31

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Factoid Prosopography and Its (Dis)Contents

Problems run into (and partially solved) in building the ManMax database

Prosopography is an attempt to bring together the biographical data for groups of persons in a systematic way. In doing so, it aims to overcome the danger of drawing conclusions from individual cases. The Factoid model proposed by John Bradley takes things a step further: statements about a person are logically separate from the person, allowing disagreement between sources (and between interpretations of those sources) to be modelled. The Managing Maximilian (ManMax) project aims to create a large prosopographical database of the court of Maximilian I, using the APIS system developed at the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities. As ManMax comprises myriad areas of research (art, armour, propaganda, politics, gender roles...), carried out by multiple small teams, it pushes at the boundaries of the Factoid model itself, and the limits of APIS. This talk will discuss the ideas behind the Factoid model, the theoretical and technical benefits and challenges of actually creating data using this model, and the solutions implemented so far by the ManMax digitisation team.

The screenshot shows a web interface for the ManMax database. It features a form for entering a statement. The form includes fields for ID, LABEL, START, and END, each with a text input and a date picker. Below these are sections for 'INTERNE NOTIZEN' and 'BIBELHÖRER'. The 'BIBELHÖRER' section contains a list of references, each with a title and a date. The interface is clean and modern, with a light blue header and a white background.



Richard Hadden is a post-doctoral researcher at the Zentrum für Informationsmodellierung at the University of Graz, working principally on the FWF Managing Maximilian (ManMax) project. He was previously at the ACDH-CH, working on APIS-related projects and implementing tools around the IPIF prosopography standard. His PhD, from Maynooth University, Ireland, considered the application of textual scholarship to large text digitisation projects.



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