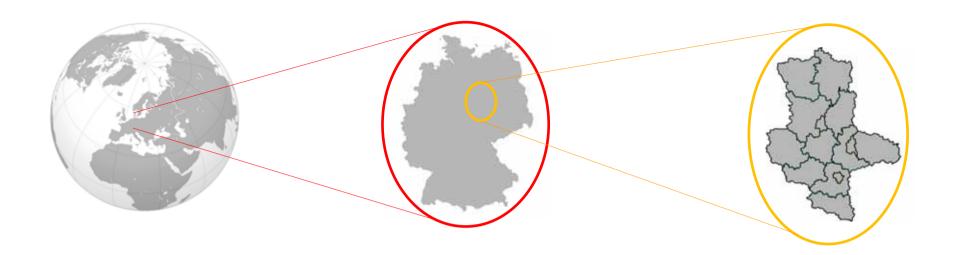
# museums in the spotlight



It's not always easy

but it's wonderful



This short report is about experiences collected in saxony-anhalt ...

# One day in europe ...





... europeana was created

# One day in europe ...





... europeana was created



... Athena came into being



... 6 museums decided to go online

One day in saxony-anhalt ...



Bitterfeld, January 29, 2009

-

... created www.museum-digital.de



... 6 museums decided to go online





Bitterfeld, January 29, 2009

# One day in europe ...







... europeana was created



... Athena came into being



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... 6 museums decided to go online







The first lesson always is simple ...

- If you want to be visible, you have to have something to show

### Action taken by the 6 museums: Analysis of situation

- unadorned analysis of the real situation in the museums
- creation of a working group digitisation

### Results of the analysis

- a most divers situation, all possible kinds of databases or none
- nearly no museum had publishable images of its objects at hand





The first lesson always is simple ...

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#### Action taken by the 6 museums: Observe and analyse

- what kind of information do others publish in the internet ?
- what dataformats or databases do others use?

#### Results of the observation

- it is only 8 items of basic information that everyone publishes
- publication of object information should come along with images





The first lesson always is simple ...

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### Action taken by the 6 museums: Conduct a survey

- how long will it take to get these 8 items of basic information?
- invitation to other museums to join the survey?
- "Give me five" (information to five of your objects per collection)

#### Results of the survey

- information on most diverse kinds of objects was collected
- 20 museums participated in the survey
- it takes 3 min to 3 hours per object to gather this 8 items of information and to take/get a photograph (database or not)!!





## Decision (1)

we will publish the object-information in a way that

**ALL MUSEUMS** (never mind the size) can participate, that means

- no cost solution (most museums are really poor)
- simple structures (computer expertise is often rare)
- database should be useful for all kinds of objects (museumdat)
- involvement of museums in collecting object information AND
- involvement of museums in creation of database-system
- publication should enable participation in europeana via Athena

# Decision (2)

we will conduct workshops on object-photography









# "museum" is much more than art



Art + History + Archaeology + Technology + Science + ...



### May 2009

Sachsen - Anhalt

7181 + Objekte 488 + Sammlungen 78 + Museen

#### www.museum-digital.de

Objekte

Kontakt

was created

MUSEEN, SAMMLUNGEN, OBJEKTE ...

Es gibt viele gute Gründe in Museen zu gehen. Ausstellu Veranstaltungen sind nur zwei davon. Museen "zeigen" und sie "bilden". Doch es ist mehr, was ein Museum aus Bewahrens und des Forschens. Zwei Facetten von "Mus sichtbar werden und doch Grundlage für alles sind, wod

Es gibt viele gute Gründe in Museen zu gehen. Ausstellungsbesuche oder die Teilnahme an Veranstaltungen sind nur zwei davon. Museen "zeigen" und "inszenieren", sie "regen an" und sie "bilden". Doch es ist mehr, was ein Museum ausmacht: Museen sind Orte des Bewahrens und des Forschens. Zwei Facetten von "Museum", die nicht immer unmittelbar sichtbar werden und doch Grundlage für alles sind, wodurch ein Museum sichtbar wird. Gezeigt, inszeniert, bewahrt und erforscht werden dabei die Objekte der Museen. Sie stehen im eigentlichen Zentrum der Museumsarbeit. Kaum ein Museum kann alle von ihm verwahrten Objekte gleichzeitig zeigen. Vieles muß - kaum beachtet - in den Depots verbleiben. Auf diesen Seiten präsentieren Museen aus Sachsen-Anhalt gemeinsam ihre Objekte, um mehr von den "Schätzen" zu zeigen, als in "vier (acht, zwölf, ...) Wänden" möglich ist.

Eine zufällige Auswahl von Objekten finden Sie rechts. Klicken Sie darauf um mehr zu erfahren. Weitere Objekte finden Sie, wenn Sie einen Suchbegriff eingeben.

Übersichten und Beschreibungen zu Objekten und Sammlungen einzelner Museen können Sie über die obere Navigationsleiste auswählen.



FImpressum +AG Digitalisierung →MV Sachsen-Anhalt →museum-digital →Google Analytics



9 1



#### May 2009

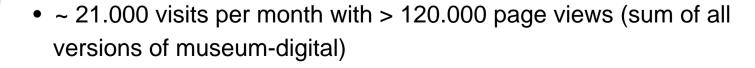
#### www.museum-digital.de

was created



Starting with "Give me five" ... there are now:

- about 13.000 objects online (17.000 total) from 173 (200) museums
- in 9 different versions of museum-digital (along federal states)
- one "national version" (search through all museums) since easter
- 5.777 objects via Athena in europeana











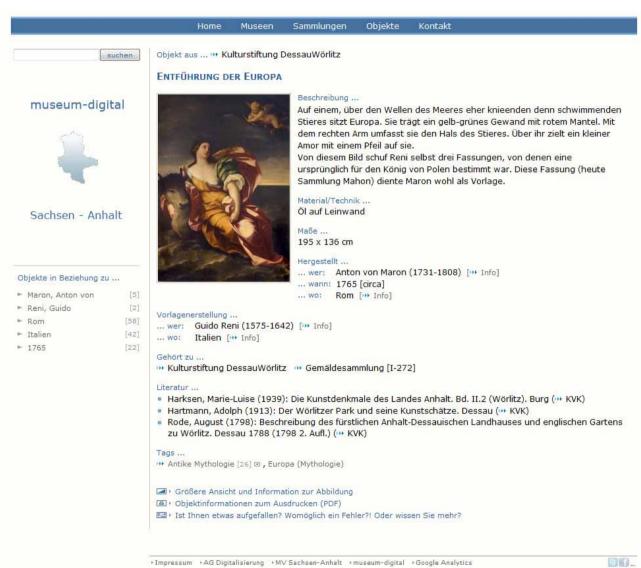
- is an easy to use software for object publication (data ingest is possible in many ways including an input interface)
- Data enrichment (normative data) in the background
- Frontend with "web 2.0" facilities and use of linked data (authority files and dbpedia) (feedback or annotation-button, each new object is published also via facebook (>1.000 "friends" in 5 month) and twitter)
- Communication among museums increased (own mailing list)
- Permanent process of improving the software according to needs and possibilities of museums
- Possiblity of displaying own object-data at museums website
- All sites created are strictly optimised for search-engines
- Basic principle: All data belong to the museum itself in any case







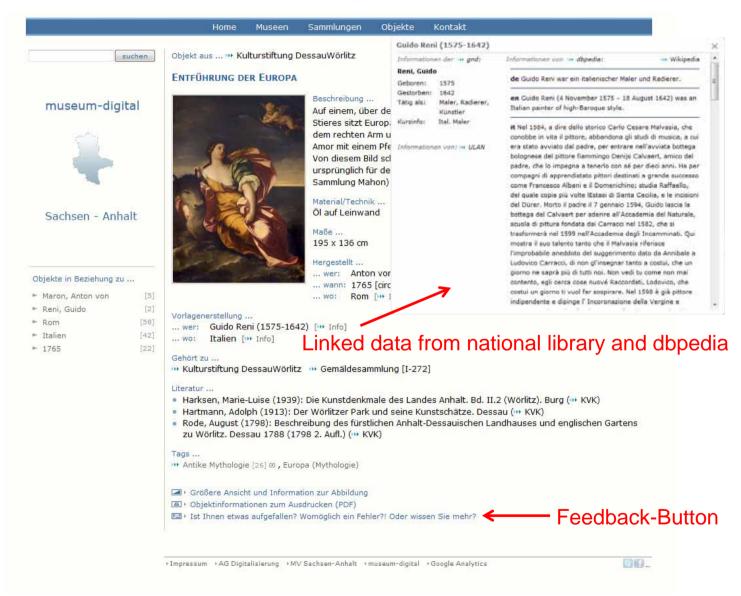




... just an example





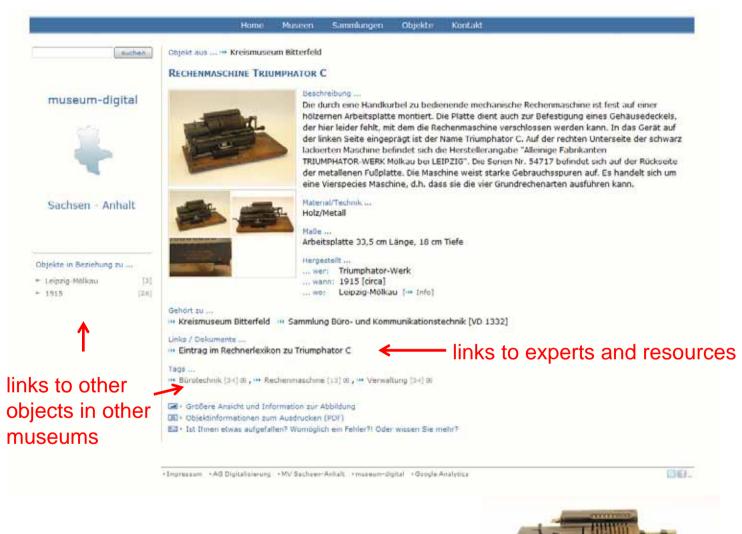


... just an example









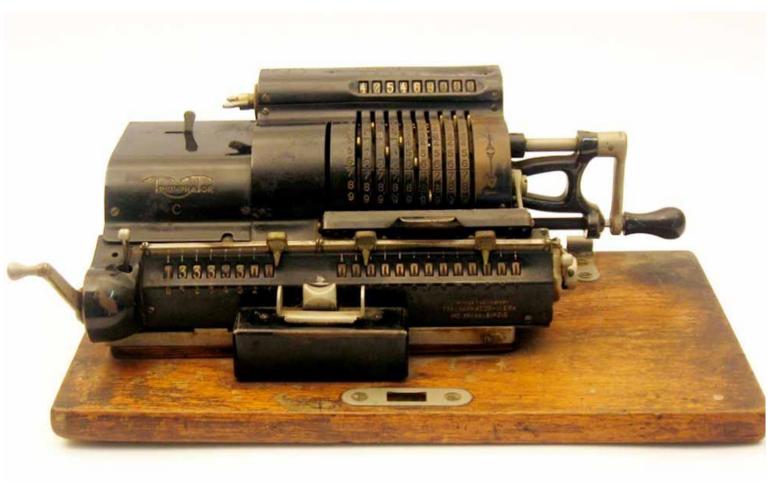
... another example











... we use images as large as the museum allows ...



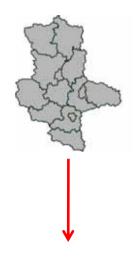




## Lessons learned ...



Publication is not documentation!





Different kinds of images in publication and documentation

Documentation most often has a lot of (technical) abbreviations

Documentation often is full of typing errors







Publication is not documentation!







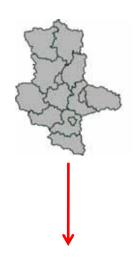
#### Lessons learned ...

Documentation is often outdated (up to 40, 50 years old)



Documentation could be a good starting point for publication BUT: Often it is not existent! (not outside the heads of curators)

Publication is not documentation!







# ... sad to say ...

Since many years museums are forced to concentrate on exhibitions and public events.







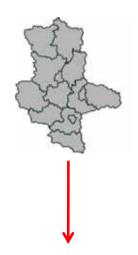


Documentation and Publication – both need expertise

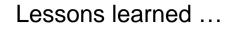


In many museums there is a considerable lack of expertise









Documentation and Publication – both need expertise

Documentation and Publication – both take their time





In many museums there is a considerable lack of expertise

In many museums there is a considerable lack of time











#### Lessons learned ...

Documentation and Publication – both need expertise

Documentation and Publication – both take their time

Documentation and Publication – someone has to do the job



In many museums there is a considerable lack of expertise
In many museums there is a considerable lack of time

In many museums there is a considerable lack of manpower





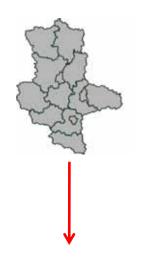
There is still the idea of making money from publishing images















### Lessons learned ...

There is still the idea of making money from publishing images

There is still the attitude of "its my object", "its my information"

There is still a lack of self-confidence in publishing via Internet









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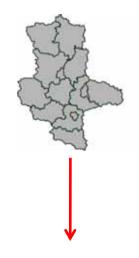
And: There is the question of "what to publish"







Different museums ... different answers







#### Lessons learned ...

Publishing cooperatively boosts cooperation among museums

Publishing objects reveals invisible aspects of museum-work

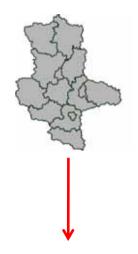
Publishing objects slightly changes the image of "museum"

Publishing forces museum-people to concentrate on objects

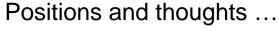
Publishing objects results in contacts with experts and others

Examples ... Iceland, Rechnerlexikon, Schmalfilmkamera, Bernburg

Through publication the wisdom of others can be used to enhance documentation! (A kind of "crowd-sourcing")







What are we doing if we publish museum-objects?

- ✓ We advertise the museum!
- ✓ We show "hidden" aspects of museum-work!
- ✓ We show more of our objects than we do in exhibitions!
- ✓ We offer our objects as valuable information resources!

We advertise our common project www.museum-digital.de and doing this we advertise each of the participating museums









Publishing object-information is

- time-consuming,
- money-demanding,
- labour-intensive.

BUT ...

It is fulfillment of the requirements

- "Museums should interpret their objects
- Museums should promote their objects" (ICOM-Definition)



So, to sum it up ...

# ... it's not always easy - but it's wonderful



Thank you!

Uwe Holz, Director, Kreismuseum Bitterfeld and Industrie- und Filmmuseum Wolfen Board of museum-association of Saxony-Anhalt

Stefan Rohde-Enslin, Researcher, Institute for Museum Research (SMB-PK), Berlin