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PROGRAM RESEARCH WITH A DIGITAL ARCHIVE: BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES

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1

STRUCTURE

- Development of the digital archive
 - Collection logic and research logic
 - From the printed archive to a digital archive at the DIE
- RetroPro from the researchers' perspective
- Examples of program research with RetroPro
- Value & challenges
- Discussion with the audience



2

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Collection logic and research logic

Collecting

- Cultural heritage
- Preservation
- Documentation



Researching

- Usability
- Fitting
- Evidence



3

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Rationale for the digital archive at the DIE

Gathering and preserving programs from adult education centers (VHS) has always been a responsibility of the DIE



- Digital turn
- Guarantee the continuity of the collection
- Protection and conservation of the printed programs

⇒ RetroPro!



4

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The digital archive RetroPro

- A model project : Research and Development Centre (FEZ / "Programmes and Participation") and Data and Information Centre (DIZ) working together
- (Retro-)Digitalization of a representative sample of programs from 41 German adult education centers (VHS) → 270.000 pages from 3.400 programs were digitalized
- Containing past and current programs/catalogues since 1957



5

RESEARCHERS' PERSPECTIVE

Value of RetroPro for research

- Subject of program research: programs (catalogues)
- Digital turn
- Change in program preservation: digital archives are needed for further program research
- In Europe until now only a few digital archives exist (exploratory survey; see exhibition Room 208)

→ RetroPro is unique for research



6

RESEARCHERS' PERSPECTIVE

Value of RetroPro for research

Unique nature

- Location-independent
- Open access to a wide range of German programs/catalogues
- Full text database system
- Programs since 1957
 - historical, longitudinal studies are possible
 - qualitative and quantitative research questions are possible

👉 How to handle these digital data for instance



7

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM RESEARCH WITH RETROPRO

Access to the archive: via the homepage of the German Institute for Adult Education:

<https://www.die-bonn.de/weiterbildung/archive/programmplanarchive/default.aspx>

The screenshot displays the RetroPro search interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'Literature Search', 'Library', 'Programme Archive of Adult Education Centres', and 'Volltextrecherche'. The main area features a search bar with the placeholder 'Ihr Suchbegriff' and a 'Hilfe zur Suche' button. Below the search bar, there are sections for 'EINFÜHRUNG' (Introduction) and 'FILTER'. The 'FILTER' section includes 'Volkshochschule' (VHS) and 'Bundesland' (Federal State) filters, each with a list of options and corresponding program counts. The 'VHS' filter shows options like 'hochverdichtet' (243), 'Kernstadt' (1334), 'ländlicher Raum' (489), 'ländliches Umland' (489), and 'verdichtetes Umland' (624). The 'Bundesland' filter shows options like 'Baden-Württemberg' (530), 'Bayern' (536), 'Berlin' (17), 'Brandenburg' (30), 'Bremen' (100), 'Hamburg' (45), 'Hessen' (649), 'Mecklenburg-Vorpommern' (82), and 'Niederrhein' (400).



8

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM RESEARCH WITH RETROPRO

The screenshot displays the RETROPRO interface for a program titled 'Chinesisch'. On the left, there is a table of contents for the program, listing levels from A1 to Chinese 1, and a list of activities including seminars and workshops. The main area shows a document viewer with a list of activities, each with a brief description and a 'Retropro' icon. A blue arrow points from the 'Chinesisch' title in the left sidebar to the corresponding activity in the main list. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'AXQDA 11 (Release 11.0.9b)', a search bar, and various tool icons. The bottom right corner features the 'DIE' logo and the number '9'.

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM RESEARCH WITH RETROPRO

The screenshot displays the RETROPRO interface for a program titled 'POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHEHEN'. On the left, there is a table of contents for the program, listing activities such as 'China besser verstehen - das chinesische Gesicht', 'Die chinesische menschliche Beziehung - „Guanxi“', and 'Selbstbilder und Fremdbilder in der Werbung'. The main area shows a document viewer with a list of activities, each with a brief description and a 'Retropro' icon. A blue arrow points from the 'China besser verstehen - das chinesische Gesicht' title in the left sidebar to the corresponding activity in the main list. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'AXQDA 11 (Release 11.0.9b)', a search bar, and various tool icons. The bottom right corner features the 'DIE' logo and the number '10'.

CONCLUSION

Digital Archive RetroPro

Value

- Open access
- Providing of technical prepared data
- Different search filters
- Integration in other digital libraries (e.g. German National Library)
- High potential
→ further development and improvement (FEZ & DIZ)

Challenges

- Quality: completeness of provided data
- Technique/Access: compatibility with different analyzing systems/software
- Adaption to the research logic
→ discussion



11

DISCUSSION

Questions to the audience:

- What do you (as a researcher) expect from a digital archive?
- Which challenges do you see yourself confronted with when thinking/using a digital archive?



12

