Introduction

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Reti Medievali

Curial Sources and Digital Humanities. Long term projects in international comparison

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In March 2018 a conference took place at the German Historical Institute (DHI) in Rome about the significance of the Digital Humanities for the evaluation of the curial sources. The *Repertorium Germanicum* (RG) as part of the above-mentioned institute edits the source material of the Archivio Segreto Vaticano and of further, mainly Roman archives concerning the history of the territories and dioceses of the German Empire, which reach far beyond the borders of modern Germany. Due to these dimension of the RG a Europe-wide comparison of similar projects is made by seven case studies of authors from five countries.

Im März 2018 fand am Deutschen Historischen Institut (DHI) in Rom eine Tagung zur Bedeutung der Digital Humanities für die Erschließung und Auswertung der kurialen Quellen statt. Das am genannten Institut angesiedelte *Repertorium Germanicum* (RG) bereitet das Quellenmaterial des Archivio Segreto Vaticano und weiterer hauptsächlich römischer Archive für die Geschichte der Territorien und Diözesen des Alten Reiches auf, die weit über die Grenzen des heutigen Deutschlands reichen. Die damit verbundene überregionale Dimension des RG ist Anlass für einen Austausch mit verwandten Erschließungsprojekten im europäischen Vergleich, von denen hier sieben Fallstudien von Autor/-innen aus fünf Ländern vorgestellt werden.

Middle Ages; Europe; Long term projects; Curial sources; Database; *Repertorium Germanicum.*

Mittelalter; Europa; Langzeitprojekte; Kuriale Quellen; Datenbank; *Repertorium Germanicum.*

From 12-14 March 2018, the conference "Curial Sources and Digital Humanities. New perspectives for the Repertorium Germanicum (1378-1484)" took place at the German Historical Institute (DHI) in Rome. The *Repertorium Germanicum* (RG) is, according to its title page, «an inventory of persons, churches, and places of the German Empire, its dioceses, and territories mentioned in the papal registers and records of the chamber» and aims to cover the years between the Western Schism, 1378, and the Reformation, 1517. The 10th volume (in 6 separate parts) of the pontificate of Sixtus IV (1471-1484) has just been published. The consultation of the material was simplified with the launch of the online database in 2012. This database also includes material from the *Repertorium Poenitentiariae Germanicum* (RPG) containing the records of the Apostolic Penitentiary; it was finished in 2018.

A long-term project of this size, which started more than 100 years ago and retains much of its power and numerous resources, is called to repeatedly demonstrate its significance and value to new scientific research. The above-mentioned conference is not only a general description; it also aims to offer new perspectives for its use within German speaking territories (according to the borders of the Holy Roman Empire) and beyond. Furthermore, the conference sought to acquaint young historians with the RG, who organised a student workshop. The unifying element of all contributions lies in the potential of the accessible data and the Digital humanities, which have revolutionised research in RG/RPG material – truly big data!

During the three-day conference, 42 presentations were given. No conventional publication medium is able to include this number of scientific contributions. We have chosen to published the contributions of the roundtable *Long term projects and Digital humanities in international comparison* as well as other thematically relevant talks closely linked to the conference. Common ground is found in concrete insights into different research statuses on curial sources, their editing and presentation, as well as their application in new digital forms and forums in a European perspective. This publication is followed by a Blog on Medieval History at hypotheses.org, which presents the results of the student workshop (< https://mittelalter.hypotheses.org/21543 > und < https://mittelalter.hypotheses.org/21549 >); furthermore a thematically focused print publication is to appear, entitled *Kirche und Kurie des Spätmittelalters im Brennpunkt des Repertorium Germanicum (1378-1484)*.

The seven authors of this Reti Medievali monographic section are from five different countries. This alone highlights the European significance of the RG, which makes a comparison with other long-term projects. Roberto Delle Donne shows the developments of the Digital humanities firstly in the context of German projects on curial history continuing with Italian medieval studies, which have generated successful online-editions and databases as well as online-journals. Adinel C. Dincă examines the editing work of papal charters in and for Transylvania, in present day Romania. The Digital humanities offered considerable assistance in their indexing. Juraj Šedivý from Slovakia illustrates the digital indexing of (curial) sources in his home country. The history portal of the city of Pressburg (Bratislava) and its new interactive facilities are at its core. Until 2002, France was on a similar path to Germany. As Amandine Le Roux illustrates, considerable resources went into the Centre Pontifical d'Avignon for the editing of papal letters. The data was subsequently transferred into the *Ut per litteras apostolicas* data base, which raises the question of open access. In such situations it may be helpful to include other prosopography tools (e.g. the *Fasti Ecclesiae Gallicanae*). Madlena Mahling and Matthias Thumser continue the above-mentioned course through Europe. Their article is a reminder that the *Repertorium Germanicum* includes Baltic states insofar as they belonged to the territory of the Teutonic Order. Therefore, synergies between the RG and the *Liv-, Est- und Kurländische Urkundenbuch* are particularly obvious. This is similar to the

Klosterbuch Schleswig-Holstein und Hamburg, which is presented by Oliver Auge. The RG is an important and most welcome collection of sources, which helps to compensate for the often sparsely conserved charters in these places. However, the particular layout of the RG causes considerable difficulties for many contributors to this collective work. The final contribution, by Suse Andresen, returns to Italy and Rome and focuses on curial and cultural contacts within the records of the Roman notary, which contain information on visitors to Rome who often spent the rest of their lives in the city. Although in itself a well-known phenomenon, immigration to Rome after 1507 will be given new perspectives through systematic research of these seldom used sources. Looking at people from Spain, France, Italy, and Germany in Rome, the particular wealth of the Roman sources for the scientific community in Europe and beyond becomes obvious.

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