

Media, Knowledge & Education: Open Educational Resources and Digital Archives

Call for papers by the Division of Media Education of the German Educational Research Association (GERA) and Media Forum Innsbruck for an international conference at the University of Innsbruck (April 11-12, 2013)

Ever since digital technologies became widespread, the increasing capacities of storing, exchanging and sharing of information have given rise to optimistic scenarios of an egalitarian information society as well as to pessimistic views of a technocratic surveillance society. Educationalists have pointed out both chances for opening up and enhancing education and also tendencies of stupefaction, problematic power relations, or memory decline. Philosophers have eulogized or censored superficiality, social scientists have focused on networks as agency, the IT industry has made immediate availability a paradigm of development. Questions of archiving have often been overlooked, addressed within a conservative criticism of new media, or considered as a symptom of the historical disease at last to be left behind. Yet all of these approaches fail to do justice to the contemporary social, political, cultural and educational questions regarding the possibilities of digital archives.

In the past few years manifold initiatives aiming at opening up education on various levels using digital communications technologies and Creative Commons licenses as well as massive open online courses (moocs) have been developed. Today, Open Educational Resources (OER) is widely used as an umbrella term for free content creation initiatives, OER Commons, Open Courseware (OCW), OER repositories, OCW search facilities, University OCW initiatives, and related activities. Among others, collections of shared resources such as Connexions, WikiEducator or Curriki have an ever-increasing number of visitors and contributors to the site. Just recently, an effort has been made with a view to mapping the landscape of institutional OER initiatives by the UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Chair.

Against this background, the conference focuses on ongoing dynamics and transformational processes at the interfaces of OER initiatives and issues of digital archiving. We welcome submissions from scholars and activists as well as media professionals. Proposals that address one or more of the following topics and questions are especially encouraged:

- How can old claims for education for all be conceptualized in view of current media dynamics and OER projects?
- What are the potentials and limitations of OER initiatives?
- Which methodologies for researching cultural practices in open and networked educational spaces are appropriate?
- How can related subjects such as resource-based learning and OER or (academic) open access publishing and OER referring to teaching and learning materials be linked?
- In which ways do digital archives reflect or create historical trajectories and what is their relevance for processes of media socialization?
- How are changing practices dealing with freely available digital information and objects developing and which chances and challenges are to be reflected from a media educational perspective?
- How do digital archives affect our notion of oblivion and what does this mean for a didactics of remembering and processes of mediation between individual and collective memory?

- To which extent has the archive become a question of automatism and what is the relevance of automatisms in educational contexts?
- How is our attitude towards collecting and preserving things, objects and information changing in educational contexts?
- How can educational institutions deal with current archiving rights how can orphan works be digitized?
- How does the role of traditional archiving institutions such as libraries, museums or media archives change in the age of digitalization?
- How is the relationship between archival knowledge and political legitimacy changing in digitized context? What are the consequences for political education?
- Which influence does the digital archive have on individual and general attention as well as on (cultural) memory? And: how do we deal with things that cannot be stored?
- Which position are (meta-)search engines taking in within this context? How can we deal with information that has been archived, but cannot be found again?
- Which political and economic factors influence the dynamics of digital archives?
- Is non-archival knowledge possible, and if so, how can it be conceptualized?
- How do digital archives bear on the question of newness?

Academic, technological, and artistic contributions are welcome. Proposals can be submitted for conceptual papers, reports of empirical studies, design artifacts, posters and workshops. The conference is oriented towards discourse. Conference languages are English and German.

The international conference is hosted by the Innsbruck Media Studies Research Group at the University of Innsbruck, and the Division of Media Education of the German Educational Research Association (GERA). It is part of a series of conferences "Media, Knowledge, Education."

Conference organizers:

Univ. Prof. Dr. Theo Hug
 Univ. Ass. Dr. Petra Missomelius
 Prof. Dr. Felix Stalder
 Dr. Wolfgang Sützl

Dates and deadlines:

- February 28, 2013: submission of abstracts (maximum 500 words, plus short CV) to Prof. Dr. Theo Hug <theo.hug@uibk.ac.at> or Dr. Petra Missomelius <petra.missomelius@uibk.ac.at>; submission of contributions for the doctoral thesis forum to Dr. Sandra Aßmann <sandra.assmann@upb.de> or Dr. Mandy Rohs <mandy.rohs@uni-duisburg-essen.de> (abstracts should be no longer than 300 words, plus short CV and contact data of the supervisor)
- March 15, 2013: notification of speakers
- April 11/12, 2013: conference at the University of Innsbruck
- May 15, 2013: submission of manuscripts (max. 5000 words incl. references and an abstract of max. 100 words)
- June 15, 2013: notification of papers accepted for publication
- November 30, 2013: publication of the conference proceedings

Conference website: <http://medien.uibk.ac.at/mwb2013>

Coordination of the doctoral thesis forum: Dr. Sandra Aßmann <sandra.assmann@upb.de> and Dr. Mandy Rohs <mandy.rohs@uni-duisburg-essen.de>

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