

Pressemitteilung

The New Archival Portal archive.nrw.de: Informationsystem of the Archives in the German State North-Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)

The State Archives of North-Rhine-Westphalia basically relaunched and modernised one of the first archival internet portals of Germany in a long term project together with the startext GmbH. The archival portal "Archives in North-Rhine-Westphalia, Informationsystem of the Archives in the German State North-Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)" bundles information from and about ca. 480 archives of all types in the State. The portal provides a much more attractive access to archival institutions in the most populated German state. It leads to one of the densest and most diverse archival landscapes of Europe with general and orienting information.

The archival portal "Archives in North-Rhine-Westphalia" was started June 1998 and has been enhanced and extended since then. The last enhancement was in 2012. Now, in 2020, the archival portal is technically, professionally and contentwise up to current standards. The relaunch includes new security features, revised architecture and a new data base structure. A new research tool to access archival metadata and digitised archival items has also been added. The archival portal contains currently about 3,5 million datasets and about 200.000 digitised records. Moreover, it is the "door" to the uniformly designed homepages of the participating archives. These archives are clients of the multi tenant system based on a roles- and rights-concept which enables each to keep their contents and archival metadata current.

One of the new features is the first page with the dynamic map of the positions of participating archives, the combination of keyword and context based research, the statistics tool for the clients and the strict validation of the metadata according to the EAD-specification EAD (DDB) 1.1. Additionally, users can now register as "users" and use the new features "Reminder List" and "Ordering Basket" (instead of "Shopping Basket").



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They can then order records of the "Ordering Basket" in the reading room of the archival institution which holds the designated record in order to prepare a personal visit on a certain day. According to the principle of "open access" all services and features of archive.nrw.de can be used without paying a fee.

The archival portal archive.nrw.de, operated by the State Archives of North-Rhine-Westphalia, is one of the biggest archival portals in Germany and can be compared with great (international) archival portals abroad. Furthermore, it delivers probably the most metadata to the Archivportal-D (https://www.archivportal-d.de/), the German archival portal. Consequently, archive.nrw.de is an important partner in the network of institutions responsible for informational infrastructure.

Questions and comments are welcome addressed to: webmaster@archive.nrw.de.