travel!digital

Exploring *People* and *Monuments* in Baedeker Guidebooks (1875–1914)

Hardly any other medium covers a similarly complex and at the same time exciting variety of topics as the modern travel guide. Since the early 19th century classics like the *Baedeker* convey travel expertise and profound up-to-date background knowledge. The selection and assessment of destinations and attractions on site, the composition of facts and figures, but especially the ever changing perspectives and regularly revised references to history and the present, culture and society provide vivid insights into the many facets of travelling culture. Last but not least, the reader learns a lot about the motivation of travellers, their preferences and interests, the current conventions, *zeitgeist* fashions and trends. As researchers are always on the lookout for significant and promising sources, it comes as no surprise that the fascinating travel guides attract their attention. Thanks to their enthusiasm for these valuable contemporary witnesses, today you can flick through historical guidebooks online and follow the tracks of former travellers.

The travel!digital project brings together early German travel guides on non-European countries, which were released by the Baedeker publishing house between 1875 and 1914. Key areas include linguistic and in particular semantic encoding, domain-specific knowledge organization and content contextualization by Linked Open Data. Focusing on people/s and monuments, two essential components not only of guidebook texts but cultural narratives in general, the project aims at showing that semantic technologies have great potential to unlock a discourse that goes far beyond travel literature. To give an impression of the work conducted, the travel!digital web app offers numerous search options as well as additional information and invites explorers on a digital journey through time.

OPEN ACCESS

All data of the travel!digital collection is freely available at ARCHE, the ACDH repository. It consists of the full-text corpus including linguistic and semantic mark-up, digital facsimiles of all volumes, a TEI-schema of applied annotations as well as the extensive travel!digital thesaurus. Since this rich resource was created in the spirit of openness, you are invited to use it intensively!

THE RESOURCE

Text type 1st editions of German travel guides brought out by the Baedeker publishing house

Extent 5 volumes = 3.089 pages = **1.51 million** tokens / **1.21 million** running words

Subject non-European destinations

Period 1875–1914

Annotation XML/TEI [P5], Part-of-Speech Tagging [lemmas, word classes], TreeTagger, STTS Stuttgart-Tübingen-TagSet, tokenEditor

Semantic technologies SKOS Simple Knowledge Organization System, LOD Linked Open Data, Skosmos

THE WEB APP

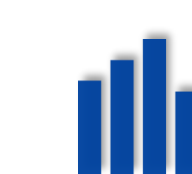https://traveldigital.acdh.oeaw.ac.at
Tiles on the start page provide direct access to the fascinating Baedeker travel guides.

The reader combines richly annotated full-texts and digital facsimiles of the valuable historical prints and provides detailed tables of content as well as a page-turning function. A citation suggestion along with a link for each page is included.

Additional information can be easily accessed. The bar chart shows entry frequencies in the indexes of word forms, lemmas, PoS-information and personal names. Single volumes can be searched individually by filtering. Comprehensive metadata of both the digital resources as well as the historical prints are available.

The web app accesses ACDH Vocabularies API to retrieve and display information from the **travel!digital thesaurus**. Linking included historical as well as contemporary lexicon entries and LOD sources with corpus occurrences reveals the impressive diversity of people/s and monuments in the Baedeker universe.

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