IIIF @ German Manuscripts Portal

What IIIF can do for a central online information platform for medieval and early modern manuscripts

Leander Seige, Annika Schröer
Leipzig University Library
2020-06-04
Quick facts
Who we are.

Collaborative project by four partner institutions:
• Berlin State Library
• Leipzig University Library
• Bavarian State Library
• Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel

consultation with the German Handschriftenzentren (Manuscript centres) and an academic advisory board

Funded by DFG (German Research Foundation), first project phase 2018-2021
What we do.

- one central information platform for medieval and early modern manuscripts in German collections
- descriptive information on manuscripts
- digital facsimiles of the original manuscripts
- interoperable exchange formats (TEI and IIIF)

- supersedes platform Manuscripta Mediaevalia
- central online access point for research on medieval and early modern manuscripts
- virtual personal work space
- both frontoffice and backoffice, complex functionality for recording descriptive information on manuscripts (focus in this presentation: frontoffice)
Creating a central national portal for codex manuscripts -- with the help of IIIF
Why we use IIIF.

Work collaboratively on digital images and manuscript descriptions from different collections.

- Digital facsimiles from a large set of participating institutions
- Display and compare images in one single, origin-independent workflow, even for non-portal content
- Create, save and exchange workspaces
- Annotate images and descriptions in a re-usable format
- Have people re-use portal content in their own use-cases
- Technically: make use of a wide range of open source tools and interact with a community
Where we use IIIF.

Software architecture
- frontoffice consists primarily of search and workspace functionality, implemented as a single-page react.js application
- Search: Apache solr
- Workspace: Mirador 3 Viewer

All digital facsimiles will be available via IIIF
IIIF-Hosting service for small institutions is part of the Manuscripts portal
Annotations will be W3C web annotations
Maybe we can even use IIIF to display texts (... more later)
Some impressions
Early mock-up: manuscript detail view and available resources for workspace
Early mock-up: 
Search result list
Early mock-up: Text display in mirador
First ideas and PoCs for rendered TEI/XML text display inside the Mirador 3 workspace
What’s next?
Next steps

- Text (rendered XML/TEI) display in Mirador 3:
  - implement first version as plugin
  - work on a concept to make this more widely re-usable, possibly within the IIIF standard
- Work on alpha version, professional design and UA testing
Thanks!
Any Questions, comments?

Leander Seige
seige@ub.uni-leipzig.de

Annika Schröer
schroeer@ub.uni-leipzig.de