

Visualizing Time and Space: HGIS Germany as an Online Resource for German and European History

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The lecture will focus on the historical-geographic information system “HGIS Germany”, which grew out of an interest in the construction of digital historical maps of the development of German and European states. Such maps, arranged in thematic strands and combined in series covering important benchmark years, have been placed on an interactive mapserver which is in operation at the Institute of European History (IEG) at Mainz, an independent research institute loosely connected with Mainz University (see <http://www.ieg-maps.uni-mainz.de>).

However, map series can only show a limited amount of information for selected dates at fixed scales, and it is generally not possible to attach a large variety of thematic data such as statistical or general historical information to them. A solution involving a Geographical Information System (GIS) using an ArcGIS platform was therefore designed in order to cover this gap. It led to the construction of a website on German history in the long 19th century, which is now open to the public. An English user interface enhances its accessibility to American users. During the lecture the final version of HGIS Germany's website will be presented for the first time to an American academic audience as a new major online resource.