

Bringing Historical GIS to the Museum: The Case of Multimedia Information Systems used in the German Historical Museum, Berlin²

Andreas Kunz^{1*}, Dorlis Blume^{2**}

¹ Editor, HGIS Germany, Mainz, Germany

² Research Associate, German Historical Museum, Berlin, Germany

*E-Mail: akunz333@gmail.com

**E-Mail: blume@dhm.de

Over the past ten years a close cooperation has existed between HGIS Germany, a project to construct a German national historical GIS (www.hgis-germany.de) set up by two academic institutions in Mainz, Germany, and the German Historical Museum (*Deutsches Historisches Museum*, www.dhm.de) in Berlin. This paper will survey what has been a most successful joint venture between academia and public history, focusing on four related subjects:

1. The impact of historical sources kept at the museum for the content of online version of the historical information system
2. The creation of a special museum-version of HGIS-Germany, which has become an information system in its own right now, hosted by the museum itself
3. Collaboration in the creation of several other GIS-based multimedia installations used within the Museum's temporary and permanent exhibitions
4. Plans to develop a GIS-based retrieval system for a set of digitized holdings of the Museum pertaining to the history of the 17th Century

In addition, some effort will be made in the paper to evaluate the success of these computing tasks in terms of their acceptance and use by visitors, both in the Museum's exhibit itself and through its online exhibition system.