The Wittgenstein Nachlass Online: Edition(s) and Research Possibilities

Presentation at
Saussure's manuscripts, among others: Problems, strategies and publishing solutions for digital archives,
Genève 2.1.2017

Alois Pichler
Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB)
Structure of my presentation

1. The Wittgenstein Nachlass and editions thereof
2. Wittgenstein Source
3. IDP: A site for “interactive dynamic presentation” of the Nachlass
4. WiTTFind: A tool for lemmatized, grammatical and also some semantic search of the Nachlass
5. SFB: A site for semantic faceted search and browsing of the Nachlass
   • Utilizes WAB’s Wittgenstein ontology

 ➢ LIVE DEMO
The Wittgenstein Nachlass

• «… works left unfinished» (E. Pierazzo)
• Ca. 20 000 pages of Nachlass in narrow sense: autographs (personal diaries, philosophical notebooks, ”Bände”, loose sheets), typescripts, «Zettel», dictations …
• Originals at Wren Library, Trinity College Cambridge; Austrian National Library, Vienna; Bodleian Library, Oxford; Russell Archives, Hamilton, Ontario; a.o.
• Wittgenstein’s testament
• G.H. von Wright’s catalogue of the Nachlass
• Nachlass in wider sense includes lecture notes (e.g. by G.E. Moore and Y. Smythies), summaries / rewritings by others (e.g. by F. Waismann and F. Skinner) a.o.

Wittgenstein Nachlass Ms-140,39v (http://www.wittgensteinsource.org/Ms-140,39v_f). With the kind permission of © 2015 The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge; The University of Bergen, Bergen

Alois Pichler, Geneva 12.1.2017
(Posthumous) editions from the Nachlass

- Wittgenstein himself had published only 2 books (and works)
- The Cornell microfilm («The Wittgenstein papers», 1968)
- Editions of ”works” (1953-)
- Critical editions (1989-)
- Documentary editions:
  - The Wiener Ausgabe (1994-)
    - New Bergen Electronic edition in the making, planned to appear at OUP post 2020
- Wittgenstein Source (open access, 2009-):
  - Contains ”Bergen Nachlass Edition”: Nachlass in narrow sense
  - Contains also editions of Nachlass in wider sense
- WAB’s site for user-run production of editions from the Nachlass
  (”Interactive Dynamic Presentation”, open access, 2004-):
    - User-produced presentation and filtering of WAB’s XML TEI transcriptions of the Nachlass

Illustration by Christian Erbacher (Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen and University of Siegen). © 2015 Christian Erbacher
Wittgenstein Source

- Initiated and begun within the framework of the DISCOVERY project (2006-09), coordinated by Paolo D’Iorio (CNRS / Item).
- An open access platform for Nachlass and other Wittgenstein primary sources editions
  - Runs on net7’s digital library platform Muruca
- Developed and run by WAB in cooperation with net7, but contains more than WAB editions only
- Includes WAB’s Bergen Nachlass Edition:
  - Nachlass in the narrow sense
  - Facsimile and text (diplomatic + reading version) editions
  - Stable and citable editions
  - Archival descriptions (title, writing tool, binding, size ….)
  - Text genetic-philosophical descriptions
  - Metadata, incl. reference and citation system
  - Basic search facility
  - Annotation facility Pundit (currently not available)
- … but also other editions, provided by others.

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Interactive dynamic presentation (IDP) site

• An open access site for user interaction with WAB’s XML TEI-P5 transcriptions of the Wittgenstein Nachlass
• Gives access to all of WAB’s transcriptions of Wittgenstein’s Nachlass, each in their most updated versions
• Permits user-steered filtering, sorting and rendering of the Nachlass on items level (and soon also on groups level)
• Lets you create a «real time, real place» legend
• Gives also access to the XML TEI-P5 transcriptions
• Is interlinked with Wittgenstein Source
Advanced lemmatized and grammatical search: WittFind

- Developed in cooperation with the Centrum für Informations- und Sprachverarbeitung at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität München (CIS, Max Hadersbeck)
- Permits lemmatized search
  - „denken“, „dachte“, „denkt“, „gedacht“ …
- Copes also with „Partikelverben“
  - „nachdenken“, „angeben“, …
- Permits grammatical and (some) semantic search
  - „<N> verstehen“
  - „<N> <+HUM> sein“
  - „<N> <+T> hat“
- Links to and highlights search hits in facsimile
- Currently for 5000 pages only available
- Is interlinked with Wittgenstein Source
Semantic faceted search and browsing (SFB)

- Developed in cooperation with the Marche Polytechnic University (Christian Morbidoni)
- Permits faceted search and browsing of WAB’s metadata on the Nachlass
  - Datings; references to persons; references to works; «hasOtherVersion», ...
  - Is not yet good at semantic metadata («semantic» in the special sense: concepts ...)
- Permits a great number of alternative different entry points to the Nachlass
- Is interlinked with Wittgenstein Source

LIVE DEMO!