



Thiago Nicodemo implements data policy in Brazil developed during his research stay at the Freie Universität Berlin

The digital world is increasingly present in our lives, bringing both opportunities and challenges. Research on the digital world is essential to understanding how this technology is impacting our society and finding ways to maximize its benefits and minimize its potential risks.

For example, research on the digital world can help us understand how technology is affecting people's privacy and security, as well as how it is being used to disseminate information and influence behaviors. It can also help us develop new technologies and solutions for current problems, such as increasing digital inequality and excessive time spent online.

In addition, research on the digital world can also help us understand how this technology is changing the way we work, learn, and relate to each other. It allows us to anticipate trends and take steps to ensure that technology is being used responsibly and ethically.

Taking these aspects into consideration, the Alexander Humboldt Foundation funded Thiago Nicodemo's postdoctoral research, supervised by Stefan Rinke, at the Institute for Latinamerican Studies were conducted on digital collections and their global implications, research on digitization and non-human analytical methods for big data analysis. This knowledge provided the researcher to join as Professor of History Theory at Unicamp (2018), founded the Digital Humanities Center (2019), a partner of GUMELAB, and to direct the Public Archive of the State of Paulo (2020). The publications pointed out that digitization has revolutionized history research, allowing historians access to an unprecedented amount of historical sources from around the world.

In addition to making access easier, digitization also allows historians to research and analyze these sources more efficiently. Advanced search tools and text analysis resources allow historians to quickly find relevant information in large amounts of documents and data. This allows historians to focus their time and effort on interpreting and analyzing these sources rather than simply locating them. Digitization also allows historians to easily share their research with others, promoting dialogue and debate among researchers. This can lead to new discoveries and perspectives.

Thinking about the debate on some of the challenges of writing history in the 21st century, the Public Archive of the State of São Paulo has reflected on finding technical and sustainable solutions for the transition to a digital government, valuing the knowledge of the past and its relationship with the



present. This includes the preservation of digital archives and the transparency and protection of data. As part of the government's target plan, the Public Archive initiated the pilot project of a "Reliable Digital Archival Repository" to provide a secure solution for the preservation of digital documents. They are also working on policies, requirements, and metadata to guide the production and digitization of documents, as well as creating processes for the capture, management, preservation, and access to these documents. This set of practices points to some obstacles to be overcome such as: selective digitization, digitization quality, limited access, loss of context, and dependence on technology.

Nicodemo states that "digital transformation is an irreversible process and we must be increasingly well prepared to deal with this challenge". In line with the Public Archive's policy for the preservation of digital documents, the incorporation of archival information and communication technologies (ICT) is increasingly important to ensure the security, production, management, preservation, and access to digital documents, data, and information produced and stored. The National Council of Archives (CONARQ) of Brazil has published guidelines to guide the agencies of the National Archives System (SINAR) on the treatment of digital documents, including the creation of reliable digital archival repositories and the implementation of open data policies. The policy includes two main parts: management and preservation of digital documents, as well as governance and management of public data. The policy also addresses the importance of open data, data protection, and promotion of access to information. In this way, aligning with the international debate, the management of native digital data moves agendas such as long-term preservation, authenticity and integrity, metadata management, data protection, and management of multiple data formats.

Storing data digitally long-term can be challenging as storage media and data formats may become obsolete and/or become incompatible with current technologies. It is important to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the data over time to ensure their reliability and usefulness. This can be a challenge when it comes to digitally modified or altered data. No less important are the metadata, which describe the data and can be used to locate, manage, and use the data effectively. Effective metadata management is crucial to ensure that the data can be easily accessed and understood. It is also necessary to delve into the debate on the protection and access to unauthorized data and ensure that they are confidential and secure. This can be challenging in digital environments, where data can be easily copied or shared. Such debates are transversal to the digital and start since the creation of the records archives: in the digital age, data can be produced in a variety of formats, which can make its



management and preservation difficult. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the data can be compatible with different systems and platforms.

Currently, Thiago Nicodemo is publishing in Brazil the books *Caminhos da História* and *CoronaArquivo*. He is also supervising with Stefan Rinke the research *Technological know-how and document data mining for historians: digitized historical collections and social networks* by Alesson R. Rota, funded by FAPESP and developed between the Digital Humanities Center at Unicamp and GUMELAB.

New publications

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