



Paper history and expertise provided by the eContentPlus project Bernstein

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The goal of project Bernstein is the creation of a European integrated digital environment about paper history and expertise. The project connects European watermark databases and thus offers a comprehensive and significant information source about paper. The databases are augmented by specialized image processing tools for measuring, authenticating and dating papers and by a plenitude of contextual data with bibliographical and geographical contents. A substantial further project goal is the dissemination of the achieved results to a broad audience in the form of an easily installable software package. The circle of potential users and interested parties includes historians, curators, archivists, librarians, art historians, musicologists, incunabula researchers, auctioneers, forensic technicians, and paper makers.

This paper presents the results of the project Bernstein. An internet portal allows the linking between each record stored in the Bernstein databases and the bibliographical references on paper studies provided by Deutsche Nationalbibliothek. Statistical information is extracted from the over 150.000 items in the combined databases of the project and presented in numerical form or through powerful diagram visualizations. Data export capabilities forward the statistical information to a cartography tool which can show e.g. the distribution and the trade routes of paper and watermarks.

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