The Project Consortium

“1914-1918-online” is comprised of three institutions with the following areas of expertise:

Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut (FMI), Freie Universität Berlin
The FMI is home to the Department of History and Cultural Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin. It runs the editorial office and is responsible for the encyclopedia’s conceptual planning and realization. The project leader at the FMI is Prof. Dr. Oliver Janz, professor of modern European history. www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/fmi

Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS), Freie Universität Berlin
CeDiS is the center for e-learning, e-research and multimedia at the Freie Universität Berlin. It is in charge of the IT architecture, the conceptualization and incorporation of Semantic Web features and the encyclopedia’s web-publishing as well as the technological and technical support for both the authoring and the reviewing processes. Director of CeDiS and the project leader is Prof. Dr. Nicolas Apostolopoulos. www.cedis.fu-berlin.de/en

Bavarian State Library (BSB), Munich
The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek is one of the most important European general and research libraries. It is responsible for the subject indexing and oversees the encyclopedia’s long-term archiving and preservation. www.bsb-muenchen.de

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front page: Bundesarchiv, Bild 104-00608A; Etricourt, Soldat zwischen beschädigten Gebäuden, Dezember 1916
design: Freie Universität Berlin, Center for Digital Systems
The Project

Released in October 2014, the digital encyclopedia “1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War” is the result of a collaborative international research project designed to develop a virtual English language reference work on the First World War.

The Features

This digitally published reference work covering all aspects relating to the First World War:

- is the largest network of First World War researchers worldwide with participants in more than 50 countries
- is the most comprehensive encyclopedia of the First World War
- is accessible worldwide by Open Access publishing in English
- has innovative navigation and search functions based on semantic wiki technology
- ensures high academic quality with a two-step review process

The Online Encyclopedia

The “1914-1918-online” encyclopedia combines two main features: international research expertise and the advantages of the World Wide Web’s hypertextuality. The encyclopedia’s content is divided into six subject areas: pre-war, violence, power, home front, media, and post-war, which integrate various political, economic, social, and cultural perspectives on the Great War. It also covers all major regions of WWI historiography and incorporates hitherto neglected areas such as Southeast Europe and Africa. Innovative navigation schemes provide nonlinear access to the encyclopedia’s content along regional and thematic avenues. Visual representation of thematic connections improves content navigation in ways that go beyond the capacity of current digital history publications.

The Editorial Board and Authors

The editorial board represents the project’s academic executive board. It proposes articles and authors and is responsible for the assessment and quality management of the written contributions. The members of the board – some 70 well-known historians from more than 20 countries – as well as more than 70 external referees guarantee multiple perspectives and wide-ranging expertise.

The Project Partners

Currently 25 partners from 12 countries support the project in several ways, e.g. by providing editorial staff or by allowing the use of their rich collections:

- Bibliothek für Zeitgeschichte, Stuttgart
- Bibliothèque de Documentation Internationale Contemporaine, Nanterre
- CENDARI (Collaborative European Digital Archival Infrastructure)
- Center for War Studies, University of Birmingham
- Center for War Studies, Trinity College Dublin
- Deutsches Historisches Museum; Berlin
- Die Schweiz im Ersten Weltkrieg, Universität Zürich
- European Film Gateway 1914 (EFG1914)
- Europeana Collections 1914-1918
- German Historical Institutes in London, Moscow, Paris, Rome, and Warsaw
- HERA Project „Cultural exchange in a time of global conflict: Colonials, Neutrals and Belligerents during the First World War”
- HERA Project “Making War, Mapping Europe: Militarized Cultural Encounters, 1792-1920”
- Imperial War Museum London
- Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University
- Instituto de História Contemporânea, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
- Koloniales Bildarchiv der Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt am Main
- Orient-Institut Istanbul
- Society for First World War Studies
- State Library of South Australia
- Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr Potsdam

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