East German Artists from Paper to Data

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Part of the GRI Research Project: “On the Eve of Revolution: the East German Artist in the 1980s”
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East German Artists from Paper to Data
The 9th National Exhibition, Dresden 1982-1983

2827 records of artists’ resumes

OpenRefine is a tool for formatting, cleaning, and parsing data. The Getty Vocabularies are currently (as of 2020) using OpenRefine as a routine tool to analyze and edit contributor data as preparation for inclusion to ULAN.
The ‘reconciliation’ feature of OpenRefine allows to compare a dataset with another in order to discover anomalies, to enrich and share data more efficiently.
Objective: to interpret and visualize the data from the East German artists forms.

Tools: OpenRefine is used to standardize the data for consistency and to contribute to ULAN (reconciling with AAT and TGN).

Results: With OpenRefine we can see:

ULAN contribution of new names (Matched 202; New 2625)
Duplicates; Attributes such as Gender, Age, Role, Life events, Location, and Associative relationships.

2827 records
2777 artists applied (50 duplicates)
1488 artists were accepted
Date of birth range: born in 1889 - born in 1959
Cities of birth vs. Cities of residence

1. Painting
2. Sculpture
3. Architecture art
4. Decorative arts
5. Design
6. Applied Arts
7. Photography
8. Caricature/Cartoons
9. Theater Set Design
The user has the ability to reconcile local data sets with other databases made available on the Web, including the Getty Vocabularies: ULAN, AAT, and TGN.

Records may be linked to persistent IDs that represent individual people, places, and concepts. Reconciliation is not a completely automated process: there is a judgement function in which the user must decide which suggested matches are valid, based on multiple criteria.

Data that fails to reconcile between a local data set the Vocabularies using OpenRefine may subsequently be shared with the Getty Vocabularies as new records to be loaded and published.
OpenRefine can reveal latent patterns through faceting of fielded data. Attributes may be aggregated and enumerated to create subsets.

By selecting items in a facet to operate on other facets, one can identify and collect records representing data, for example by exhibition section / gender / year of birth.
Movement from Birth City to Residence/Work City

Arkitekturbiezogene Kunst ("Architecture-related art")

Mural by Eric Enge
A variety of art schools offering different media degrees

**Sculpture**

- Decorative arts
  - by Franziska Lebeck

- Design
  - by Claus Dieter / Lutz Rudolph

**Photography**

- by Arno Fischer

- Fashion
  - by Sigrid Artes

- Set design
  - by Matthias Herbst

**Institution_City**

- HGB, Leipzig 272
- BURG HIF, Hallo 228
- Weißensee KH, Berlin 190
- HIBK, Dresden 167
- FWA, Berlin (Ost) 51
- FAK, Heiligendamm 42
- AdK (DDR), Berlin 38
- FAK, Berlin 26
- HIBK, Berlin (West) 25
- FAK, Schneeberg 23
- FAK, Leipzig 17
- FAK, Magdeburg 18
- HAB, Weimar 11
- KMU, Leipzig 10
- FAK, Erfurt 6
- HTW, Berlin 7
- HU, Berlin 5
- TU, Dresden 5
- FAK, Berlin; FAK, Potsdam 3
- FAK, Sonneberg 3
- HIBK, Dresden; HGB, Leipzig 3
- [missing], Halle 2
- AdK (BRD), Berlin 2
- FAK, [missing] 2
15 artists were self-taught.

24% were members of the Art Association.

Applicants not included in the exhibition.

From large data sets to details.
Caricature and press cartoons

A press cartoon mocking modular building blocks for public housing

.... as a visualization of how we began, from a stack of uniform questionnaires transformed in data organized in columns and rows

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GRI Digital Services (Lyndsey Godwin-Kresge and Laura Sokolosky)
GRI Special Collections Cataloging (Kit Messick)

and some tools...
Resources on OpenRefine and Reconciliation with the Getty Vocabularies

Getty Vocabularies Training Materials
https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/training.html

Vocabularies Reconciliation Tutorial (Lindsay Gant and Gregg Garcia)

OpenRefine Functions
https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/GREL-Functions

OpenRefine Reconciliation Service Documentation
https://reconciliation-api.github.io/specs/0.1/

Advanced OpenRefine Techniques Using the Getty Vocabularies (Gregg Garcia, Software Architect, Getty Digital)
http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/g_garcia_openrefine_workshop_itwg2020.pdf

Vocabularies XML Web Services
http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/vocab_web_services.pdf

Vocabularies SPARQL Queries Example Page
http://vocab.getty.edu/queries

Thank You!