

The “Hugo Schuchardt Archive” and the *Network of Knowledge* project
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The U Graz hosts the paper legacy of Hugo Schuchardt. For more than half a century he crucially participated and partly originated relevant discussions and he was a meticulous collector. So we have an unprecedented legacy of documents and papers. As a disciple of Diez and Schleicher he was in the vanguard from the early years of the delineation of the field, discussing its borders and limitations, he was author of polemics on the *Lautgesetze* and the Neogrammarians, engaged in linguistic descriptions of Basque, formulating early problems in historical linguistics and in linguistic typology, an early proponent of language contact studies, a co-founder of creole linguistics, scholar of Georgian, Celtic, Arab and Berber, as of various other languages, co-founder also of the *Wörter and Sachen*-approach, collector of ethnographic objects paralleling his linguistic ideas of migration and etymology, and finally theoretically interested up to the point of being probably one of the most severe and critical reviewers of Saussure's *Cours* as early as 1917.

This impressive width of interests and of contributions to the field explains the specific importance of his legacy preserved in Graz and the complexity of the data elaborated during the netknowl-project in the electronic *Hugo Schuchardt Archive* (<http://schuchardt.uni-graz.at/home>). Besides biographical and personal material, the website aims at giving an exemplary perspective on the development of the discipline roughly from 1850 until beyond World War I by bringing together Schuchardt's printed works, the reviews written on them, his far-reaching correspondences and (the up to today not systematically treated) manuscripts preserved in the section “Werkmanuskripte” of the legacy.

The aim of the *netknowl* project was to map the scientific development of humanities, exemplified accurately with respect to language science, in its process of professionalization and institutionalization in the 19th century. The guiding idea is that conditions and results of the industrial revolution, namely the emerging postal system and far-reaching innovations in printing techniques directly accounted for the emergence of previously unknown media and related scientific discourse strategies and thus supported the formation of new disciplines.

The new mail system had to guarantee the organization of the logistics of the industrial market, its impact for the development of the humanities was stunning and is best compared to the rise of the internet some 150 years later. This circumstance explains the presence of approximately 14.000 letters received and stored in the Schuchardt legacy in Graz. As to the printing techniques there coincided three factors: the high speed printing machines in the early 19th century (forerunner of the rotary press), wood pulp paper and innovations in type setting were directly responsible for an immense increase of print products. Just consider the foundation of over 35 scholarly philological journals between 1850 and 1880, or the fact that some periodicals were published weekly. This development goes hand in hand with new societal exigences towards universities and academies and a complete restructuring of the academic formation of a series of institutionalized professions, and it created itself a market of intellectual products, both materially (printed) as well as ideally.

The *netknowl*-project aims at reproducing digitally this historical process by critically and thoroughly mapping the discourse which had gained new and unknown qualities in the middle of the 19th century. The project proposes a new approach, insofar as it does not limit itself to a history of ideas founded on published material, but uses much more diversified sources of information in order to generate a broader view. Under the head concept of *obtaining knowledge* it searches for the process of the formation of knowledge by taking into account all aspects ranging from the method of information search to the generation and establishment of scientific as well as common knowledge. The traditional approach to search for primacies ('who was the first to find XY') becomes rather obsolete under this premises.