When a new project in musicology is being started it is frequent practice to construct databases. But what happens in smaller projects where only little infrastructure or technical support is available? This is likely to be a considerable challenge especially in projects such as a doctoral thesis or a newly founded archival institution with only one or few employees. The problem here is less to create the digital data rather than their eventual publicly available representation.

This poster will present the process of recording data using a similar way of presentation for two essentially incomparable projects. The first project is called Baumann Digital – a doctoral project on the life and work of Ludwig Baumann (1866–1944). The data in this project are based on TEI and MEI in order to create a machine-recognisable corpus. The representation that has been created for this project had initially been designated to visualise the data for internal use, i.e. for structuring, analysing and proofreading of the digital content. An xQuery based application[1] for eXist-DB was used to create indexes of the encoded content. Later it became more and more detailed, adding the dimension of public representation to its original purpose.

In collaboration with the new-founded Joachim-Raff-Archiv in Lachen (Switzerland) the presentation of data has been designed in detail. This institution has started to record metadata with the objective of having TEI and MEI files available for further use. Because of the special conditions within the archive there had been no time for developing coding guidelines, training employees or developing a digital infrastructure prior to the beginning of the project. The challenge was to record a lot of metadata and transform them into XML files. Record of about 2,300 letters, 1,100 persons and 365 musical compositions have been generated during the first 24 months. It is planned to add records of musical source material (both autograph and printed), the library catalogue as well as any other kind of data with the focus on the life of the composer Joseph Joachim Raff. Although the presentation interface is still in the progress of continuous polish, it is already accessible via Github[2] as a fork based on Baumann-Digital.

The focus of the poster will be the process of creating, transforming and presenting the data of these two projects that have different research interests but quite similar kinds of data.

---

[1] https://github.com/Baumann-Digital/portal-app
[2] https://github.com/Joachim-Raff-Archiv/portal-app