

Catalogue Digital Editions



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"DATA FIRST!?"



WHY A CATALOGUE?

Since 2012 the Catalogue has been gathering digital editions and texts in an attempt to **survey and identify best practice in the field of digital scholarly editing**. Analogous initiatives exist but do not provide the granular analysis of features necessary to better understand the rationale and methodology behind the creation of a digital edition. This Catalogue provides an accessible record of standards and building technologies used.

WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

Digital (scholarly) editions of documentary heritage, **digital text collections and archives** of literary works. No e-books or fiction.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Projects are catalogued following numerous criteria (49, as of November 2017) giving users a **wide choice of search filters**. A built-in **SPARQL search interface** can be used to query the **Linked Open Data** network to which the Catalogue data is connected (FOAF, GeoNames, Data Catalog, Dublin Core Metadata and Deutsche Nationalbibliothek). Search results can be viewed as **downloadable pie/bar/line-charts** and **map views** provide a geographical distribution of the projects (see right).

You can download the entire Catalogue and you are also free to reuse it as you wish as long as you credit the source. **Currently available download formats are CSV, RDF, N3, BIBTEX and JSON.**

HOW IS IT BUILT?

The Catalogue is made-up of two interacting components, each stored in its own GitHub repository: 1) the data, stored as **CSV files**, and 2) a **Django (Python) + MySQL web application** to display the data in a website. The two components are connected via a custom script that regularly fetches the latest updates from the data repository and delivers them to the web application. Charts and map visualisations are generated on the fly using HighCharts and Leaflet. **The web application itself reuses open source code.**

CAN I CONTRIBUTE DATA?

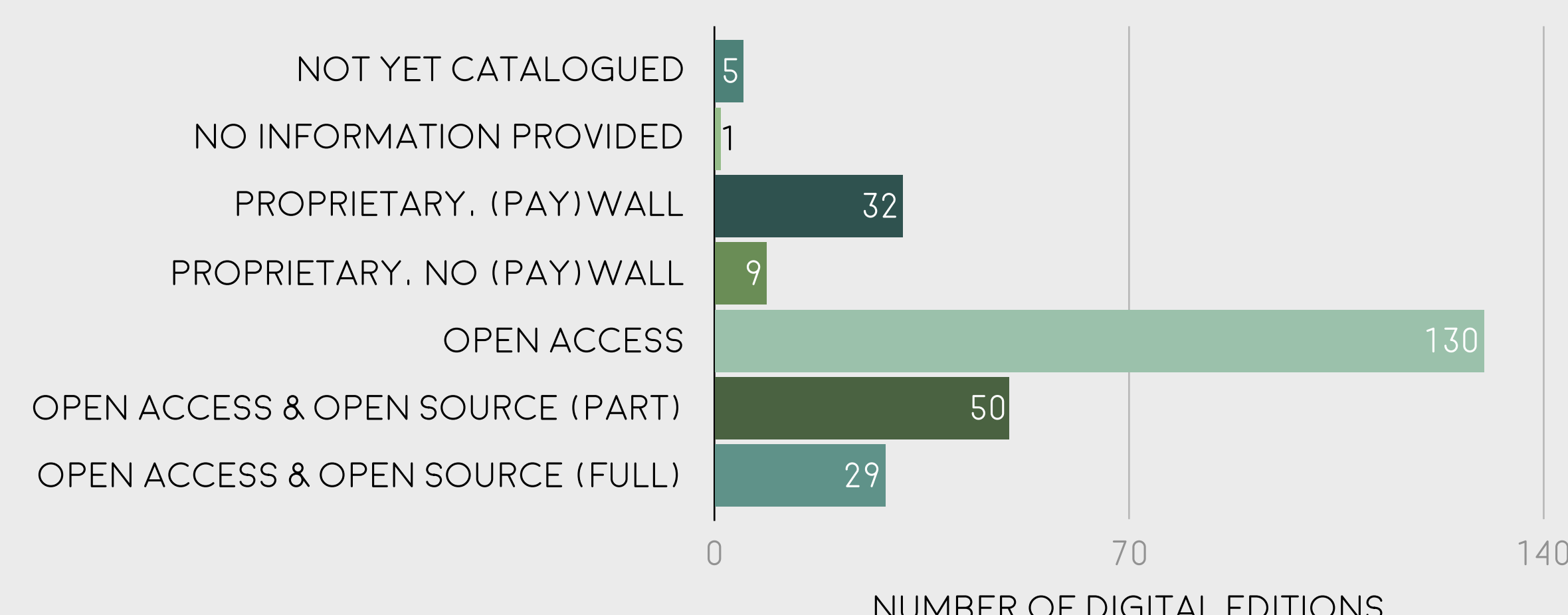
Of course! You can add a digital edition in one of two ways: if you are familiar with Git and **GitHub**, you can fork the Catalogue data repository and submit your project as a pull-request; alternatively, you can fill in a **Google Form**.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The Catalogue is syndicated in the **German Library Network (DBIS)**. As a result, **digital editions added to the Catalogue are automatically accessible from hundreds of library stations in Germany** (322 libraries as of November 2017).

FINDINGS: OPENNESS

The Catalogue defines **five degrees of openness**, and digital editions are not as open as we would like them to be.



FINDINGS: LOCATION



Based on November 2017 data, digital editions are mostly made in **Europe** and **America**.

FINDINGS: CREATION VS. USE

A 2017 survey investigated the expectations of users of digital editions and compared 218 complete responses to 242 digital editions in the Catalogue. The results illustrated below show that **digital editions must do better in terms of downloadable transcriptions, technical documentation and openness**. A journal article with a full comparison of the results of the survey against the data of the Catalogue is currently (November 2017) in peer-review.

