THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON THE WEB - THE CASE OF SERBIA

Slobodan Mandić
Historical Archives of Belgrade, Serbia
slobodan.mandic@gmail.com
FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

- numerous projects on the WWI have been initiated and implemented worldwide, by using new technologies and media, with a goal:
  
  - to connect experts from various fields
  - to facilitate the access to historical sources and archival material
  - to present results of researches
  - to organize virtual exhibitions
  - to advance teaching process and education
GOAL OF THE PAPER

- to study phenomena on using new technologies in historical science based on analysis of form, structure and content of several most representative Web presentations

- to study the development in perception of historical sources, archival material and the representation of the results of the scientific researches

  - example of Serbia and Serbian cyber space
International Encyclopedia of the First World War

• made as a result of a common project of more than a thousand experts from more than fifty countries
Prisoners of the First World War

- International Committee of the Red Cross Historical Archives - 5 M indexed cards / 2 M prisoners
Europeana 1914-1918 – untold stories & official histories of WW1

- Europeana 1914-1918 mixes resources from libraries and archives across the globe with memories and memorabilia from families throughout Europe
Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, 1914-2014 - 100 Jahre erster Weltkrieg
Digital projects around the First World War

• individual historians’ presentation: Otto Vervaart’ blog
this material today easily accessible for the users from all around the world illustrates in the correct way changes and challenges modern generations of historians are faced with
- it introduces numerous heuristic possibilities
- series of methodological problems and questions about use of information and historical sources taken from the Internet
  - partial digitalization of fonds and collections
  - fetishism of the documents, often without any selection in reconstructing of the past
Example of Serbia and Serbian Syber Space

- public interest for this topic is huge: numerous publications relating to the WWI have been published in Serbia in the past few years, many exhibitions, conferences, public manifestations and television shows have been organized and recorded
- only several Web presentation have been released, which allowed full perception of the historical events that are of great importance in the collective memory
- several important projects have been realized significantly enriching the possibilities of researches, studies and work in digital environment
Historical Archives of Belgrade

- Project First World War in Fonds and Collections of The Historical Archives of Belgrade – Online Digital Thematic Guide
Database (Testament of King Petar I Karadžorđević)

Testament of King Petar I Karadžorđević, written before he had left to war on November 18th 1914; he left in the testament all documentation and money to his children Aleksandar, Dordu and Jelena, property and land in Belgrade to the heir of the throne Aleksandar, as well as church on Oplenac, which would remain as a separate institution named "Endowment of King Petar". The hospital in Topola he left to the state. In the addition to the testament he left 5 000 dinars for his "boy" Zdravko. The testament was made public on September 22nd 1922.

IAB, ZArh, K 7/PF K, 9
presentations focusing on a specific chronological and geographical point
Web 2.0 tools
CONCLUSION

- basic characteristics/problem - cooperation of different experts / interdisciplinary approach
- good material for retrospection of relations between historical science and challenges of new technologies’ implementation today and in the future
- the necessity to reconstruct historical science for digital era
- to introduce more complex attitude towards social reality
- small number of reviews and critiques in the field of digital history
- larger interpretation and implementation of results of already finalized projects
- to motivate and involve wider audience in the field of digital history
THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION!