Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen: Report on activities in the period 2000–2002
Wittgensteinarkivet ved Universitetet i Bergen

Report on activities in the period 2000–2002

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Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen:
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(by Alois Pichler)

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A. Organisation and staff

1. Introduction

The Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen (WAB) were established on the initiative of Claus Huitfeldt in 1990 as a separate unit at the University of Bergen. Claus Huitfeldt functioned as project director from 1990–99, with two leaves of absence, during which Ole Letnes and Franz Hespe functioned as acting project directors (see WAB 1990–99). In this period WAB prepared a complete machine-readable version of Wittgenstein's Nachlass, from which, in cooperation with Oxford University Press, Wittgenstein's Nachlass: The Bergen Electronic Edition (BEE, 1998–2000) was produced. After completion of the machine-readable version in 1999, the objectives of the project were achieved, and WAB, as a separate University unit, was terminated on December 31, 1999. Maintenance of the institution was ensured however by means of agreements with the Department of Philosophy and the Humanities Information Technology Programme Centre at the University of Bergen (HIT Centre) which resulted in the continuation of WAB as a cooperation project between the Department of Philosophy and the HIT Centre, located at the HIT Centre.

WAB fully re-opened its facilities for visiting scholars in Autumn 2000. By this time Claus Huitfeldt had been appointed research director at the HIT Centre. Former staff member Alois Pichler was charged with the responsibility for directing the affairs of WAB until its vacant post of director was filled. In May 2001 Alois Pichler (AP) was appointed to this permanent post as project director. WAB was now ensured one permanent staff member and could in addition count on work–time contributed by staff at the HIT Centre, the Philosophy Department, the central administration of the University and other departments at the University.
In the period 2000–2002 WAB has effected the transformation of the project to prepare a complete machine-readable version of Wittgenstein's Nachlass into one which has become an international service institution and research centre of the first rank in Wittgenstein research and text encoding. The fact that WAB in answer to its application in November 2001 was given the status of European Research Infrastructure in the 5th Framework Programme by the European Commission has attracted particularly positive attention. This is a great honour not only for the University of Bergen and its Wittgenstein Archives, but also for the entire community of Wittgenstein scholars as well as the philosophical and text encoding communities in general. The principal objectives of WAB in its current form are to manage a Trans-national Access to European Research Infrastructure Wittgenstein Archives project, to maintain and improve both the machine-readable version of Wittgenstein’s Nachlass and the Bergen Electronic Edition, to coordinate and develop further international cooperation and to serve its users.

2. Organisation and administration

WAB is organized as a project under the administrative and financial responsibility of the HIT Centre at the AKSIS section in Unifob at the University of Bergen. It has the scholarly support and cooperation of the Philosophy Department at the University of Bergen which in Spring 2002 signed an agreement on such cooperation with the HIT Centre. In Summer 2002 the Department of Philosophy appointed a board to assist WAB's director in project management issues and to represent the Department's interests in WAB. This board consists of Philosophy Department members Kevin Cahill, Ralph Jewell, Harald Johannessen and Kjell S. Johannessen.

At the HIT Centre WAB is embedded in and closely cooperates with the Text Technology Group which includes the Henrik Ibsen project, the Text Encoding Initiative Consortium (TEI-C) project and the Markup Languages for Complex Documents (MLCD) project.

3. Employment and staff

In the period 1.11.2000–31.12.2002 only AP was directly employed for WAB; AP received scholarly and administrative support from staff at the HIT Centre, the Philosophy Department, the central administration and other departments and institutes at the University. In the period 1.11.–31.12.2000 AP was employed at WAB on a 50% basis, in the period 1.1.–31.12.2001 he was employed on a 75% basis, and in 2002 he was employed on an 85% basis. In addition, in the period October–December 2002 AP was employed as Acting Executive Director for the international Text Encoding Initiative Consortium which has its head office at the HIT Centre (this employment amounted to a 15% position on an annual basis). With the assignation of European Research Infrastructure status to WAB, in January 2002 Eldbjørg Gunnarson from the HIT Centre administration was appointed secretary of WAB’s Trans-national Access to European Research Infrastructure Wittgenstein Archives project (EU ARI WAB). AP has in 2001 and 2002 also functioned as safety deputy («HMS verneombud») for the HIT Centre.
B. Project tasks and achievements

1. Introduction
In short, project tasks included management of the EU ARI WAB project, maintenance and improvement of the machine-readable version of Wittgenstein's Nachlass, of the Bergen Electronic Edition (BEE) and of WAB’s Webpages, assistance to local and international (both physical and «virtual») guests and users, active participation in and in parts coordination of international Wittgenstein research and digital editorial philology and text encoding research, and further development of international cooperation in these fields. In the following an account is given of WAB's main activities in the period 2000–2002.

2. Local and international assistance and other services
In Autumn 2000 WAB’s Webpages have been thoroughly revised, updated and enriched with new materials. Special mention should be made of the enrichment of the machine-readable version samples site with WAB’s source transcriptions of Nachlass item 115 in MECS format, the inclusion of those of WAB's Working Papers, which are out of print in electronic format, and the creation of a comprehensive Wittgenstein portal with links to important Wittgenstein resources. In the maintenance of the portal, WAB shall be assisted by the Helsinki Philosophy Department and the Bologna Philosophy Department with which WAB has made such agreements in 2002 and 2003, respectively. WAB's Websites are widely used; in addition WAB answers and discusses numerous questions with national and international researchers by telephone and correspondence, mail lists and individual e-mail. In Spring 2001 BEE was made available for University of Bergen staff and students as campus network version.

In total WAB has received in 2000–2002 about 40 research visits (amounting to a total of more than 1,5 work years), including 7 visits in 2002 under the EU ARI WAB programme (amounting to a total of about 0,5 work years).

3. Maintenance and further improvement of the Bergen Electronic Edition (BEE) and WAB’s machine-readable version of Wittgenstein’s Nachlass
WAB assisted Oxford University Press in the publication process of Wittgenstein’s Nachlass: The Bergen Electronic Edition (complete edition November 2000). It also assisted users of BEE and has created a BEE Discussion site. This site also includes a table with transcription mistakes in BEE, which is continuously updated. These mistakes have been pointed out to WAB by careful users to help improve BEE and the machine-readable version and to help other users of BEE. The BEE back-bone, WAB's machine-readable version of the Nachlass, is continuously revised and will thus also provide the basis for a revised and improved BEE. In cooperation with local and international Wittgenstein scholars, electronic publishing and digital editorial philology experts, in particular HIT’s MLCD project which is led by Claus Huitfeldt, WAB works towards a safe and intelligent translation of the machine-readable version MECS transcriptions into TEI based XML format transcriptions. First testing has been very promising; it is expected that a complete and secure translation tool will be available in the second half of 2003.

WAB holds electronic high quality facsimile copies of the Nachlass on Photo CDs; this format is not identical with that used for the facsimile publication in BEE. The latter, while of reasonable quality too, is of lower resolution than that of the Photo CDs which served as originals for the published facsimiles. WAB is engaged in storing and organizing the Photo CD facsimile files on a local server in order to secure and ease access to them.

WAB report 2000-2002
4. International cooperation

WAB continued close cooperation with the international Text Encoding Initiative Consortium, Oxford University Press (Oxford), InteLex Corporation (Charlottesville), the Brenner Archives (Innsbruck) and the Faculty of Art and Design at the University of Hertfordshire (Herts). In January 2001 WAB participated in a meeting at the Brenner Archives in Innsbruck, organized by Allan Janik from the Brenner Archives, which gathered people from the Brenner Archives, Brian McGuinness from the University of Siena, Cameron McEwen from InteLex Corporation, Michael Biggs from the University of Hertfordshire and AP from WAB. The meeting discussed perspectives for intensification of collaboration and sketched a research project with the aim of investigating conditions and possibilities for collaborative network groupworking on the basis of pre–Tractatus Wittgenstein material. The group met again in Kirchberg at the Kirchberg Wittgenstein symposium in August 2001 and in Bergen at the Wittgenstein conference in December 2001. Since Autumn 2001, the project has run on a Webspace; it brings together each participant’s competences and resources and involves inter alia testing of Nachlass material in XML format.

At the same visit in Innsbruck, AP met with Edmund Runggaldier from Innsbruck University, president of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society (ALWS), to discuss possibilities for cooperation between WAB and ALWS. In return Runggaldier visited WAB in May 2002, when cooperation was specified and letters of cooperation agreement were exchanged. Cooperation with ALWS proves very important and efficient; a good example of this is inclusion of EU ARI WAB announcement material in announcements of the annual Kirchberg Wittgenstein symposium which are sent to hundreds of targeted Wittgenstein and philosophy researchers and scholars. The EU ARI WAB project is much obliged to the ALWS for this. (On EU ARI WAB, see further below.)

On the occasion of WAB’s participation in the creation of Georg Henrik von Wright doctor honoris causae of the University of Bergen in January 2002 in Helsinki, AP also met with members of the Helsinki Philosophy Department to establish closer cooperation. As a result in Autumn 2002 letters of cooperation agreement were exchanged. In Spring 2003 cooperation agreements were also made with the Bologna Philosophy Department and the Institute of History and Philosophy of the Sciences and Techniques (IHPST) at Paris University 1. The Helsinki and Bologna philosophy departments shall assist WAB in the maintenance and further development of its Wittgenstein portal.

In addition WAB has also established close cooperation with the universities of Vienna and Karlsruhe. In October 2000 Herbert Hrachovec from the Vienna Philosophy Department visited the Bergen Philosophy Department and WAB and gave a paper on the Bergen Electronic Edition (see «Wittgenstein on line/on the line»). On this occasion plans were made to establish a Web–based project to investigate possibilities for cooperatively evaluating, enriching and developing further the Bergen Electronic Edition and WAB’s machine–readable version. The project was soon enriched by the participation of Dieter Köhler from the Karlsruhe Philosophy Department, who has developed software for combining Web–based interactive text editing and text commenting (APE). Hrachovec, Köhler and AP met again and developed the project further in Vienna in June 2001 on the occasion of AP’s participation in the Knowledge networking conference in Reichenau (Austria), and in August 2001 on the occasion of the Kirchberg Wittgenstein conference. Also this project, which has the title «Tracing Wittgenstein», runs on a Webspace and involves inter alia XML technology. WAB has obtained rights for both projects from the relevant institutions to share electronic Nachlass transcriptions and facsimile on restricted Webspaces.
It must also be mentioned that WAB has enjoyed assistance from and cooperation with many other departments and institutions, such as the Philosophy Archive at the University of Konstanz and the Forschungsstelle und Dokumentationszentrum für österreichische Philosophie in Graz who assisted with resolving many questions concerning holdings of Wittgenstein material and related resources.

WAB would like to thank the Wittgenstein Trustees and the libraries and archives where Wittgenstein originals are held for their continued cooperation.

5. Participation in and organisation of conferences, seminars and other events

For a full list of engagements in conferences, seminars and similar events see below.

WAB organized in 2000–2001 in cooperation with the HIT Centre and the Philosophy Department an international Wittgenstein conference in Bergen (organizers: AP and Simo Säätelä). The conference lasted from December 12–15, 2001, and had about 70 participants, including 25 invited speakers. It had a total budget of more than 200 000 NOK, of which 100 000 NOK were contributed by the Norwegian Research Council (Norges forskningråd), 40 000 NOK by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (Det norske vitenskapsakademi), 40 000 NOK by the University of Bergen Research Foundation (Universitetsfondet), and 15 000 NOK by the Austrian Embassy at Oslo. The remaining 20 000 NOK were contributed by the HIT Centre budget. WAB is working towards publishing a book derived from the conference contributions.

WAB also assisted the Bergen Philosophy Department and the Collège International de Philosophie (Paris) and the Centre de cooperation franco-norvégien en sciences socials et humaines in Paris in arranging an international Wittgenstein seminar in Marifjora in June 2002, at the Sognefjord, Norway (organizers: Arild Utaker and Antonia Soulez). In addition WAB organized or co-organized about 10 guest-lectures (see list of lecture events below) on location in Bergen. WAB was invited to participate in the Knowledge Networking in Cultural Studies conference, organized by the Research Institute for Austrian and International Literature and Cultural Studies (INST) in Reichenau (Austria) in May 2001, and the Wittgenstein conference in Kirchberg (Austria) in August the same year. Presentations of WAB and its work were given at both places and meetings with colleagues and partners were organized in order to intensify cooperation and making plans for new cooperation. BEE was on display in the conference hall during the entire period of the 2001 Kirchberg Wittgenstein conference (August 12–18).

6. «European Research Area» oriented activities

The notion of a «European Research Area» (ERA) was designed by the European Commission to «contribute to the creation of better overall framework conditions for Research in Europe» (communication «Towards a European Research Area» from January 2000). Since Autumn 2000 WAB directly targets active participation in the creation of ERA with a strong IT aspect in the humanities. Two activities in this field from the period 2000–2002 deserve particular attention: WAB's application for Trans-national access to WAB under the European Research Infrastructures programme which was produced by WAB in cooperation with the International office, the Philosophy Department and the HIT Centre at the University of Bergen in Autumn 2000 and was positively answered by the European Commission in May 2001; and WAB's Expression of Interest for EU's 6th Framework Programme which was published in September 2002 on the European Commission's Website for Expressions of Interest to help prepare the first calls of FP6.
Many European scholars and institutions expressed their support for WAB's Trans-national access application and thereby showed a great European concern for WAB; WAB is deeply indebted to these scholars and institutions who thus helped improve access possibilities to WAB in unprecedented ways and strengthen the potential of Wittgenstein and text encoding research. The final contract between the University of Bergen and the European Commission on Trans-national access to WAB under the European Research Infrastructures programme (EU ARI WAB, contract no HPRI–CT–2001–00161) was signed in November 2001 for a period of 28 months, starting from January 1st, 2002.

The EU ARI WAB programme was first officially announced at the Bergen Wittgenstein conference in December 2001, and participants were encouraged to apply for a research stay under this programme and to announce it further. On January 2nd, 2002, EU ARI WAB was announced via mail–lists, electronic philosophy announcement sites and on WAB's own Webpages where also a separate EU ARI WAB site had been created. In 2002, 7 European researchers have benefited under this programme and spent together about half a work year at WAB, doing research on Wittgenstein's works, his philosophy and methods, digital editorial philology and text encoding. For technical and scientific support of EU ARI WAB visitors, a support group was established, including Daniel Apollon, Tone Merete Bruvik, Claus Huitfeldt, Alois Pichler and Michael Sperberg-McQueen from the HIT Centre; Ralph Jewell, Harald Johannessen, K.S. Johannessen, Simo Säätelä, Richard Sørli and Arild Utaker from the Philosophy Department; Gunnar Skirbekk from the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities; Karol Janicki from the English Department and Michal Walicki from the Informatics Department. WAB will apply for a renewal of this programme under the 6th European Framework Programme.

WAB responded positively to the European Commission's invitation to send in Expressions of Interests (EoI) with regard to the 6th Framework Programme and produced in Spring 2002 with the support of the Bergen University International office an EoI for a Network of Excellence in the FP6 thematic area «Information Society Technologies». The EoI was submitted at the beginning of June under the title «HIST: Humanities IST research strategies». Work on the EoI was supported with NOK 20 000 by the Norwegian Research Council. Behind WAB's HIST–EoI lies the rationale that the European research community needs to strengthen its humanities research in order to meet the challenges posed by IST both to the humanities and to society in general. HIST–networks of excellence shall enable ERA to respond to the innovative and unknown complexities arising from the IT–revolution in ways which help transform them into secure data and social value. The production of the HIST–EoI involved networking activities in itself and has as such already contributed to bringing European research and activities in this field closer together, as did the earlier work on the EU ARI WAB application. In Autumn 2002, the EoI was together with other EoIs made publicly available on the European Commission's Website.
C. Lists

1. Travels, presentations, conferences, seminars and other events with involvement of staff members 2000–2002

- 2.12.2002 Oslo: AP participates in an information meeting on the 6th EU Framework Programme, organized by the Norwegian Research Council and meets with EU commissioner Silvia Dürmeier.
- 8.11.2002 Oslo: AP gives a presentation of the «Bergen Electronic Edition» at a workshop of the Henrik Ibsens Skrifter project at the Ibsen Museum in Oslo and discusses with its attentands the subject of scholarly electronic publishing.
- 17–24.6. Rome, Italy: AP participates with the Philosophy Department in a Workshop in Rome to discuss the organization of Examen Philosophicum and other matters.
- 8.1.2002 Helsinki, Finland: AP gives a guest lecture at the Philosophy Department of the University of Helsinki: «Drei Thesen zu der Entstehung und Eigenart der Philosophischen Untersuchungen: Fragment, Album, Polyphonie».
- 5–9.1.2002 Helsinki, Finland: AP participates in the creation of Georg Henrik von Wright dr.honoris causae of the University of Bergen (7.1.). AP meets for talks with staff from the Philosophy Department at the University of Helsinki (6–9.1.) and von Wright (7–8.1.). von Wright received this title on the initiative of WAB and the Philosophy Department at the University of Bergen.
- 12–15.12.2001 Bergen: AP from WAB and Simo Säätelä from the Philosophy Department organize and participate in the international Wittgenstein conference «Wittgenstein Research Revisited».
- 14–17.11.2001 Andenes, Norway: AP participates in the annual meeting of European Research Infrastructures in Norway.
2. Visits to the Wittgenstein Archives 2000–2002
(Of local visits only more than one day visits are listed. The lectures, seminars and presentations listed are partly organized by the Wittgenstein Archives, partly co–organized with other institutions, and partly organized by other institutions. Those marked (HIT) are held on location at the Wittgenstein Archives/HIT Centre; those marked (FIL) are held at the Philosophy Department; those marked (UIB) are held on other locations at the University of Bergen.)

- 11.12.–16.12.2002 Michael Biggs (University of Hertfordshire, Faculty of Art and Design).
- 28.11.2002 Håvard Åsvoll (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim).
- 21.–24.10.2002 Anniken Greve (University of Tromsø, Department of Comparative Literature).
- 07.–08.10.2002 Aseem Shrivastava and a group of students (Nordic College, Flekke).
- 02.10.2002 Eystein Raude (Høgskolen i Vestfold, Avdeling for realfag og ingeniørdannelse).
- 23.09.–31.10.2002 Thomas Binder (Forschungsstelle und Dokumentationszentrum für österreichische Philosophie, Graz). EU ARI WAB project: «Text encoding applied to Franz Brentano's unpublished philosophical writings».
- 05.08.–05.09.2002 Anat Biletzki (University of Tel–Aviv, Philosophy Department). EU ARI WAB project: «Reading Wittgenstein on religion». Biletzki gives(HIT) a talk on «Wittgenstein and religion». Biletzki also gives a presentation of the Israeli Human Rights Organisation B’TSELEM which she is chairing.
- 01.08.–07.09.2002 Ludovic Soutif (University of Paris I, Philosophy Department). EU ARI WAB project: «Logic, visual space and the grammar of perceptual statements». Soutif gives(FIL) a lecture.
- 24.06.–12.07.2002 Heikki Saari (Åbo Akademi, Philosophy Department). EU ARI WAB project: «Wittgenstein on understanding other cultures».
- 09.06.–16.06.2002 Xabier Insauti (Socrates Coordinator from the University of San Sebastian, Philosophy Department). Insauti gives(HIT) a seminar on Spanish philosophy.
- 01.06.–06.07.2002 Edward Vanhoutte (CTB – Centre for Scholarly Editing and Document Studies, Gent). EU ARI WAB project: «Genetic encoding of modern manuscript texts». Vanhoutte gives(HIT) a seminar on this subject.
27.05.–10.06.2002 Monika Seekircher (University of Innsbruck, Brenner–Archiv). EU ARI WAB project: «Wittgenstein: Briefwechsel und philosophischer Nachlaß».

18.05.–26.05.2002 Edmund Runggaldier (President of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society; University of Innsbruck, Christian Philosophy Department). Runggaldier gives\(^\text{FIL}(\text{UIB})\) two lectures.

08.04.–19.04.2002 Michael Luntley (University of Warwick, Philosophy Department). Luntley gives\(^\text{FIL}\) a series of lectures: «Wittgenstein: the conditions for the possibility of judgement».

02.04.–31.05.2002 Aleksander Motturi (Åbo Akademi, Philosophy Department). EU ARI WAB project: «Revisiting the Frazer remarks». Motturi gives\(^\text{FIL}\) a lecture.

18.03.–15.09.2002 Gerhard Gelbmann (University of Vienna, Department for Philosophy of Science). Gelbmann has a scholarship from the Norwegian Research Council for the project: «Towards a Pragmatic Theory of Meaning and Emotions». Gelbmann gives\(^\text{FIL}(\text{HIT})\) a series of lectures. He also runs\(^\text{FIL}\) a philosophy round table with Bergen's philosophy students. On August 30th Gelbmann presents\(^\text{HIT}\) his book «Observations on Transaction».

05.02.–14.03.2002 Kari Johanne Pedersen (University of Bergen, Institutt for praktisk pedagogikk).

05.02.2002 Timothy D. Koschmann (University of Southern Illinois, School of Medicine).

05.02.2002 Anders I. Mørch (University of Oslo, InterMedia).

18.1.2002 Viggo Rossvaer (University of Tromsø, Philosophy Department).

12.–15.12.2001 International Wittgenstein Conference with about 70 participants.

09.11.–14.11.2001 David Dubin (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Graduate School of Library and Information Science).

09.11.–14.11.2001 Allen Renear (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Graduate School of Library and Information Science).

21.08.–31.12.2001 Kevin Cahill (University of Virginia, Philosophy Department).

26.06.–16.07.2001 Karen Zumhagen (University of California, Berkeley, Comparative Literature Department).

07.06.2001 Anthony J. Cascardi (University of California, Berkeley, Rhetoric Department).

27.05.–03.06.2001 William Boos (University of Iowa, Mathematics Department).

14.05.–06.06.2001 Kevin Cahill (University of Virginia, Philosophy Department).

11.05.2001 Hubert Dreyfus (University of California, Berkeley, Philosophy Department).

04.05.–08.05.2001 Allan Janik (University of Innsbruck, Brenner Archives).

19.05.–06.05.2001 David G. Stern (University of Iowa, Philosophy Department).


02.03.2001 Annika Waenerberg (University of Jyväskylä, Department of Art and Culture).

02.03.2001 Kimmo Lehtonen (University of Jyväskylä, Department of Art and Culture).

16.02.2001 Liz Mitchell (University of Warwick, Philosophy Department).

06.11.2000 Paul Henry (CNRS, Paris).

02.10.2000 Herbert Hrachovec (University of Vienna, Philosophy Department). Hrachovec gives\(^\text{FIL}\) on October 2nd a lecture: «Wittgenstein on line/on the line».


25.08.2000 Carlo Bottigelli (Berlin).

03.08.–31.12.2000 Anna Bortoletto (University of Padova, Philosophy Department). Bortoletto has a scholarship from the Norwegian Research Council for the project: «Wittgenstein and Hertz».

23.06.2000 Erik Haugo (Sofia).

19.06.2000 Thomas Binder (Forschungsstelle und Dokumentationszentrum für österreichische Philosophie, Graz).
3. Publications (2000–) by staff members and others, acknowledging research stays at WAB (This list is continuously updated as new information is supplied; last changed 1.4.2003)

Skriftserie fra Wittgensteinarkivet ved Universitetet i Bergen:
Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen:


