#### What is an interface; example answer for assignment on digitised newspapers





- 1. A list of initiatives across the globe has been collected on Wikipedia. What projects have been completed or are ongoing in your own country?
  - In Luxembourg we have eluxemburgensia.lu, a dedicated project for the digitisation of Luxembourg newspapers.
- 2. Open up the links to the following collections of digitised newspapers, browse through the content and choose at least two newspapers in a language that you master:
  - Here the link to eluxemburgensia.lu is opened up. The website offers a French, German and English interface; here French is chosen.



### 3. Complete the table in your template with the answers to the following questions:

## A. What type of institution carried out the digitisation? Public/private, for commercial/academic/preservation purposes?

For this project, a clear explanation about the objectives of the project can be found here: <a href="https://bnl.public.lu/fr/rechercher/outils-recherche/eluxemburgensia.html">https://bnl.public.lu/fr/rechercher/outils-recherche/eluxemburgensia.html</a>.

The objectives are: preservation by the Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg, making documents accessible to a broader audience without damaging the original documents, and opening up the collections for research.

B. How can you access these collections? Is a subscription needed? Is there remote access or is access limited to the premises of the institution?

You can access the collections directly via the link eluxemburgensia.lu and by clicking on the newspapers/documents of your choice. No subscription or even account is needed; the collections are open to the general public.

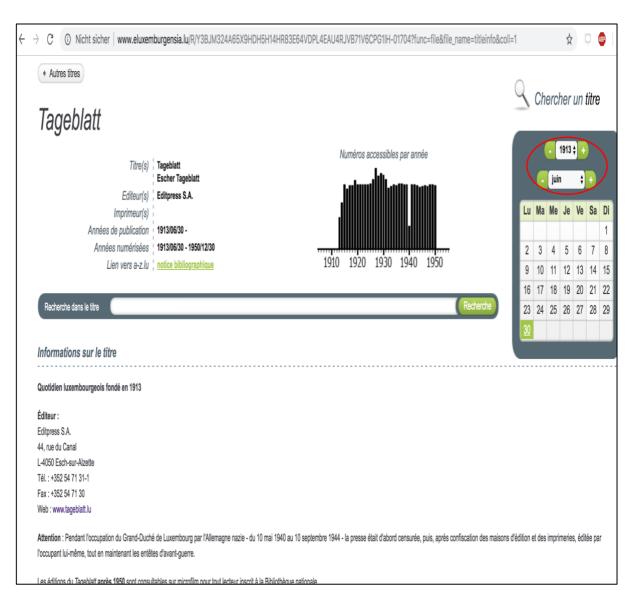
C. Is there a dedicated interface for the digitised newspapers or is the interface common to other sources such as books and images?

A **user interface** is the design that is provided so that a user can navigate and interact with a computer. It refers to any number of interaction modes (such as graphics, sound, position, movement, etc.) in which data is transferred between the user and the computer system.

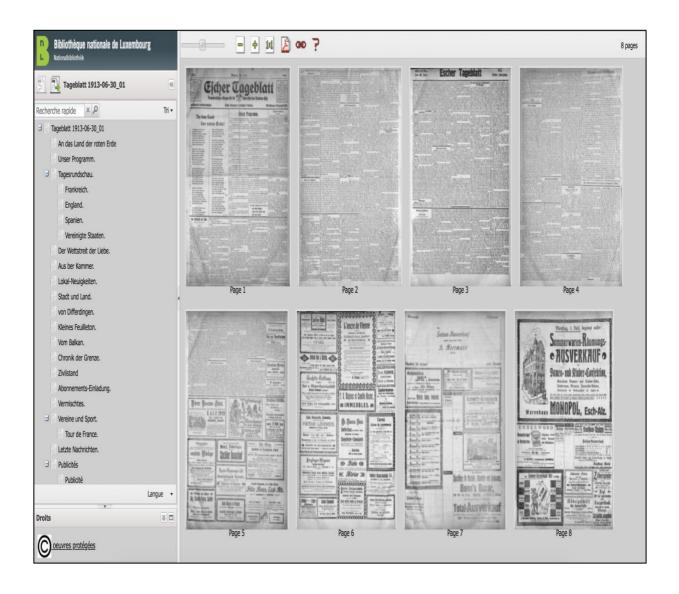


Having chosen the *Tageblatt* as a newspaper, you are directed to the page as you can see below.

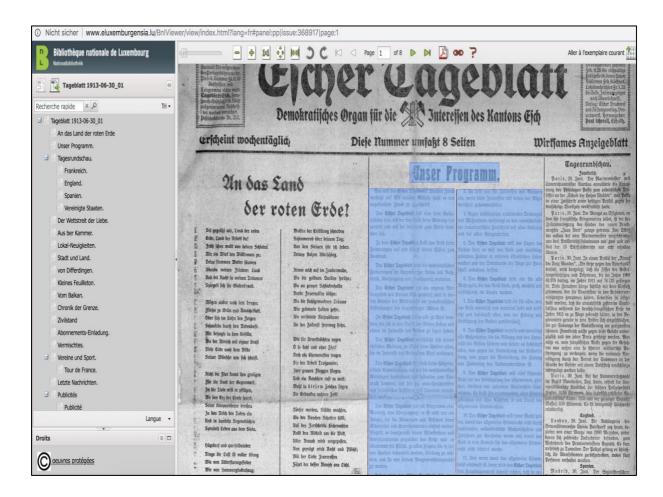
Here general information can be found about which years have been digitised as well as some additional information about censorship during the Second World War. On the right-hand side there is a calendar that allows you to click on a specific date.



Here is an example from **30 June 1913**. This is the digitised version of the earliest edition of *Tageblatt*. In the centre all the pages of the newspaper are shown in one overview. In the menu bar on the left you can see the titles of the separate articles published in the newspaper on that day.



Clicking on an article will bring you to the page where you can zoom in on the article.



This is an important phase of the consulting process. In other archives, for instance photo and film archives, you may be offered the possibility to tag and store what you have found, but not to copy it and convert it into a format that makes further analysis possible. This is often because of copyright issues. Going further back in time, these limitations are less restrictive. Commercial companies charge money to provide these services. See an example from the company Film Archives.



This is an interface for video, and a time code runs over the video that is taken away, after the purchase has been made.



In the case of eluxemburgensia.lu, plenty of possibilities are offered to export the content to suit the needs of the public. If you double-click on one of the articles, it is shown in the centre. The interface offers you the possibility of obtaining a version of the article in plain text.



This means that the newspaper has been processed with **optical character recognition software**, allowing the image of each letter to be turned into machine-readable digits that represent that letter. OCRed documents can be searched in detail, and the text can be exported to other software for text or sentiment mining. In the case of eluxemburgensia.lu, the interface allows the user to print a page or convert it into a PDF.

The interface provided by eluxemburgensia.lu is therefore very specific and tailored to what is needed to explore newspapers. You might find similar **interfaces to explore digitised books**, but if you want to provide access to audio and video or pamphlets, you will need a different interface. Not all libraries and archives have the resources to create specific interfaces for different parts of their collections. It requires a huge investment in time and resources.

# D. Where do the titles come from? What languages are they available in? Are there any special sub collections?

The titles are those of the newspapers that are available and have been selected according to criteria described in the project description. The *Tageblatt* was only published in German, and there are no translations available. In eluxemburgensia there are some special collections of newspapers that are no longer published at present, as well as some older books.

#### E. What information is provided on each individual title by the institution?

There is a short editorial note available on each newspaper to give teachers and lecturers some context. It also provides an overview of the lifespan of the newspaper, as well as a brief description of which volumes have been digitised.