

Training the Archive

A **research project** with the aim to structure information and data of museum collections and make them accessible to curators in an exploratory way.

Ludwig Forum for International Art Aachen, Germany in cooperation with the **Hartware MedienKunstVerein (HMKV)**, Dortmund and the Visual Computing Institute of the **RWTH Aachen University**.

Dominik Bönisch
November 17–20, 2020

The **digitization** in art museums promises extended access to the objects of the **collection** both for scientific purposes and for an interested public—and this **online**, independent of location and at any time. Here it is not enough to simply limit the search in databases to narrowly defined keywords. Rather, **specific interfaces and visualizations** should allow the user to explore the digital inventory as well as to ‘**stroll**’ through the **online collection**.

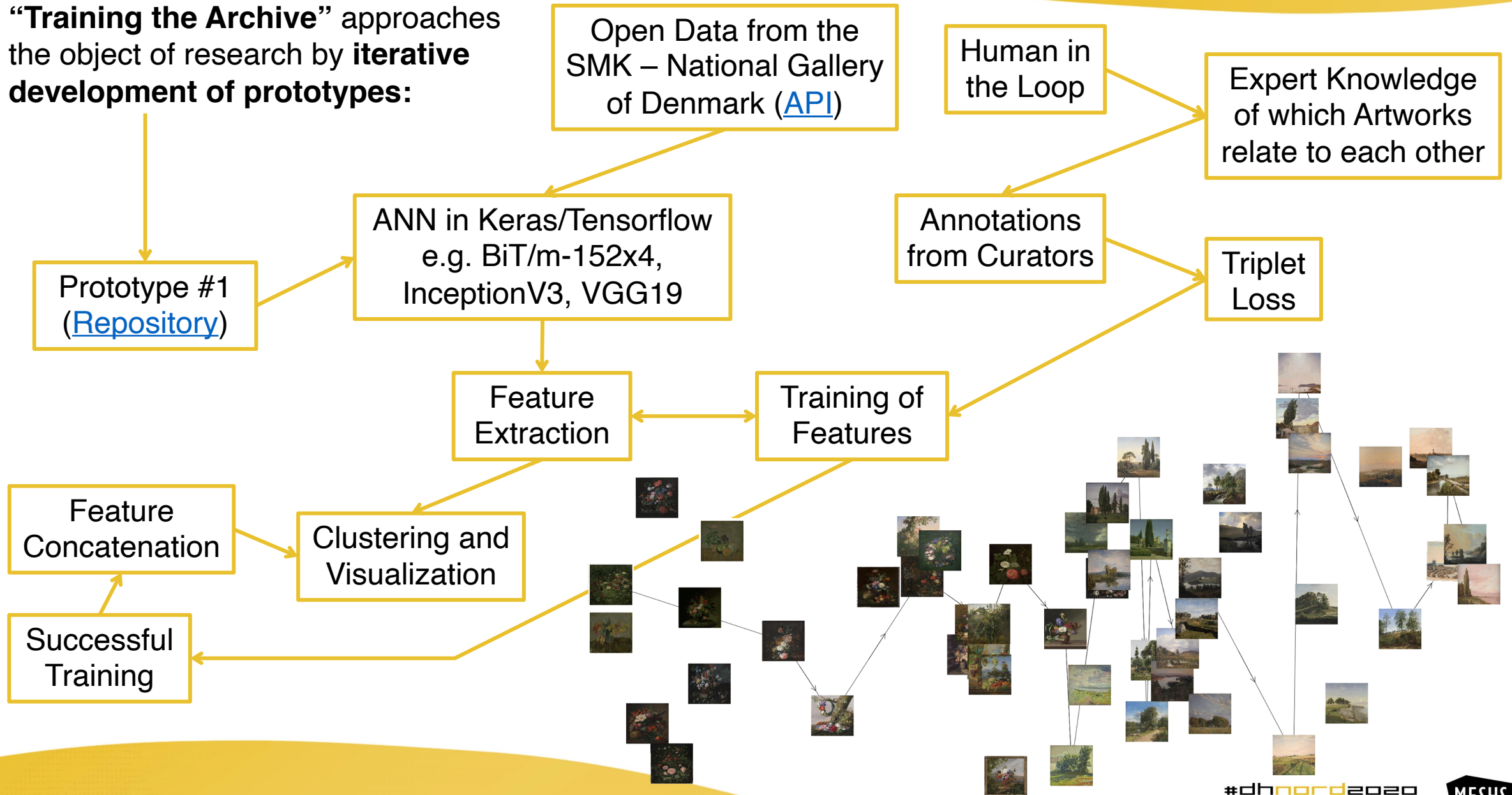
Artificial Intelligence can support the systematic and structured processing of the mass of **data in the museum**. **Machine learning** can reveal **links between artworks**, which previously became accessible to the curator only incompletely or with difficulty. “**Training the Archive**” intends to investigate the machine-aided, **explorative (re)discovery of connections** within the museum's collection.

Object of research:

“Training the Archive” (2020–2023) investigates the potential of Machine Learning methods to **visualize patterns**, connections and associations between objects within **digital archives**.



“**Training the Archive**” approaches the object of research by **iterative development of prototypes**:



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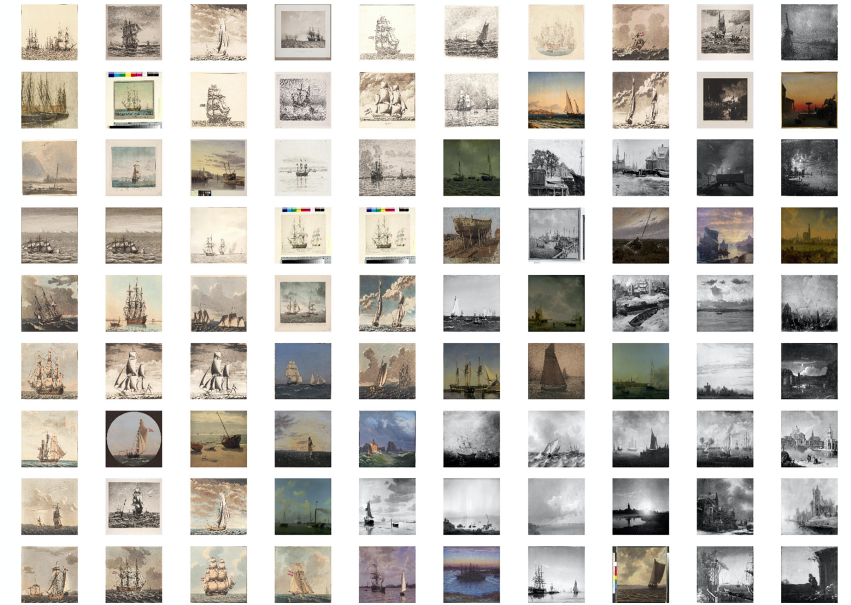
- <http://ludwigforum.de/en/museum/research/training-the-archive/>
- <https://github.com/DominikBoenisch/Training-the-Archive>

Project partners

- [Hartware MedienKunstVerein \(HMKV\)](#), Dortmund
- [Visual Computing Institute](#) of the RWTH Aachen University

Funding

“Training the Archive” is funded by the Digital Culture Program of the German Federal Cultural Foundation ([Kulturstiftung des Bundes](#)).



Figures 1–3: © Dominik Bönisch; Ludwig Forum Aachen using open source data from the SMK, Copenhagen; all images are in the public domain.
Figure 1: Scatterplot of a cluster, which combines images with different animal species.

Figure 2: Scatterplot of the walk through the high-dimensional space from one artwork to another, the direction of the path is illustrated by arrows.

Figure 3: Gridplot of a cluster, which puts together images with maritime scenes of boats and ships.