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Virtually bridging the gaps between texts, images and objects in the history of education

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In 1790 the publisher Friedrich Justin Bertuch announced a very ambitious project: a picture book describing the world in high quality prints, especially made for - and intended to be directly handled by – children. This publication was a success for Bertuch's publishing house: issued in small instalments of five plates each the "Bilderbuch für Kinder" lasted for 40 years, building up to an edition of almost 1200 plates. Though very popular, the "Bilderbuch" was not singular. It had predecessors and its success as well as missing copyright legislation led to various re-uses. Thus, some of the engravings even served as blueprints for contemporary pewter figures. To experience the "Bilderbuch" in its wealth of connections textual and pictorial sources as well as objects have to be looked at.

Bridging the artificial gap between the sources from libraries, archives and museums may support to understand Bertuch's work in a comprehensive historical context.

In the talk we take the example of "Bertuchs Bilderbuch" to suggest the model of a virtual research infrastructure which integrates digital texts, pictures and objects and interlinks them with each other as well as with external sources. A major challenge is finding a consistent data representation model for the different types of information originating from various data bases. The platform Interlinking Pictura (<https://interlinking.bbf.dipf.de/>) unites these different sources in an open virtual environment. Apart from visualizing "Bertuchs Bilderbuch" in different ways Interlinking Pictura opens up to the world of things.