



Vorarlberg
unser Land



Vorarlberger Landesbibliothek

Publish or Hide?

How to show propaganda photography online -
without making propaganda

State Library Vorarlberg in Bregenz

- Academic Library
- Preserving cultural heritage:

Books, Journals, Maps

Radio- und TV-Archive

Photos: PHAIDRA-based volare:

- 380.000 photos in 39 collections
- more than 1 Million analog photos



Vorarlberg , Austria 1938

- Austria becomes part of the German Reich
- Daily life changed dramatically
- Kindergarten, School, Youth Organisation, work life, politics ... was influenced by Nazi ideology
- Dissidents are arrested and often killed in concentration camps



The photographer

- Werner Schlegel, born 1908 in Bregenz
- Illegal Member of the NSDAP since 1934
- Professional Photographer (postcards, propaganda)
- killed in 1945 on the eastern front
- His legacy in 2015, ~ 5000 photos



Ethnical Concerns

- Publish it, because:
It is not the job of libraries to censor information
- Hide it, because:
these photos are aesthetic and perfect material for social media used by right wing movements



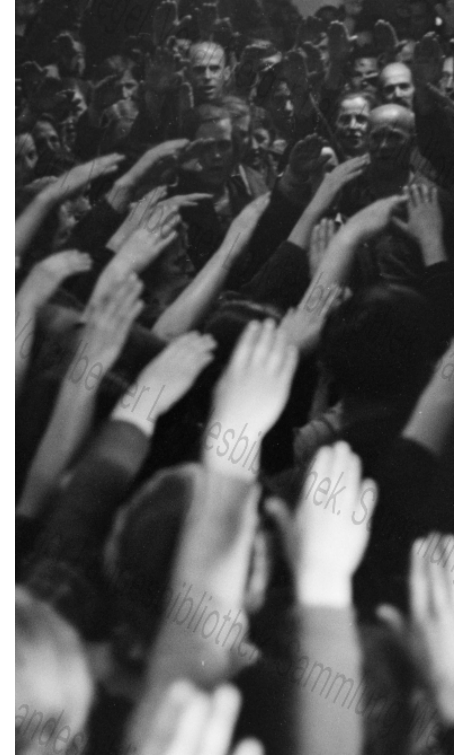
Contextualisation

- “Baldur von Schirach (1907–1974), Reich Youth Leader, visited the Reichsgau Tirol-Vorarlberg in July 1939. The visit was widely covered in the media and documented by Werner Schlegel. In 1940, von Schirach became Gauleiter of Vienna and was responsible for the deportation of around 65,000 Jews. After the war, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison at the Nuremberg Trials.”



Contextualisation

- Visit by the leader of the German Labour Front (DAF), Robert Ley (1890–1945), to the Kastner company in a small village. After the end of the war, Ley was indicted in the Nuremberg Trial of the Major War Criminals but committed suicide before the verdict was pronounced.



Preventing misuse

- Making using terms visible
- Low resolution of digital photos
- Watermarks
- No sharing with Europeana and Kulturpool



Application case:

Exhibition in the local museum:

We were enthusiastic! Why?

Our photo collections give no conclusive answers, but are supporting research



Thank you for your attention.

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