Review of Hans Georg Lehmann, ed. <u>D-DOK: Deutschland-Dokumentation 1945-2004: Politk</u>
<u>Recht, Wirtschaft und Soziales</u>. Bonn: Dietz, 2004 [DVD + Booklet] ISBN 3-8012-0342-5
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Linwood DeLong (University of Winnipeg)

This excellent DVD, which was produced with assistance from the German Ministry of
Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung), offers the user more
than 100,000 documents pertaining to German history, politics, law and culture. The user will
need to have a computer with a DVD player and Windows Explorer. It is important to have
access to Adobe Acrobat software (6.0 if possible) and to software that will play MP3 files, since
there are a number of audio texts on this DVD, all of which are in this format. A brief
introduction to this product can be found on the D-Dok website: www.d-dok.de .

 Three types of searches are possible: "Suche", "Expertensuche, and "Jahresübersicht". In the
"Suche" and "Expertensuche" the search screen offers several options.   The first is a
"Koeffizient", which is selected from a drop-down menu.   Only one "Koeffizient" per search is
possible.   The "Koeffizienten" are a mixture of geographic designations (e.g. Osten / Osteuropa
/ östliche Hemisphäre), political entities (e.g. Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Deutschland / Berlin
als Besatzungsgebiet 1945-1949), document types (e.g. Ton-Dokument, Foto- / Bild-Dokument)
and language designations (englischsprachiges Dokument, türkischsprachiges Dokument,
französichsprachiges Dokument). The "Jahresübersicht" is simply a listing of documents by
year. Only one year can be selected in this search function and no other limits can be applied to
this type of search.

The "Koeffizient" is not a mandatory field. The user can also choose to go straight to the
"Suchbegriffe".   In the simple search ("Suche") up to four terms can be entered. In the
"Expertensuche" there is no limit to the number of concepts, and Boolean operators can also be
used.   They must be entered in English and in all capitals (AND, OR and NOT).   A truncation
symbol (*) can be used in the "Suchbegriffe" field in both "Suche" and "Expertensuche" and it
is invaluable in dealing with the complexities of German inflections: (kalte Krieg = 84 entries;
kalter Krieg = 71; kalten Krieg = 212; kalten Krieges = 484; kalt* Krieg = 587; kalt* Krieg* =
786).

Searches can be limited by year using the "Zeitraum" function. The user can enter a beginning
date and a stop date.   It is possible to conduct a search using only the "Zeitraum" function to
identify all of the documents within a span of years, or within one year. It is possible to enter the
same year in both the "von" and "bis" fields. If only one date is entered, the system
automatically assumes this to be a search that is limited to one year.

There does not appear to be any "clear, ""new search" or "löschen" function.   To remove an
existing "Koeffizient" one must move the drop-down menu to the top, where the first
"Koeffizient" is left blank. To perform a new search one must delete all information from the
"Suchbegriffe" of any previous search.

The search software requires the use of German diacritics. An entry pertaining to

"Ministerpräsident Chruschtschow" will not be retrieved if "Ministerprasident" or "Ministerpraesident" is entered. There does not appear to be any name authority file and searchers must become accustomed to German spellings for names that have significantly different spellings in German than in English. (A search under "Khrushchev" retrieves three documents.)

The search results are presented in a brief form (one line) and are ranked in order by relevancy, although the relevancy ranking is somewhat perplexing. The document pertaining to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that retrieved the highest relevancy ranking (100%) contained only one reference to this newspaper, in a footnote. The software searches the database very rapidly (even when several thousand hits are retrieved), and the .pdf documents also display promptly. There are small symbols to indicate .pdf documents, audio documents, or photographs.

The documents that are retrieved are not digitized copies of the originals. Rather they are documents (or excerpts of documents) that have been re-typed and presented as .pdf files. Many documents are only one or two pages long, but some are as long as 300 pages. Bibliographic information concerning the source of each document appears at the end. In the case of photographs, these are scanned in and identifying information is provided below the photograph.

There are 407 audio documents (Ton-Dokumente). They cover the time period from the 1950s to 2004 and are very clear, or at least as clear as one could expect in the case of documents from the 1950s. There are over 200 audio documents for the period 1945-1955, the earliest of which is an excerpt of Hitler's last speech given over the radio.

The coverage of political, social, economic and legal topics is impressive. There are almost 1500 documents with the "Koeffizient" that pertains to the German Democratic Republic (DDR), over 2400 pertaining to the Federal Republic of Germany, and over 2600 that pertain to the USA. The majority of the documents appear to be government documents, and the largest number of hits is retrieved on searches pertaining to political, legal or historical issues. Nevertheless, it is possible to retrieve a modest number of hits when searching for the names of major German newspapers or news magazines (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung = 34; Frankfurter Rundschau = 16; Neues Deutschland = 484), for cultural institutions (Goethe Institut = 47; Inter Nationes = 6), for social topics (Gastarbeiter = 55; Umsiedler = 51; Ausländer = 479) and even a few hits for some leading German scholars such as Dahrendorf (2), Marcuse (2) or Adorno (13). The coverage of German literature is not uniformly strong, but there are exceptions where a writer had some degree of political prominence: (Gruppe 47 = 1; Wolf Biermann = 9; Heinrich Böll = 19; Johannes Bobrowski = 1; Friedrich Dürrenmatt = 7; Max Frisch = 8; Günter Grass = 17; Christa Wolf = 16). Searches for political leaders retrieve many hits (Ulbricht = 418; Honecker = 707; Willy Brandt = 317) and political advisors or members of cabinet also yield a significant number of hits (Walter Scheel = 128; Genscher = 388; Willi Stoph = 177; Wilhelm Pieck = 115). Economic topics also receive strong coverage (Bundesbank = 306; Währungsreform = 143; Wirtschaftswunder = 74) and educational topics are quite well covered (Abitur = 96; BAföG = 67; DAAD = 22; Hochschulrahmengesetz = 48; Humboldt Stiftung = 37; Numerus Clausus = 31).
The only disappointment in the search software is that the search screen only fills approximately 3/4 of the screen on the computer, and there does not appear to be any way to expand it beyond

this level. The documents that are retrieved, on the other hand, fill the screen properly.

This reviewer would like to thank the publisher for promptly providing a review copy of this DVD. This is a very attractively priced product that contains thousands of documents that would not otherwise be readily available in North America and that are easily searchable using a well-designed search interface. While there are limitations that arise from the source of the documents (they are primarily speeches, legal documents, documents from political parties, or documents from government departments), there is a very broad coverage of material about Germany, its neighbors and its allies from 1945 - 2004.