OpenAtlas
Open software for overcoming borders between disciplines language

Alexander Watzinger

CC-BY 4.0
About the Speaker

Alexander Watzinger (Alex)

• Lead developer of OpenAtlas
• Works at the ACDH-CH, an institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
• Loves open source and scientific projects
About OpenAtlas

https://openatlas.eu

- Open source, browser based database software
- Initiated about 10 years ago by Stefan Eichert
- Acquire, edit and manage research data
- CIDOC CRM as model
- Historical, archaeological and prosopographical projects, like MAMEMS

https://demo.openatlas.eu/overview/network/
Questions
For the Audience

• Have you heard of OpenAtlas before?
Questions

For the Audience

• Have you heard of OpenAtlas before?
• Have you used OpenAtlas, in a project or the demo?
Questions

For the Audience

- Have you heard of OpenAtlas before?
- Have you used OpenAtlas, in a project or the demo?
- Have you ever worked with software developers?
Overcoming Borders

Cooperation between disciplines

• Starting situation
  – An idea for a scientific research project
  – Available sources and defined research questions

• Cooperation services
  – Providing the infrastructure
  – Data modeling and planning
  – Software development
  – Presentation website
  – Long time archiving
Overcoming Borders

Challenges

- Different knowledge domains (concepts)
- Ever changing requirements
- Long time frame (years)
- Difficult to plan research and software
Overcoming Borders

Solutions

- Planning
- Feedback loops
- Communication
- Close cooperation
Planning

and Feedback Loops

- Always plan ahead but expect the unexpected
- Plan on different levels (short and long term)
- Show and discuss progress regularly, e.g. monthly releases
- Flexible: adapt planning when needed
- If it gets overwhelming: prioritize
Communication

Many different forms

- Direct communication: meetings, email, chat, ...
- Project website (https://openatlas.eu)
- Manual
- Issue tracker and roadmap
- Documentation: how-to guides, protocols, ...
- Demo and development demo versions
- Software releases
Communication

Meetings

- Preferable in person
- **Structure**: clear purpose and decisions
- **Moderation**: respectful but decisive
- **Documentation**: before and after
- Take time: but use it wisely

IMC Leeds 2017
Tips

When working with Software Developers

• If not there already, insist on
  – Regular updates
  – Visible progress

• Work together
  – Planning
  – Finding solutions
  – Prioritizing
Thank you for listening

https://openatlas.eu