

OpenAtlas

Open software for overcoming borders
between disciplines language

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About the Speaker

Alexander Watzinger (Alex)



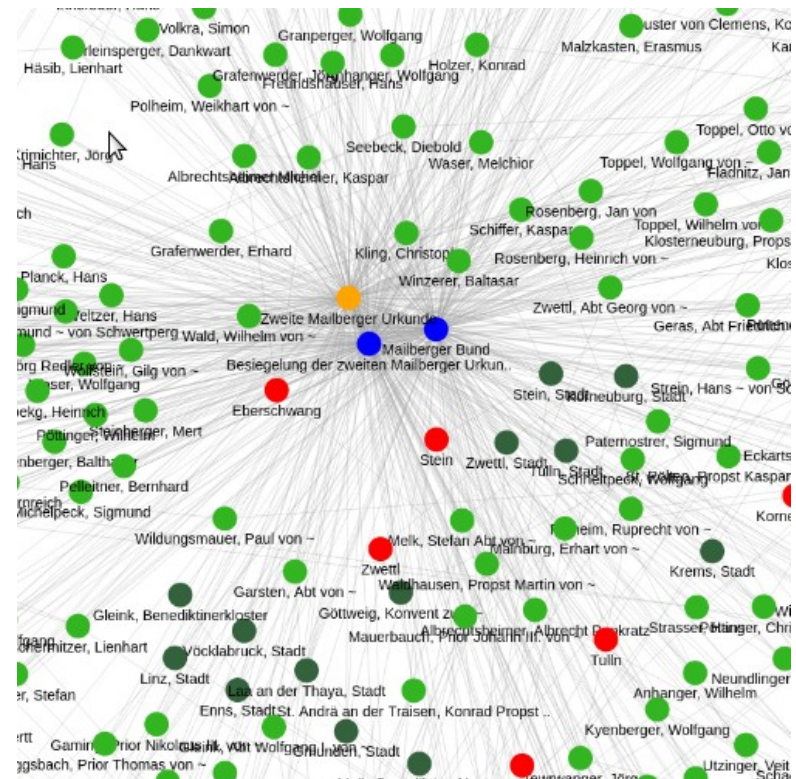
INDIGO workshop 2021

- 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 prosopographic projects, like MAMEMS



<https://demo.openatlas.eu/overview/network/>

Questions

For the Audience



IMC Leeds 2018

- Have you heard of OpenAtlas before?

Questions

For the Audience



IMC Leeds 2018

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- Have you used OpenAtlas, in a project or the demo?

Questions

For the Audience



IMC Leeds 2018

- 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



IMC Leeds 2017

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

Tips

When working with Software Developers

- If not there already, insist on
 - Regular updates
 - Visible progress
- Work together
 - Planning
 - Finding solutions
 - Prioritizing



OpenAtlas and THANADOS Summer Meeting 2019

Thank you for listening



<https://openatlas.eu>