ÖAW ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

austrian centre for digital humanities & cultural heritage

OpenAtlas

A Database System for the Humanities and Beyond

9. April 2025 - Practical Framework for Research in Architecture

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Alexander Watzinger (Alex)

- Lead developer of OpenAtlas
- Works at the ACDH-CH / ÖAW
- Loves open source and scientific projects

OpenAtlas

- Project site: https://openatlas.eu
- Open Source, browser based database software
- Acquire, edit and manage research data
- Based on the model of CIDOC CRM
- Initiated over 10 ago by Stefan Eichert
- Mainly developed at the ACDH-CH / ÖAW

OpenAtlas Cooperations

- Projects from all fields of the humanities
- Mostly historical and archaeological projects
- A lot of synergy between the cooperations

MAMEMS
indigo
THANADOS
APPROACHING BYZANTIUM
FemCare Vienna
MEDICON
DPP Digitising Patterns of Power
connec
bITEM

Structured data

Aim

- Search
- Compare
- Merge
- Research questions

Workflow

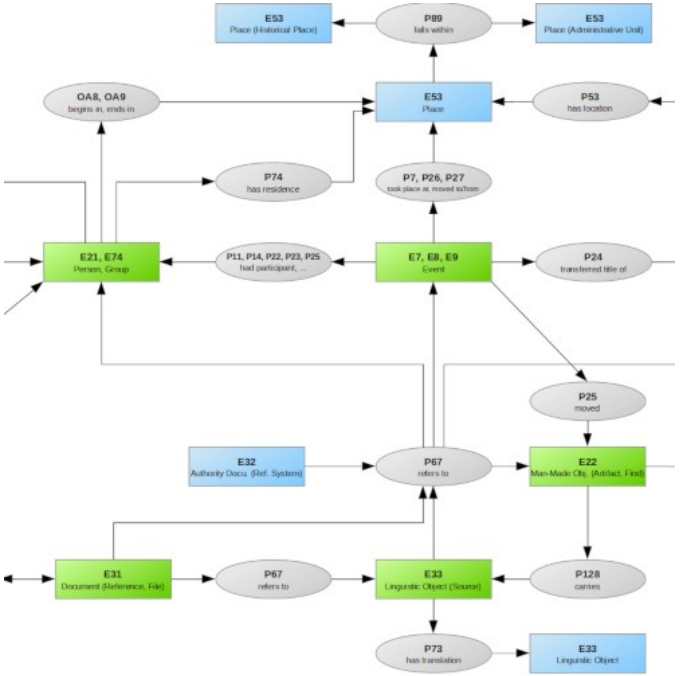
- Identify classes for entities
- Add attributes
- Link entities -> network

Challenge

- Balance between easy data entry and acquiring detailed information

Model - CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model

- International standard (ISO)
- Developed by the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group
- Specifies classes for entities like actor, source, event, place and rules how to link them

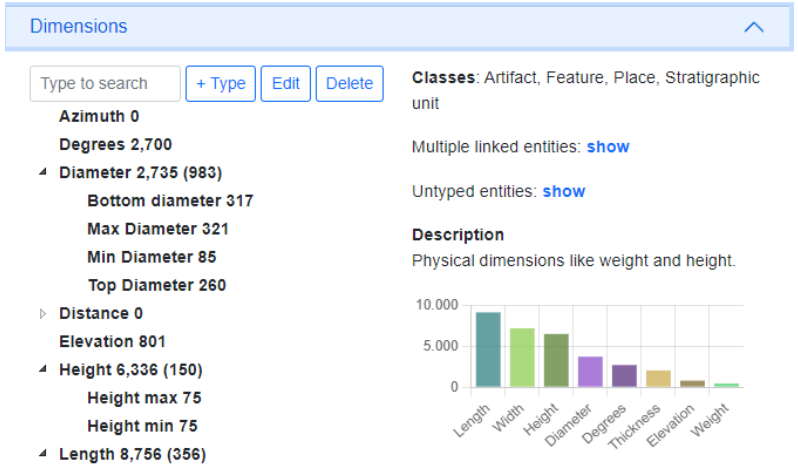


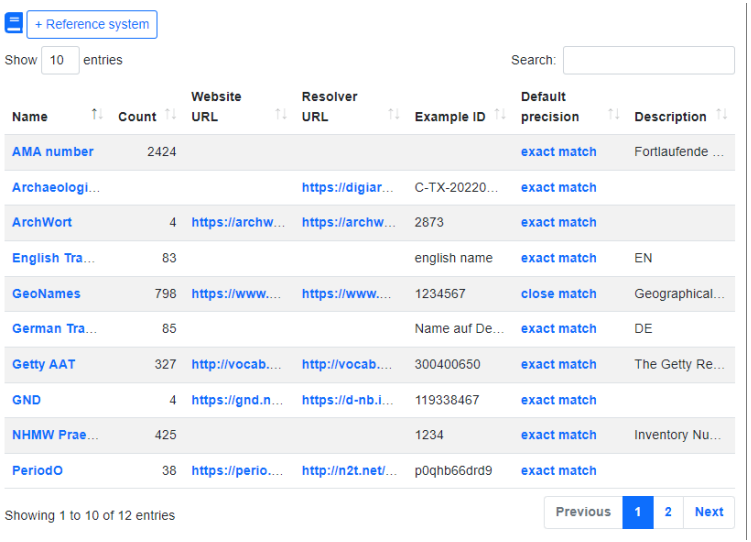
Features

- Detailed description of Features in the manual
- Spatial, object, actor and event information
  - Detailed descriptions of objects
  - Person networks
    - Members of groups and their functions
    - Personal relations, kinship and more
  - Events
    - Hierarchical structure
    - Sequences of events
- Geographical and temporal information about every entity

Features

– Very adaptable types and reference systems





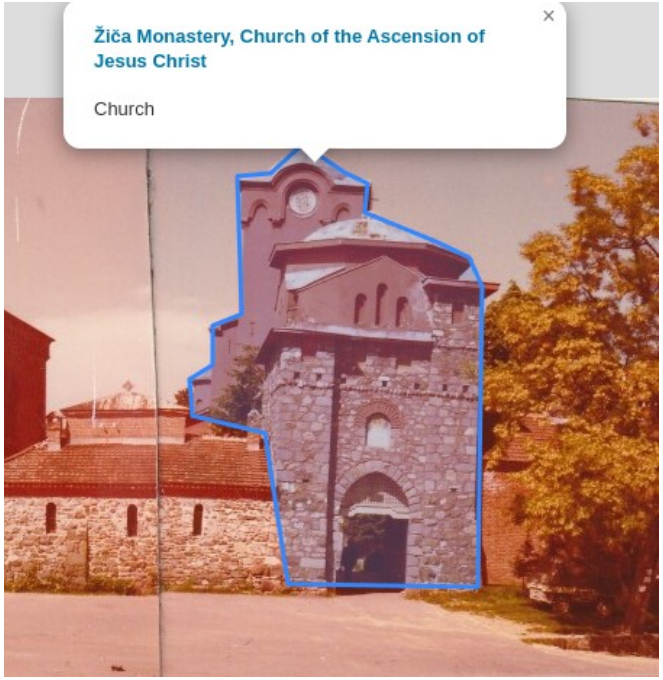
Features

– Solutions for uncertainty in space and time

Begin	1011	01	01	comment
	1020	12	31	
End	1425	08	01	destruction
	1425	10	31	

Features

- IIIF technology
- Image annotation
- Text annotation



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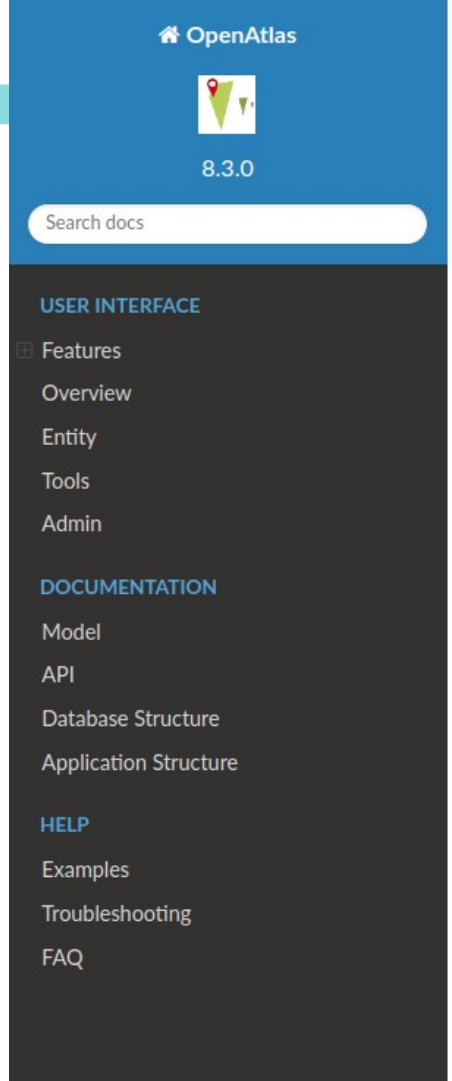
Features

- Documentation
  - Project website: openatlas.eu
  - Code on GitHub
  - Detailed (up-to-date) User Manual
  - Technical Wiki, installation notes
  - Issue tracker, roadmap for planning
  - Public meeting protocols



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Live Demonstration

https://demo-dev.openatlas.eu/

User: Demolina, Password: Demolina

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Thank you!

OpenAtlas

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