

WebAnno User Guide

The WebAnno Team

Version 3.3.2

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Introduction

This guide summarizes the functionality of WebAnno from the user's perspective.



It is assumed that you plan to test the WebAnno standalone version or an already existing server installation of WebAnno. For information on how to set up WebAnno for a group of users on a server, please refer to the [Administrator Guide](#).

All materials, including this guide, are available via the [WebAnno homepage](#).

System Requirements

Table 1. Requirements for users

Browser	Chrome or Safari
---------	------------------

Table 2. Requirements to run the standalone version

Java Runtime Environment	version 8 or higher
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Table 3. Requirements run a WebAnno server

Java Runtime Environment	version 8 or higher
Apache Tomcat	version 8.5 or higher (Servlet API 3.1.0)
MySQL Server	version 5 or higher

Workflow

The following image shows an exemplary workflow of an annotation project with WebAnno.



First, the projects need to be set up. In more detail, this means that users are to be added, guidelines need to be provided, documents have to be uploaded, tagsets need to be defined and uploaded, etc. The process of setting up and administrating a project are explicitly described in [Projects](#).

After the setup of a project, the users who were assigned with the task of annotation annotate the documents according to the guidelines. The task of annotation is further explained in [Annotation](#). The work of the annotators is managed and controlled by monitoring. Here, the person in charge has to assign the workload. For example, in order to prevent redundant annotation, documents which are already annotated by several other annotators and need not be annotated by another person, can be blocked for others. The person in charge is also able to follow the progress of individual annotators. All these tasks are demonstrated in [Monitoring](#) in more detail. The person in charge should not only control the quantity, but also the quality of annotation by looking closer into the annotations of individual annotators. This can be done by logging in with the credentials of the annotators.

After at least two annotators have finished the annotation of the same document by clicking on **Done**, the curator can start his work. The curator compares the annotations and corrects them if needed. This task is further explained in [Curation](#).

The document merged by the curator can be exported as soon as the curator clicked on **Done** for the document. The extraction of curated documents is also explained in [Projects](#).

Installation

Run as Java application

All-in-one version which does not require a database server or servlet container to be set up.



By default, WebAnno creates and uses an embedded database. It is not recommended to use WebAnno in such a configuration for production use. Instead, please configure WebAnno to use a database server when using it in production. For more information, please refer to the [Administrator Guide](#).

Get the stand-alone JAR from the [WebAnno downloads page](#) and start it simply with a **double-click** in your file manager. WebAnno stores its data in a folder called `.webanno` (*dot webanno*) within your home folder,

You can start with the [WebAnno downloads page](#)[example projects] to explore some of the functionalities.

Optional configuration

Alternatively, you can start WebAnno from the command line, in particular if you wish to provide it with additional memory (here 1 GB) or if you want it to store its data in a different folder.

```
java -Xmx1g -Dwebanno.home=/my/webanno/home -jar webanno-XXX-standalone.jar
```

Mind to replace `/my/webanno/home` with path of a folder where WebAnno can store its data.

By default the server starts on port 8080 and you can access it via a browser at `http://localhost:8080` after you started it. You can add the parameter `-Dserver.port=9999` at the end of the command line to start the server on port 9999 (or choose any other port).

WebAnno uses [Spring Boot](#). If you need to set additional parameters of the embedded webserver of the stand-alone version, please refer to the [Spring Boot embedded container documentation](#).

Run using Docker

Quick start

If you have Docker installed, you can run WebAnno using

```
docker run -it --name webanno -p8080:8080 webanno/webanno:3.3.2
```

The command download WebAnno from Dockerhub and starts it on port 8080. If this port is not available on your machine, you should provide another port to the `-p` parameter.

The logs will be printed to the console. To stop the container, press **CTRL-C**.

To run the WebAnno docker in the background use

```
docker run -d --name webanno -p8080:8080 webanno/webanno:3.3.2
```

Logs are accessible by typing

```
docker logs webanno
```



Use **docker run** only the first time that you run WebAnno. If you try it a second time, Docker will complain about the name **webanno** already being in use. If you follow Docker's suggestion to delete the container, you will lose all your WebAnno data. Further below, we explain how you can store your data outside the container in a folder on your host.

When you want to run WebAnno again later, use the command

```
docker start -ai webanno
```

or for the background mode

```
docker start webanno
```

Storing data on the host

If you follow the quick start instructions above, WebAnno will store all its data inside the docker container. This is normally not what you want because as soon as you delete the container, all data is gone. That means for example that you cannot easily upgrade to a new version of the WebAnno docker image when one is released.

To store your data on your host computer, first create a folder where you want to store your data. For example, if you are on Linux, you could create a folder **/srv/webanno**:

```
$ mkdir /srv/webanno
```

When you run WebAnno via Docker, you then mount this folder into the container:

```
docker run -it --name webanno -v /srv/webanno:/export -p8080:8080  
webanno/webanno:3.3.2
```


Connecting to a MySQL database

By default, WebAnno uses an embedded SQL database to store its metadata (not the texts and annotations, these are stored in files on disk). For production use, it is highly recommended to use a separate MySQL database instead of the embedded SQL database.

You can do so by providing a second Docker for MySQL (see for example [this one](#)). We provide a docker-compose example file, which combines the two containers. In order to use this, download [docker-compose.yml](#) and place it into any folder, change to that folder, and issue the commands

```
export WEBANNO_HOME=/srv/webanno
export WEBANNO_PORT=8080
docker-compose -p webanno up -d
```

This will start two docker containers: `webanno_mysqlserver_1`, and `webanno_webserver_1`. You can check the logs of each by running

```
docker logs webanno_mysqlserver_1
docker logs webanno_webserver_1
```

Two directories in your WebAnno home folder will be created: `mysql-data` and `webserver-data`. No data is stored in the containers themselves, you are safe to delete them with

```
docker-compose -p webanno down
```

You can also just stop or pause them, please see the [docker-compose reference](#) for details.



The settings within the `docker-compose.yml` file are just examples. Adjust the database URL, username, and password accordingly.

Upgrade

This section describes how to upgrade the standalone version of WebAnno using an embedded database. For further information on how to upgrade WebAnno, in particular the WAR version when using a MySQL database or older versions of WebAnno, please refer to the [Administrator Guide](#).

Make a backup

Before any upgrade, make a copy of your WebAnno home folder.



If WebAnno is configured to use an external database, e.g. MySQL, make a backup of this database as well. See the [Administrator Guide](#) for further information.

Version 3.2.x to 3.3.0

- When upgrading from 3.2.x or earlier to 3.3.0 or later, Automation projects break.

Version 2.3.1 to 3.0.0

- The access permissions of the super admin have changed. Super admins can no longer access annotation, curation, and monitoring pages for all projects. They can only access them if they are annotators, admins, or curators in the respective projects. However, they still have full access to the project settings of all projects and can simply give themselves the missing permissions. **After an upgrade to 3.0.0, all super admins who require project permissions on existing projects should assign these permissions to themselves. This also applies when importing old projects.** For new projects, the creator of the project always starts with annotator, curator, and project admin permissions. If these permissions are not required by the project creator, they should be removed after project creation.

Logging in

Upon navigating to the WebAnno page, the login screen opens. Please enter your credentials to proceed.



When WebAnno is started for the first time, a default user called **admin** with the password **admin** is automatically created. Be sure to change the password for this user after logging in (see [User Management](#)).



Username:

Password:

Main Menu

After login, you will be presented with the WebAnno overview screen. This screen can be reached at any time from within the GUI by clicking on the **Home** link in the left upper corner.

Here, you can navigate to one of the currently seven options:

- [Annotation](#) - The page to perform annotations
- [Curation](#) - Compare and merge annotations from multiple users (only for *curators*)
- [Correction](#) - Correcting automatic annotation (under development)
- [Automation](#) - Creating automatically annotated data
- [Projects](#) - Set up or change annotation projects (only for *administrators*)
- [Monitoring](#) - Allows you to see the projects, their progress and change documentstatus (only for *administrators* and *curators*)
- [User Management](#) - Allows you to manage the rights of users

Please click on the functionality you need. The individual functionalities will be explained in further chapters.

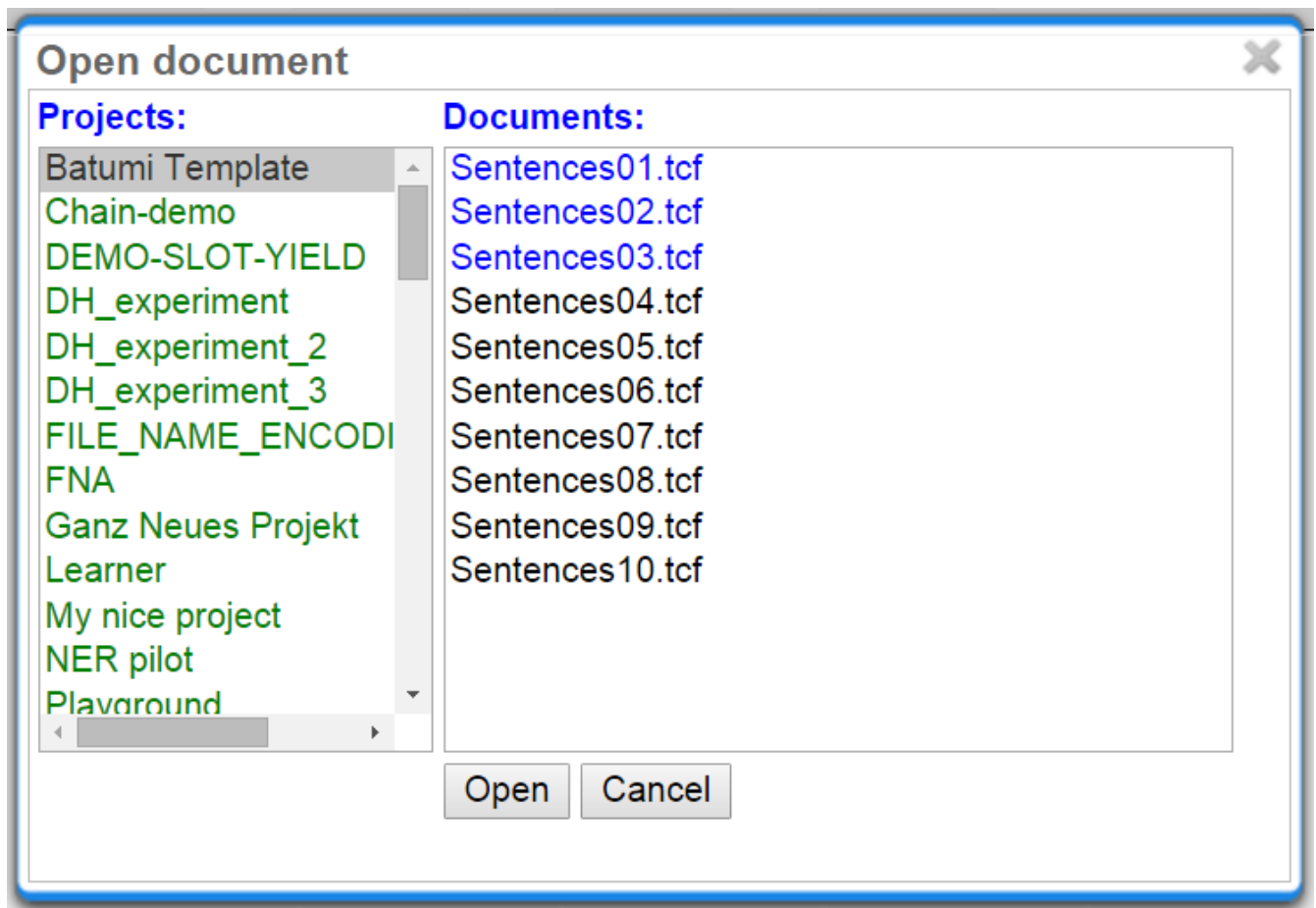
Annotation



This functionality is only available to **annotators**, **project managers**, and **administrators**. Annotators and project managers only see projects in which they hold the respective roles.

Opening a Document

When navigating to the **Annotation** page, a dialogue opens that allows you to select a project, and a document within the project. If you want to open a different project or document later, click on **Open** to open the dialog.



Projects appear as folders, and contain the documents of the project. Double-click on a document to open it for annotation. Document names written in black show that the document has not been opened by the current user, blue font means that it has already been opened, whereas red font indicates that the document has already been marked as **done**.

Navigation

Sentence numbers on the left side of the annotation page show the exact sentence numbers in the document.

21	Besonders Polen kommen als Firmengründer in die Stadt , 1300 Unternehme
22	Der Wert der Kapitalanlagen ging im Vergleich zu Ende 2007 zum 30. Juni 21
23	Euro zurück .
24	führt zu einer schnellen und nachhaltigen Ausweitung des Geschäfts .
25	Bereits vergangene Woche angelaufen ist Mennan Yapos " Die Vorahnung "
	Hauptrolle .
	Die ursprünglichen Farben der Töne wandelten sich drastisch und ließen sich

The arrow buttons **first page**, **next page**, **previous page**, **last page**, and **go to page** allow you to navigate accordingly. The **Prev.** and **Next** buttons in the **Document** frame allow you to go to the previous or next document on your project list. You can also use the following keyboard assignments in order to navigate only using your keyboard.

Table 4. Navigation key bindings

Key	Action
HOME	jump to first sentence
END	jump to last sentence
PAGE DOWN	move to the next page, if not in the last page already
PAGE UP	move to previous page, if not already in the first page
SHIFT+PAGE DOWN	go to next document in project, if available
SHIFT+PAGE UP	go to previous document in project, if available

A click on the **Help** button displays the Guidelines for the tool and **The Annotator's Guide to NER-Annotation**. When you are finished with annotating or curating a document, please click on the **Done** button, so that the document may be further processed. If the button above the **Done** is a cross symbol, it means the documents have already been finished. If the symbol has a tick, it is still open.



Annotation of spans works by selecting the span, or double-clicking on a word. This activates the **Actions**-box on the right, where you can choose a layer. One can also type in the initial letters and chose the needed layer. After having chosen a layer, the drop-down menu inside the **Features**-box displays the features you can use during the annotation. The tag can be selected out of the drop-down menu inside the **Features**-box which contains the tags of the chosen layer.

Actions

Delete

Clear

Layer

POS

Forward annotation ?

☐

Features

Selected text

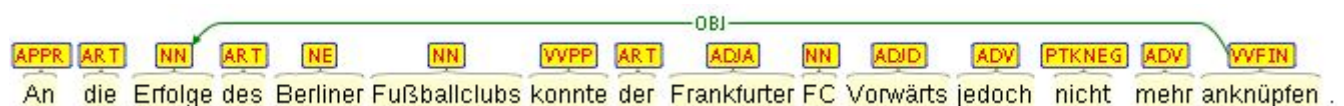
60er

PosValue (STTS)

ADJD

To change or delete an annotation, double-click on the annotation (span or link annotations). The **Actions**-box is now activated. Changes and Deletions are possible via the respective buttons.

Link annotations (between POS tags) are created by selecting the starting POS-tag, then dragging the arrow to connect it to its target POS tag. All possible targets are highlighted.



Creating annotations

To create annotations in WebAnno, you have mainly two options:

- select a span of text to create a span annotation
- click on an existing span annotation and drag an arc to another span annotation

The definition of layers is covered in section [Layers](#).

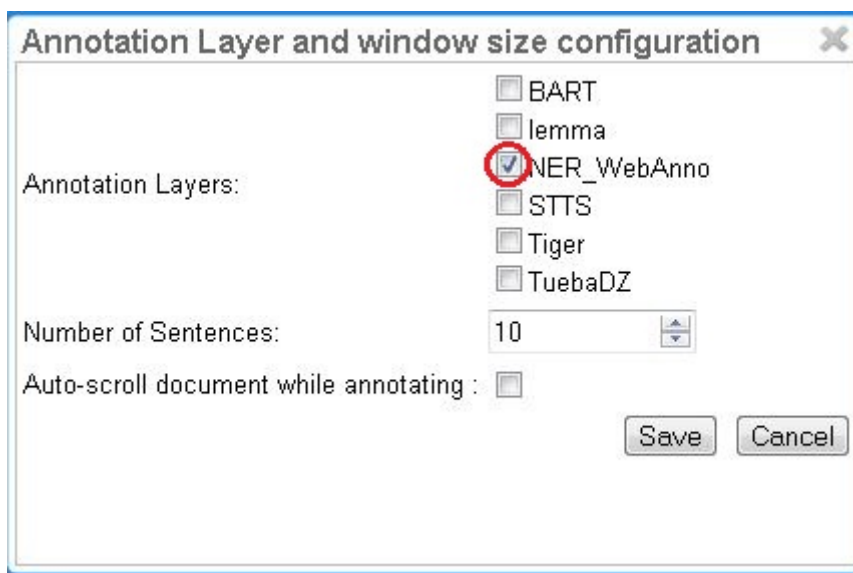
Spans

To create an annotation over a span of text, click with the mouse on the text and drag the mouse to create a selection. When you release the mouse, the selected span is activated and highlighted in orange. The annotation detail editor is updated to display the text you have currently selected and to offer a choice on which layer the annotation is to be created. As soon as a layer has been selected, it is automatically assigned to the selected span. To delete an annotation, select a span and click on **Delete**. To deactivate a selected span, click on **Clear**.

Depending on the layer behavior configuration, spans annotations can have any length, can overlap, can stack, can nest, and can cross sentence boundaries.

Example

For example, for NE annotation, select the options as shown below (red check mark):



NE annotation can be chosen from a tagset and can span over several tokens within one sentence. Nested NE annotations are also possible (in the example below: "Frankfurter" in "Frankfurter FC").

An die Erfolge des LOCderiv Berliner Fußballclubs konnte der LOCderiv ORG Frankfurter FC Vorwärts jedoch nicht mehr anknüpfen .

Lemma annotation, as shown below, is freely selectable over a single token.

Der Ordereingang liegen dann auch über dem Wert des Vorquartal- und dem des Vorjahr .

POS can be chosen over one token out of a tagset.

APPR ART NN ART NE NN VPPP ART ADJA NN ADJD ADV PTKNEG ADV VVFIN
An die Erfolge des Berliner Fußballclubs konnte der Frankfurter FC Vorwärts jedoch nicht mehr anknüpfen .

Zero-width spans

To create a zero-length annotation, hold **SHIFT** and click on the position where you wish to create the annotation. To avoid accidental creations of zero-length annotations, a simple single-click triggers no action by default. The **lock to token** behavior cancels the ability to create zero-length annotations.

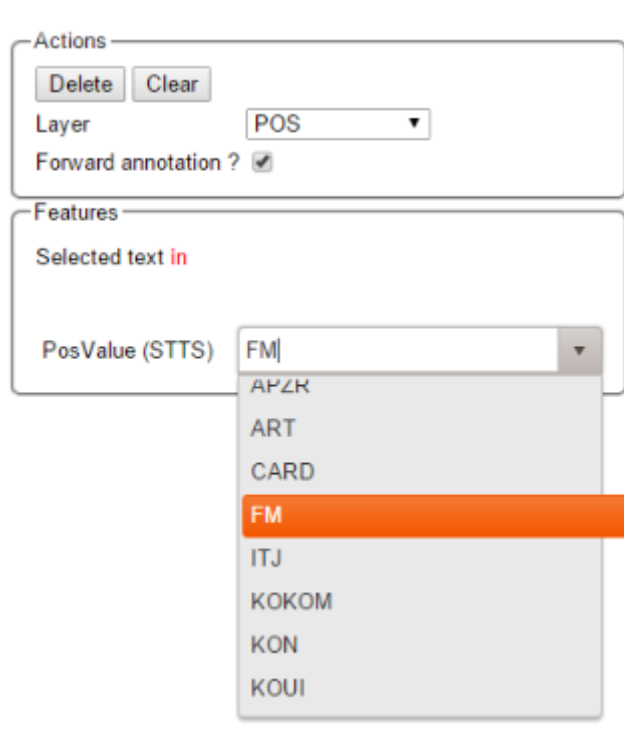


A zero-width span between two tokens that are directly adjacent, e.g. the full stop at the end of a sentence and the token before it (**end.**) is always considered to be **at the end of the first token** rather than at the beginning of the next token. So an annotation between **d** and **.** in this example would be rendered at the right side of **end** rather than at the left side of **..**

Forward annotation

To improve the speed of POS-annotation, select **forward annotation** in the **Actions** box on the left side of your screen. This allows you to select POS-tags via the keys of your keyboard. Pushing a key several times successively proposes every POS-tag starting with the respective letter inside the **Features** box. Pressing a key whose letter does not represent the beginning of any tag leads to the

first tag in the tagset. Once a POS-tag has been selected, pushing **space** and **Enter** keys automatically assigns the POS-tag to the token in focus and the next token can be annotated as described. Note that the **Enter** key will not work for the **Safari** browser. Also the **Forward annotation** works only for span annotations with 1) **tagset** and 2) a layer with only one **feature**.



[Co-reference](#) annotation can be made over several tokens within one sentence. A single token sequence has several co-ref spans simultaneously.

Relations

To create a relation annotation, click on a span annotation and drag the mouse to another span annotation. While you drag, an arc is drawn. It is not possible to create arbitrary relation annotations. In order to create one, a corresponding relation layer needs to be defined between the source and target spans.

Depending on the layer behavior configuration, relation annotations can stack, can cross each other, and can cross sentence boundaries.

Self-looping relations

To create a relation from a span to itself, press the **SHIFT** key before starting to drag the mouse and hold it until you release the mouse button.

To abort the creation of an annotation, hold the **CTRL** key when you release the mouse button.



Currently, there can be at most one relation layer per span layer. Relations between spans of different layers are not supported.



Not all arcs displayed in the annotation view are belonging to chain or relation layers. Some are induced by [Link Features](#).

When moving the mouse over an annotation with outgoing relations, the info popup includes the **yield** of the relations. This is the text transitively covered by the outgoing relations. This is useful e.g. in order to see all text governed the head of a particular dependency relation. The text may be abbreviated.

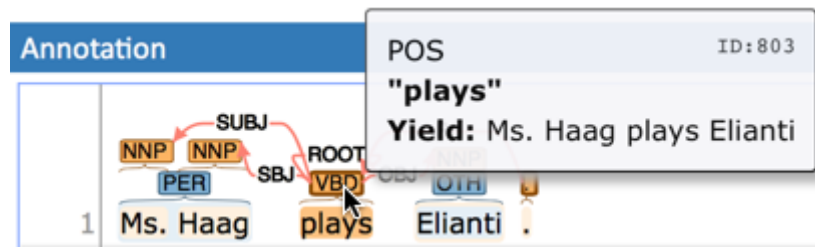


Figure 1. Example of the yield of a dependency relation

Chains

A chain layer includes both, span and relation annotations, into a single structural layer. Creating a span annotation in a chain layer basically creates a chain of length one. Creating a relation between two chain elements has different effects depending on whether the **linked list** behavior is enabled for the chain layer or not. To enable or disable the **linked list** behaviour, go to **Layers** in the **Projects Settings** mode. After choosing **Coreference**, **linked list** behaviour is displayed in the checkbox and can either be marked or unmarked.

Figure 2. Configuration of a chain layer in the project settings

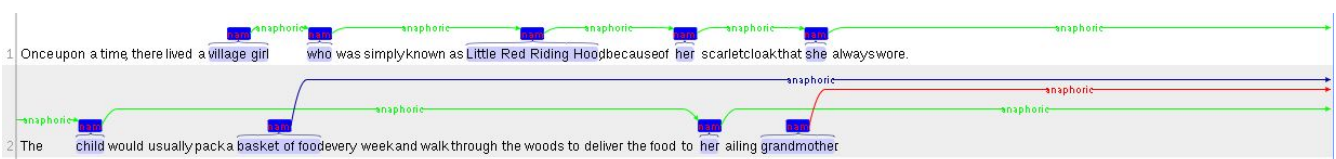


Figure 3. Example of chain annotations

To abort the creation of an annotation, hold **CTRL** when you release the mouse button.

Table 5. Chain behavior

Linked List	Condition	Result
disabled	the two spans are already in the same chain	nothing happens
disabled	the two spans are in different chains	the two chains are merged
enabled	the two spans are already in the same chains	the chain will be re-linked such that a chain link points from the source to the target span, potentially creating new chains in the process.
enabled	the two spans are in different chains	the chains will be re-linked such that a chain link points from the source to the target span, merging the two chains and potentially creating new chains from the remaining prefix and suffix of the original chains.

Primitive Features

WebAnno supports primitive features that can be of the type string, boolean, integer, and float. Boolean features are displayed as a checkbox that can either be marked or unmarked. Integer and float features are displayed using a number field. String features are displayed using a text field or - in case they have a tagset - using a combobox.

Link Features

Link features can be used to link one annotation to others. Before a link can be made, a slot with a role must be added. Enter the role label in the text field and press the **add** button to create the slot. Next, click on field in the newly created slot to **arm** it. The field's color will change to indicate that it is armed. Now you can fill the slot by double-clicking on a span annotation. To remove a slot, arm it and then press the **del** button.

Choosing Layers

- Choose one of the predefined layers in the **Actions** box on the right side of the screen.

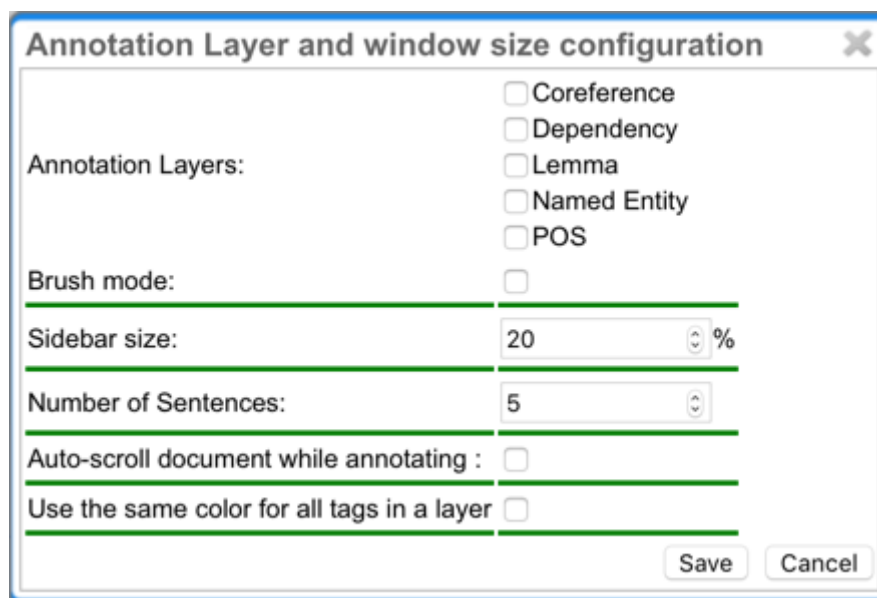
The **Actions** box always shows the presently activated layer, the **Features** box shows the layer of the activated instance. Subsequently, the settings of the two boxes can differ. To change settings during the annotation process, cancel the previously selected layer by clicking on **Clear** in the **Action** box and choose a new layer.

Changing role names

To change a previously selected role name, no prior deletion is needed. Just double-click on the instance you want to change, it will be highlighted in orange, and chose another role name.

Settings

Once the document is opened, a default of 5 sentences is loaded on the annotation page. The **Settings** button will allow you to specify the settings of the annotation layer.



Next to **Annotation layers**, you to select the annotation layer which is displayed during annotation. This is useful to reduce clutter if there are many annotation layers. Mind that hiding a layer which has relations attached to it will also hide the respective relations. E.g. if you disable POS, then no dependency relations will be visible anymore.

The **Remember layer** checkbox controls if the annotation layer selected in the **Actions** box. It will work as main layer during the annotation process. Only instances of this layer will be created, even if an annotation in another layer is selected. If necessary, it is possible to change active instances. Still, if a new instance is selected, the main layer is automatically activated.

The **Sidebar size** controls the width of the sidebar containing the annotation detail editor and actions box. In particular on small screens, increasing this can be useful. The sidebar can be configured to take between 10% and 50% of the screen.

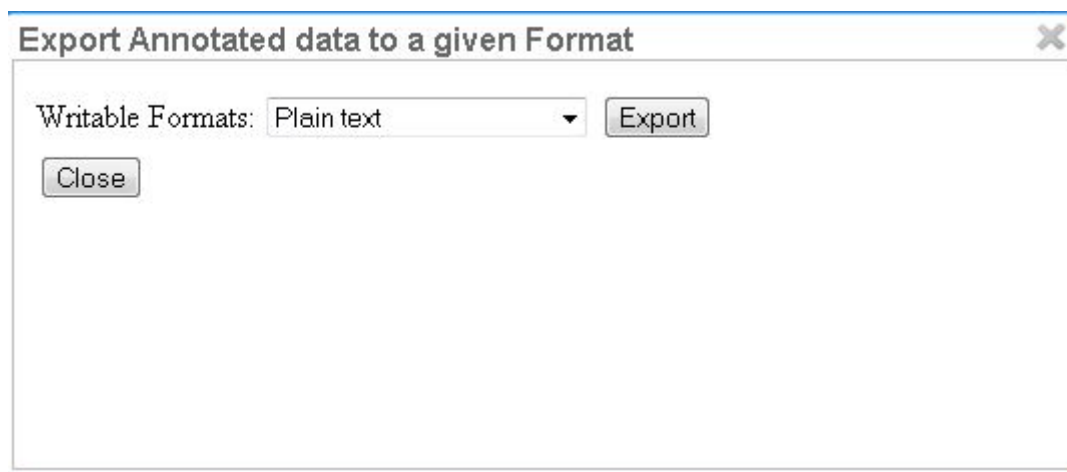
The **Number of sentences** controls how many sentences are visible in the annotation area. The more sentences are visible, the slower WebAnno will react.

The **Auto-scroll** setting controls if the annotation view is centered on the sentence in which the last annotation was made. This can be useful to avoid manual navigation.

If **Use the same color for all tags in a layer** is chosen, annotations are colored per layer. If this option is off, then annotations are colored by their labels (all annotations with the same label also have the same color). Mind that there is a limited number of colors such that eventually colors will be reused.

Export

Annotations are always immediately persistent in the backend database. Thus, it is not necessary to save the annotations explicitly. Also, losing the connection through network issues or timeouts does not cause data loss. To obtain a local copy of the current document, click on **export** button. The following frame will appear:



Choose your preferred format. Please take note of the facts that the plain text format does not contain any annotations and that the files in the binary format need to be unpacked before further usage. For further information on the formats provided in WebAnno, please consult the corresponding chapter [Formats](#).

The document will be saved to your local disk, and can be re-imported via adding the document to a project by a project administrator. Please export your data periodically, at least when finishing a document or not continuing annotations for an extended period of time.

Curation



This functionality is only available to **project managers** (managers of existing projects), **curators**, and **administrators**. Curators and project managers only see projects in which they hold the respective roles.

When navigating to the **Curation Page**, the procedure for opening projects and documents is the same as in [Annotation](#). The **Page** navigation is also equivalent to [Annotation](#).

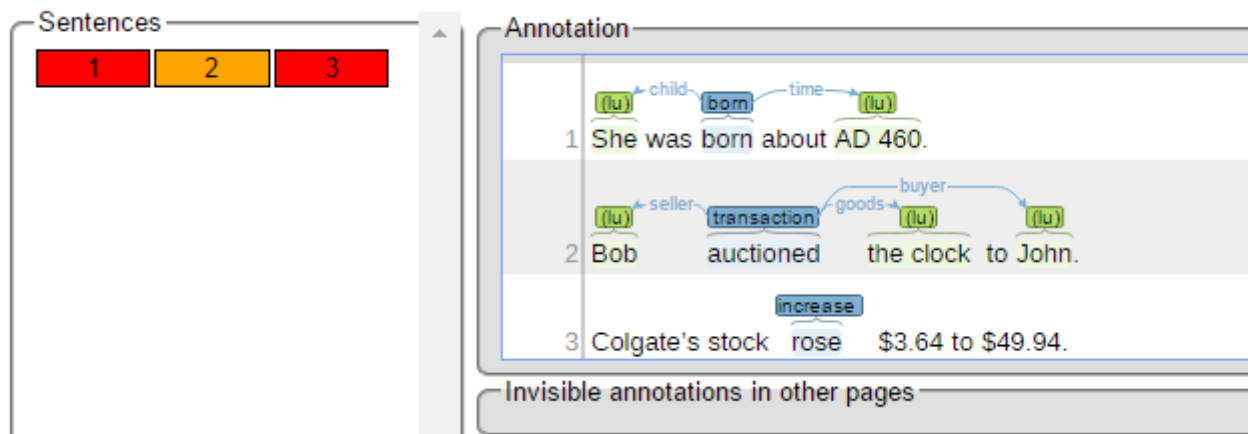
Table 6. Explanation of the project colors in the curation open document dialog

No curatable documents	Red
Curatable documents	Green

Table 7. Explanation of the document colors in the curation open document dialog

New	Black
Annotation in progress	Black
Curation in progress	Blue
Curation finished	Red

In the left frame of the window, named **Sentences**, an overview of the chosen document is displayed. Sentences are represented by their number inside the document. The ones shaded in red created a conflict in annotation.



If you want to see the annotations that were made in a sentence, you have to click on the sentence. Then on the right side of the window, the annotations are displayed.

The frame called **Merged** shows the result of the default merge of the conflicting annotations. Below it, the annotated sentences are shown in separate frames, titled with the names of the annotators. By clicking on an annotation in one of the annotator's frames, you accept the annotation and merge it into the **Merged** view. The sentence in the merged frame can be treated like a sentence in the **Annotation**. By selecting a word with a click you are able to produce new annotations, by clicking on an annotation, you are able to change its classification or delete it. The different states of the annotation agreement are marked by different colors. If the annotations were the same, they are marked grey in the lower frames and light blue in the merged frame. If the

annotations are disparate, the markings are dark blue in the lower frames. By default, they are not taken into the merged file. If you choose one annotation to be right by clicking on it, the chosen annotation will turn green in the frame of the corresponding annotator. Also, the annotation will say **USE** next to the classification. The annotations which were not chosen to be in the merged file are marked dark blue. The annotations which were wrongly classified are marked in red.

Table 8. Explanation of the annotation colors in curation view

Light Blue (in upper frame)	final annotation
Dark Blue (in the lower frame)	not chosen annotation
White (in lower frame)	chosen annotation
Red (in lower frame)	wrong annotation (same span, other type).

Correction

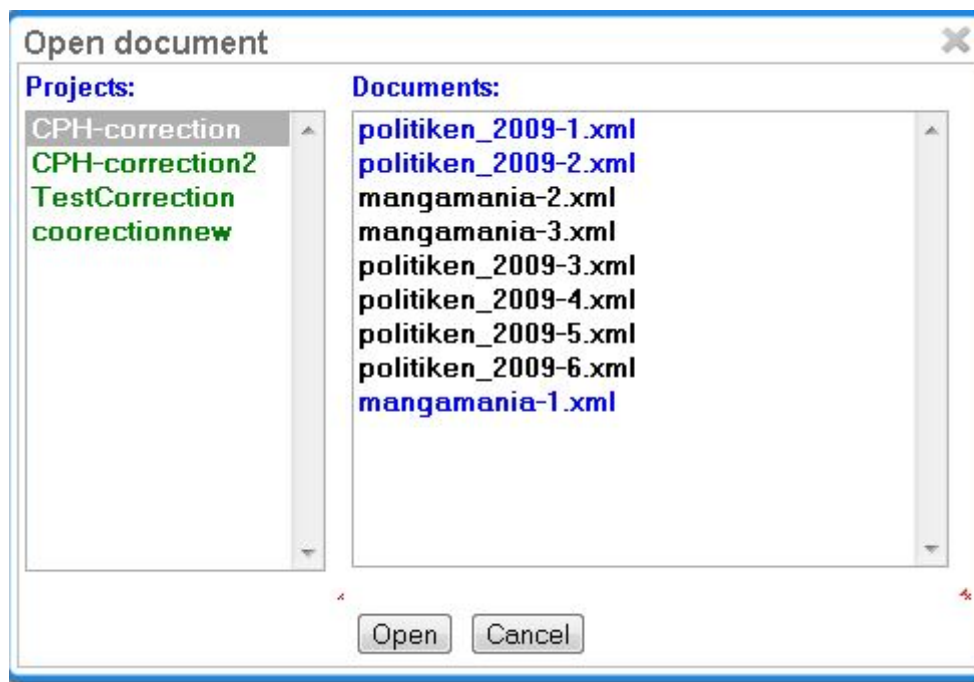


This functionality is only available to **annotators**, **project managers**, and **administrators**. Annotators and project managers only see projects in which they hold the respective roles.

In this page, already annotated documents may be checked, corrected and enhanced.

Before being able to see and correct documents, make sure to have chosen *correction* when creating your project in projects. For detailed instructions please refer to [Projects](#). Also make sure that the documents you upload are already annotated.

After clicking on the **Correction** symbol on the main page, the Correction page is opened. In the appearing frame, which is the left one in the image below, the user has to choose a project first.



Afterwards the documents assigned to him are displayed. Now he may choose a document. Just like in [Annotation](#) and [Curation](#), the color of the document names signals the following: black - unopened document, blue - opened document and red - document finished.

After having chosen the document, two frames are displayed.

Annotation

PER

ORG

1 Schartau sagte dem " Tagesspiegel " vom Freitag , Fischer sei " in einer Weise aufgetreten , die alles andere als überzeugend war " .
2 Firmengründer Wolf Peter Bree arbeitete Anfang der siebziger Jahre als Möbelvertreter , als er einen fliegenden Händler aus dem Libanon traf .
3 Ob sie dabei nach dem Runden Tisch am 23. April in Berlin durch ein pädagogisches Konzept unterstützt wird , ist allerdings zu bezweifeln .
4 Bayern München ist wieder alleiniger Top- Favorit auf den Gewinn der deutschen Fußball-Meisterschaft .
5 Dabei hätte der tapfere Schlussmann allen Grund gehabt , sich viel früher aufzuregen .

User: Suggestion

PER

ORG

PER

1 Schartau sagte dem " Tagesspiegel " vom Freitag , Fischer sei " in einer Weise aufgetreten , die alles andere als überzeugend war " .
2 Firmengründer Wolf Peter Bree arbeitete Anfang der siebziger Jahre als Möbelvertreter , als er einen fliegenden Händler aus dem Libanon traf .
3 Ob sie dabei nach dem Runden Tisch am 23. April in Berlin durch ein pädagogisches Konzept unterstützt wird , ist allerdings zu bezweifeln .
4 Bayern München ist wieder alleiniger Top- Favorit auf den Gewinn der deutschen Fußball-Meisterschaft .
5 Dabei hätte der tapfere Schlussmann allen Grund gehabt , sich viel früher aufzuregen .

PER

LOC

LOC

LOC

LOC

LOC

LOC

The upper one, Annotation, is the frame in which annotations can be made by the user. Moreover, it displays the chosen annotations. The lower frame, **User: Suggestion**, displays the annotation that was previously made in the uploaded document. By clicking on the annotations (not the words), they are chosen as *right* and are therefore displayed in the Annotation frame. Additional annotations may be made just like in *Annotation*, by selecting the span or relation to be annotated, choosing the layer and tag. For more detailed instruction or the guidelines for the navigation in the upper frames (Document, Page, Help, Workflow), see the guidelines for [Annotation](#). No changes may be made in the lower frame.

The coloring of the annotation signals the same as in [Curation](#).

Automation



This functionality is only available to **project managers** and **administrators**. Annotators and project managers only see projects in which they hold the respective roles.

This functionality gives the possibility to choose features and documents, which can be used for training of all layers that are offered in WebAnno (lemma, NER, POS and co-ref).

Setup

After clicking on **Create Project** on the [Projects](#) page, select **automation** as your project type. The detailed description may be found in [Projects](#).

The documents, that are to be annotated, have to be uploaded in the frame **Documents**. Please make sure that the chosen format corresponds to the format of the files you are uploading.

Details Users **Documents** Layers Tagsets Guidelines Export/Import Automation

Import new documents

Format: Weblicht TCF Format

Files: Keine Datei gewählt

Documents

NER_deu_blocks1K-an.tcf
NER_deu_blocks1K-a0.tcf

To manage the automation process, choose the Automation frame. The following frame will appear:

Details Users Documents Layers Tagsets Guidelines Export/Import **Automation**

Select automation layer

Choose One

Target layer

TAB-SEP target

Other layers

TAB-SEP feature

First choose your target layer in the **Select automation layer** frame. If you want to train a non-custom layer, please make sure you created or imported it in the Layer frame (for instructions to do so, see [Projects](#)).

The image shows a web interface for setting up automation. On the left, a frame titled 'Select automation layer' contains a dropdown menu with '[Entity] NounCompound' selected and a 'Start automation' button. On the right, a larger frame has four tabs: 'Target layer' (active), 'TAB-SEP target', 'Other layers', and 'TAB-SEP feature'. The 'Target layer' tab contains two sections: 'Automation layer details' with a 'repeat annotation:' checkbox (checked) and a 'Save' button; and 'Import new documents' with a 'Format:' dropdown (set to 'WebAnno CPH TEI reader'), a 'Files:' section with a 'Choose Files' button and 'No file chosen' text, an 'Import' button, and a 'Documents' list area with a 'Delete' button.

Here you may choose the format of the target layer and optionally add some feature layers on which you want to train.

In the tab **Target layer** you may upload training files containing the target layer in WebAnno Export formats (WebAnno CPH TEI reader, plain text, binary format, XMI format, old WebAnno Format, WebAnno Format, Weblicht TCF Format, for more information on these formats, see [<https://code.google.com/p/webanno/wiki/Format?ts=1407336468&updated=Format> Format]).

In the next tab **TAB-SEP target**, you may upload training files containing the target layer in a tab-separated format, which is structured by writing each single word in a line together with its target tag, separated by a tab. Sentences are separated by blank lines.

The same goes analogically for the feature layers. The **Other layers** tab gives the possibility to upload WebAnno Export formats and choosing the layers that are to be used in training in the format window. The **TAB-SEP feature** tab gives the possibility to upload files in the above described tab-separated format, containing the feature tags in the second column. Every file will be regarded as one separate feature.

After choosing the training files, uploading them in the right format and importing them (by clicking on **Import**), every file will be displayed in the corresponding tab in the frame **Documents**. Click on the button **Start Automation** on the left, when you have uploaded your training data. Be prepared to wait for some time, as automation is a non-trivial process.

You can see that the automation has finished either by the fact that the **Start Automation** button is enabled again, or on the [Monitoring](#) page, by choosing the project in [Monitoring](#) and looking at the progress shown in the **Training results /status** frame.

Annotation

To see the tags that were automatically created during the previously described, go to **Home** and choose the **Automation** page. Then select a project and a file, analogically to Annotation. The page, which is demonstrated below will be displayed. The navigation, export and the marking of finished documents is the same as in [Annotation](#).

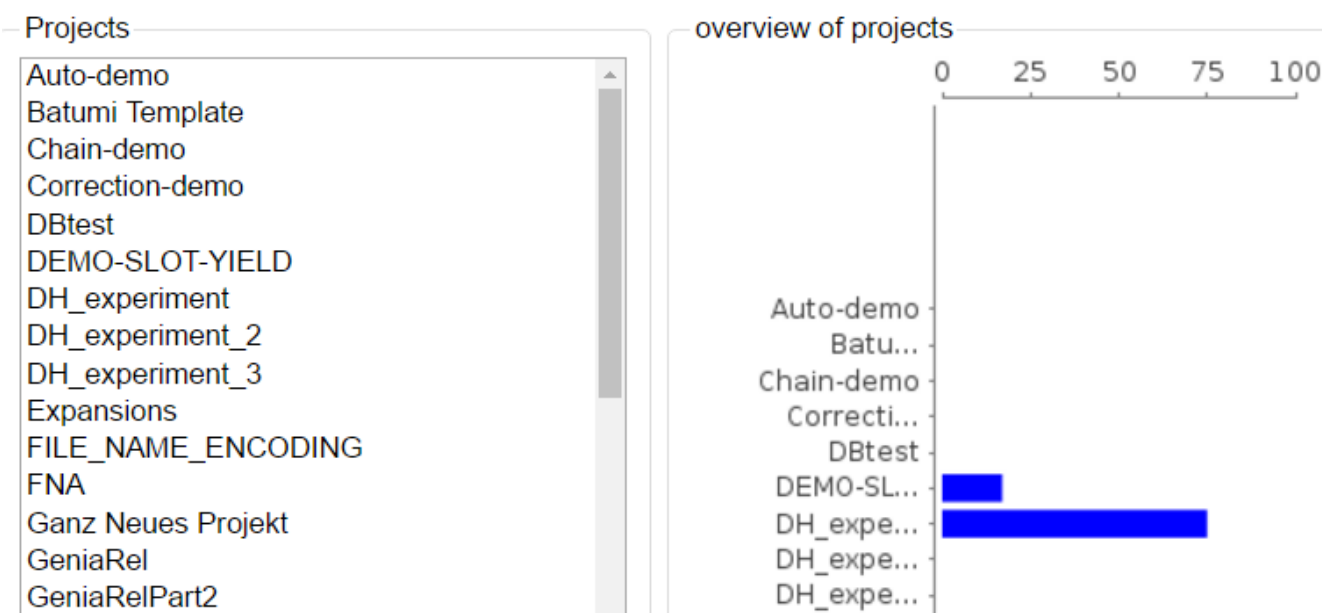
In the lower part, you see two horizontal frames, the lower one showing the automatically created annotation. By clicking on the tags, they are selected and therefore appear in the upper frame **Annotation**. You may see that selected tags turn grey in the **Automation** frame and blue in the **Annotation** frame. You may also add new tags to the **Annotation**, just like on the Annotation page.

Monitoring

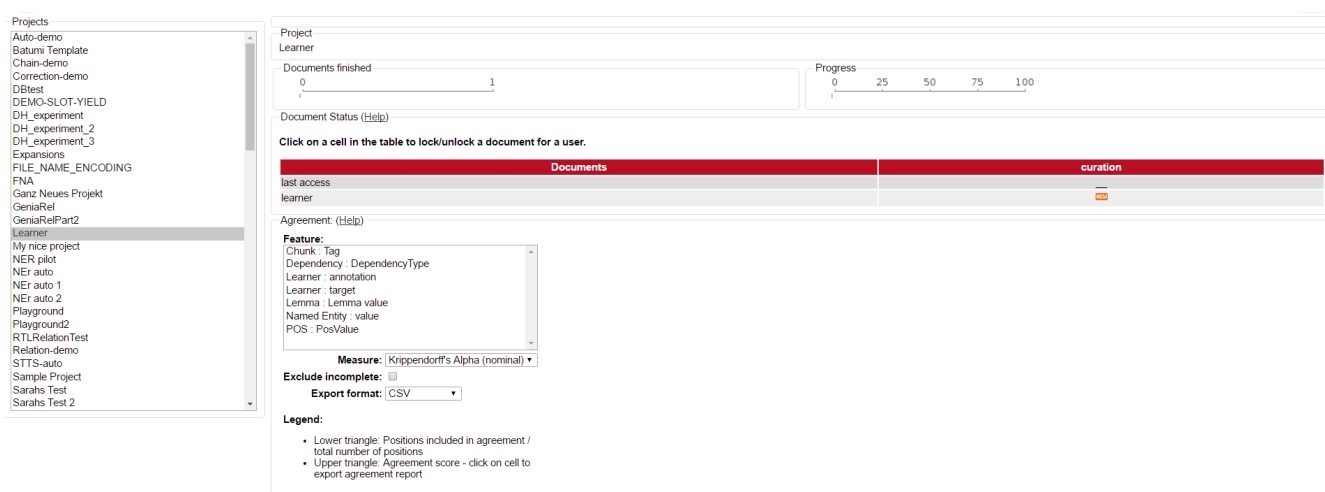


This functionality is only available to **project managers** (managers of existing projects), **curators**, and **administrators**. Curators and project managers only see projects in which they hold the respective roles.

As an administrator, you are able to observe the progress and document status of projects you are responsible for. Moreover, you are able to see the time of the last login of every user and observe the agreement between the annotators. After clicking on **Monitoring** in the main menu, the following page is displayed:



In the right frame, the overall progress of all projects is displayed. In the left frame one sees all projects, that one has an administrator role in. By clicking on one of the projects on the left, it may be selected and the following view is opened:



The percentual progress out of the workload for individual annotators may be viewed as well as the number of finished documents.

Below the document overview, a measuring for the inter-annotator-agreement can be selected by opening the **Measure** dropdown menu. Three different units of measurement are possible: [Cohen's](#)

[kappa](#) as implemented in DKPro Statistics, [Fleiss' kappa](#) and [Krippendorff's alpha](#). Below the **Measure** dropdown menu, an export format can be chosen. Currently, only [CSV](#) format is possible.

Agreement: ([Help](#))

Feature:

Chunk : Tag
Dependency : DependencyType
Learner : annotation
Learner : target
Lemma : Lemma value
Named Entity : value
POS : PosValue

Measure: Krippendorff's Alpha (nominal) ▼

Exclude incomplete: ☐

Export format: CSV ▼

Legend:

- Lower triangle: Positions included in agreement / total number of positions
- Upper triangle: Agreement score - click on cell to export agreement report



Above the **Measure** dropdown menu, the **Feature** box allows the selection of layers for which an agreement shall be computed. Doubleclicking on a layer starts the computation of the agreement and an outline is shown to the left side of the box:

	darina	rebekka
darina	-	no positions
rebekka	0/0	-

Document Status

The following table will explain the different symbols which explain the status of a document for a user and the described task.

Symbol
Meaning

Annotation has not started yet

Document not available to user


Symbol
Annotation is in progress

Annotation is complete

Curation is in progress

You can also alter the document status of annotators. By clicking on the symbols you can change between **Done** and **In Progress**. You can also alter between **New** and **Locked** status. The second column of the document status frame displays the status of the curation.

As there is only one curator for one document, curation is not divided into individual curators.

Scrolling down, two further frames become visible. The left one, named **Layer**, allows you to choose a layer in which pairwise [kappa agreement](#) between annotators will be calculated.

Layer

- coreference ty
- named entity**
- pos
- dependency
- coreference

Agreement

	users	anno5	anno6	anno7	darina
anno5		1.0	0.74	0.75	0.0
anno6			1.0	0.73	0.0
anno7				1.0	0.0
darina					0.0

Agreement

Agreement can be inspected on a per-feature basis and is calculated pair-wise between all annotators across all documents.

The first time a feature is selected for agreement inspection, it takes a moment to calculate the differences between the annotated documents. Switching between different features subsequently is much faster.

Agreement is calculated in two steps:

- Generation of positions and configuration sets** - all documents are scanned for annotations and annotations located at the same positions are collected in configuration sets. To determine if two annotations are at the same position, different approaches are used depending on the layer type. For a span layer, the begin and end offsets are used. For a relation layer, the begin and end offsets of the source and target annotation are used. Chains are currently not supported.
- Calculation of pairwise agreement** - based on the generated configuration sets, agreement is calculated. There are two cases where a configuration set may be omitted from the pairwise agreement calculation:
 - one of the users did not make an annotation at the position;

- b. one or both of the users did not assign a value to the feature on which agreement is calculated at the position.

The lower part of the agreement matrix displays how many configuration sets were used to calculate agreement and how many were found in total. The upper part of the agreement matrix displays the pairwise Cohen's kappa scores.

The agreement calculations considers an unset feature (with a **null** value) to be equivalent to a feature with the value of an empty string. Empty strings are considered valid labels and are not excluded from agreement calculation.

Annotations for a given position are considered complete when both annotators have made an annotation. Unless the agreement measure supports **null** values (i.e. missing annotations), incomplete annotations are implicitly excluded from the agreement calculation. If the agreement measure does support incomplete annotations, then excluding them or not is the users' choice.

Table 9. Possible combinations for agreement

Feature value annotator 1	Feature value annotator 2	Agreement	Complete
X	X	yes	yes
X	Y	no	yes
no annotation	Y	no	no
empty	Y	no	yes
empty	empty	yes	yes
null	empty	yes	yes
empty	no annotation	no	no



Multiple interpretations in the form of stacked annotations are not supported in the agreement calculation! This also includes relations for which source or targets spans are stacked.

Projects



This functionality is only available to **project managers** (managers of existing projects), **project creators** (users with the ability to create new projects), and **administrators**. Project managers only see projects in which they hold the respective roles. Project creators only see projects in which they hold the project manager role.

This is the place to specify/edit annotation projects. You can either select one of the existing projects for editing, or click **Create Project** to add a project.

Although correction and automation projects function similarly, the management differs after the creation of the document. For further description, look at the corresponding chapters [Automation](#) and [Correction](#).

Only admins are allowed to create projects. Click on **Create Project** to create a new project.

Projects

adl2013-Demo-correction
collection2
copy_of_CPH-correction
copy_of_demo-annotation
copy_of_demo-correction
copy_of_NER_runde_2
copy_of_Tutorial-exp
coref-demo
corr-tueb1
CorrectionTest
Correction_test2
CPH-annotation
CPH-correction
CrowdSourceTest2
CrowdTest
CrowdTut
CrowdTutorial
CrowdTut_ProjektR2
demo-anno-chunk
demo-anno-coref
demo-anno-de
demo-anno-en
demo-anno-lang-unicode
demo-anno-short
demo-anno-sv
demo-annotation
demo-corr-en
demo-correction
demo-crowd

Create project

Import Project

Datei auswählen

Keine Datei gewählt

Import project

After doing so, a new pane is displayed, where you can name and describe your new project. It is also important to choose the kind of project you want to create. You have the choice between annotation, automation, and correction. Please do not forget to save.

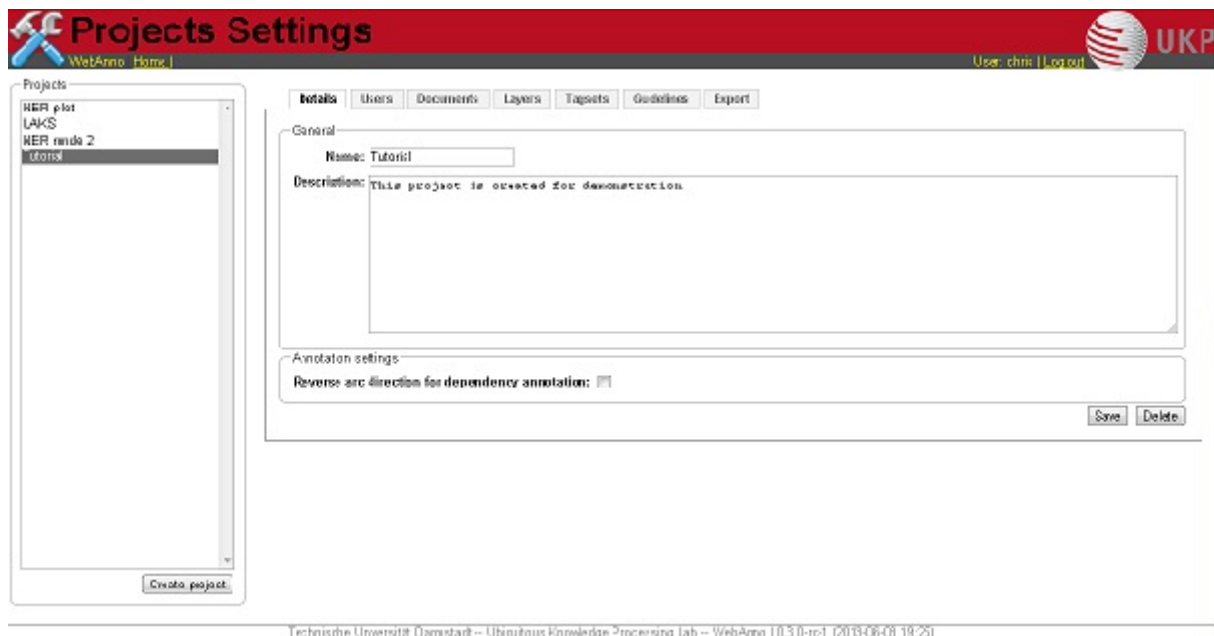
The screenshot shows a web interface with a tab labeled 'Details'. Inside, there is a 'General' section with a 'Name:' text box and a 'Description:' text area. Below this is a 'Project Types' section with three radio buttons: 'annotation' (which is selected and circled in red), 'automation', and 'correction'. At the bottom right of the form are 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons.

After saving the details of the new project, it can be treated like any other already existing one. Also, a new pane with many options to organize the project is displayed.

This screenshot shows the same 'Details' pane, but now it displays the details of an existing project. The 'Name' field contains 'Relation-demo'. The 'Project Types' section still has 'annotation' selected. The 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons at the bottom right are both circled in red. Above the main form area, there is a row of tabs: 'Details', 'Users', 'Documents', 'Layers', 'Tagsets', 'Guidelines', and 'Export/Import'.

To delete a project, click on it in the frame **Details**. The project details are displayed. Now, click on **Delete**.

The pane with the options to organize and edit a project, as described above, can also be reached by clicking on the desired project in the left frame.



By clicking on the tabs, you can now set up the chosen project.

Users

After clicking on **Users**, you are displayed a new pane in which you can add new users by clicking on the button **Add User**. After doing so, you get a list of users in the system which can be added to the project. By making a tick in front of the login, you can chose a new user.



Please do not forget to save after choosing all members of the project. Close the pane by clicking on **Cancel**. The rights of users created like this are that of an annotator. If you want to expand the user's status, you can do so by clicking on the user and then on **Change Permission**. The following frame will pop up.



After ticking the wished permissions, click on **Update**. To remove a user, click on the login and then **Remove User**.

Documents

To add or delete documents, you have to click on the tab **Documents** in the project pane. Two frames will be displayed. In the first frame you can import new documents.



Import new documents

Format: XML format

Files: Keine ausgewählt

Choose a document by clicking on **Choose Files**. Please mind the format, which you have to choose above. Then click on **Import Document**. The imported documents can be seen in the frame below. To delete a document from the project, you have to click on it and then click on **Delete** in the right lower corner.

Layers

In WebAnno, all annotations belong to an annotation **layer**. Each layer has a structural **type** that defines if it is a **span**, a **relation**, or a **chain**. It also defines how the annotations behave and what kind of features it carries.

Creating a custom layer

This section provides a short walkthrough on the creation of a custom layer. The following sections act as reference documentation providing additional details on each step. In the following example, we will create a custom layer called **Sentiment** with a feature called **Polarity** that can be **negative**, **neutral**, or **positive**.

1. Create the layer *Sentiment*

- Go to the **Layers** tab in your project's settings and press the **Create layer** button
- Enter the name of the layer in **Layer name**: *Sentiment*
- Choose the **type** of the layer: *Span*
- Enable **Allow multiple tokens** because we want to mark sentiments on spans longer than a single token.
- Press the **Save layer** button

2. Create the feature *Polarity*

- Press the **New feature** button
- Choose the **type** of the feature: *uima.cas.String*
- Enter the **name** of the feature: *Polarity*
- Press **Save feature**

3. Create the tagset *Polarity values*

- Go to the **Tagsets** tab and press **Create tagset**

- Enter the **name** of the tagset: *Polarity values*
- Press **Save tagset**
- Press **Create tag**, enter the **name** of the tag: *negative*, press **Save tag**
- Repeat for *neutra* and *positive*

4. Assign the tagset *Polarity values* to the feature *Polarity*

- Back in the **Layers** tab, select the layer: *Sentiment* and select the feature: *Polarity*
- Set the **tagset** to *Polarity values*
- Press **Save feature**

Now you have created your first custom layer.

Built-in layers

WebAnno comes with a set of built-in layers that allow you to start annotating immediately. Also, many import/export formats only work with these layers as their semantics are known to WebAnno. For this reason, the ability to customize the behaviors of built-in layers is limited and it is not possible to extend them with custom features.

Table 10. Built-in layers

Layer	Type	Enforced behaviors
Chunk	Span	Lock to multiple tokens, no stacking, no sentence boundary crossing
Coreference	Chain	(no enforced behaviors)
Dependency	Relation over POS,	No stacking, no sentence boundary crossing
Lemma	Span	Locked to token offsets, no stacking, no sentence boundary crossing
Named Entity	Span	(no enforced behaviors)
Part of Speech (POS)	Span	Locked to token offsets, no stacking, no sentence boundary crossing

The coloring of the layers signal the following:

Table 11. Color legend

Color	Description
green	built-in annotation layer, enabled
blue	custom annotation layer, enabled
red	disabled annotation layer

To create a custom layer, select **Create Layer** in the **Layers** frame. Then, the following frame will

be displayed.

Properties

Properties

Layer name: ? Coreference

Description:

Enabled: ? ☒

Technical Properties

Type: ? chain

Attach to layer: ? -NONE-

Behaviors

Lock to token offsets: ? ☒

Allow stacking: ? ☐

Allow crossing sentence boundary: ? ☐

Allow multiple tokens: ? ☐

Save layer

Feature overview

[referenceRelation][de.tudarm
[referenceType][de.tudarmsta

New feature

Table 12. Properites

Property	Description
Layer name	The name of the layer (obligatory)
Description	A description of the layer. This information will be shown in a tooltip when the mouse hovers over the layer name in the annotation detail editor panel.
Enabled	Whether the layer is enabled or not. Layers can currently not be deleted, but they can be disabled.



When a layer is first created, only ASCII characters are allowed for the layer name because WebAnno derives an internal UIMA type name from the initial layer name. After the layer has been created, the name can be changed arbitrarily. The internal UIMA type name will not be updated. The internal UIMA name is e.g. used when exporting data or in constraint rules.

Properties

Layer name:

Description:

Enabled: ☒

Technical Properties

Type: Choose One ▼

Attach to layer: -NONE- ▼

Behaviors

Lock to token offsets: ☒

Allow stacking: ☐

Allow crossing sentence boundary: ☐

Allow multiple tokens: ☐

Save layer

Technical Properties

In the frame **Technical Properties**, the user may select the type of annation that will be made with this layer: span, relation, or chain.

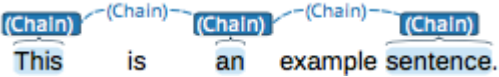
Table 13. Technical Properites

Property	Description
Internal name	Internal UIMA type name
Type	The type of the layer (obligatory, see below)
Attach to layer (Relations)	Determines which span layer a relation attaches to. Relations can only be created between annotations of this span layer.

The layer type defines the structure of the layer. WebAnno supports three different types.

Table 14. Layer types

Type	Description	Example
Span	Continous segment of text delimited by a start and end character offset. The example shows two spans.	<div> (Span) (Span) </div> <div> This is an example sentence. </div>
Relation	Binary relation between two spans visualized as an arc between spans. The example shows a relation between two spans.	<div> (Span) (Relation) (Span) </div> <div> This is an example sentence. </div>

Type	Description	Example
Chain	Directed sequence of connected spans in which each span connects to the following one. The example shows a single chain consisting of three connected spans.	

For relation annotations the type of the spans which are to be connected can be chosen in the field **Attach to layer**. Here, only non-default layers are displayed. To create a relation, first the span annotation needs to be created.



Currently for each span layer there can be at most one relation layer attaching to it.



It is currently not possible to create relations between spans in different layers. For example if you define span layers called **Men** and **Women**, it is impossible to define a relation layer **Married to** between the two. To work around this limitation, create a single span layer **Person** with a feature **Gender** instead. You can now set the feature **Gender** to **Man** or **Woman** and eventually define a relation layer **Married to** attaching to the **Person** layer.

Behaviours

Table 15. Behaviors

Behavior	Description
Read-only	The layer may be viewed but not edited.
Lock to token offsets (span, chain)	Annotation boundaries are forced to coincide with token boundaries. If the selection is smaller than a token, the annotation is expanded to the next larger token covering the selection. If the selection covers multiple tokens, the annotation is reduced to the first covered token.
Allow multiple tokens (span, chain)	Like <i>Lock to token offsets</i> except that the annotation may cover multiple tokens. If this is enabled, then <i>Lock to token offsets</i> is automatically disabled.
Allow stacking	Allow multiple annotations in this layer to be made at exactly the same position. If this option is disabled, a new annotation made at the same location as an existing annotation will replace the existing annotation.
Allow crossing sentence boundary (chain)	Allow annotations to cross sentence boundaries.

Behavior	Description
Behave like a linked list	Controls what happens when two chains are connected with each other. If this option is disabled , then the two entire chains will be merged into one large chain. Links between spans will be changed so that each span connects to the closest following span - no arc labels are displayed. If this option is enabled , then the chains will be split if necessary at the source and target points, reconnecting the spans such that exactly the newly created connection is made - arc labels are available.



In order to create sub-token annotations, both **Lock to token offsets** and **Allow multiple tokens** need to be disabled.

Features

Feature details

Type: ? uima.cas.String

Feature name: ?

Description:

Enabled: ? ☒

Show: ? ☒

TagSet: ? -NONE-

Save feature

In this section, features and their properties can be configured.



When a feature is first created, only ASCII characters are allowed for the feature name because WebAnno derives an internal UIMA name from the initial layer name. After the feature has been created, the name can be changed arbitrarily. The internal UIMA feature name will not be updated. The internal UIMA name is e.g. used when exporting data or in constraint rules.

Table 16. Feature properties

Property	Description
Internal name	Internal UIMA feature name
Type	The type of the feature (obligatory, see below)
Name	The name of the feature (obligatory)
Description	A description that is shown when the mouse hovers over the feature name in the annotation detail editor panel.
Enabled	Features cannot be deleted, but they can be disabled

Property	Description
Show	Whether the feature value is shown in the annotation label. If this is disabled, the feature is only visible in the annotation detail editor panel.
Remember	Whether the annotation detail editor should carry values of this feature over when creating a new annotation of the same type. This can be useful when creating many annotations of the same type in a row.
Tagset (String)	The tagset controlling the possible values for a string feature.

WebAnno supports the following feature types.

Table 17. Feature types

Type	Description
uima.cas.String	Textual feature that can optionally be controlled by a tagset. It is rendered as a text field or as a combobox if a tagset is defined.
uima.cas.Boolean	Boolean feature that can be true or false and is rendered as a checkbox.
uima.cas.Integer	Numeric feature for integer numbers.
uima.cas.Float	Numeric feature for decimal numbers.
uima.tcas.Annotation (Span layers)	Link feature that can point to any arbitrary span annotation
other span layers (Span layers)	Link feature that can point only to the selected span layer.



Please take care that when working with non-custom layers, they have to be exported and imported, if you want to use the resulting files in e.g. correction projects.

Tagsets

To administer the tagsets, click on the tab **Tagsets** in the project pane.

The screenshot shows two panels. The top panel, titled 'Tagsets', contains a list box with the following items: '[coreference type] BART', '[named entity] NER_WebAnno' (which is highlighted), '[pos] STTS', '[dependency] Tiger', and '[coreference] TuebaDZ'. Below the list is a 'Create tagset' button. The bottom panel, titled 'Import tagsets', contains a 'Format:' dropdown menu set to 'JSON', a 'Files:' section with a 'Dateien auswählen' button and the text 'Keine ausgewählt', and an 'Import tagset' button.

To administer one of the existing tagsets, select it by a click. Then, the tagset characteristics are displayed.

The screenshot shows three panels. The top-left panel, titled 'Tagsets', is identical to the one in the previous image, with '[named entity] NER_WebAnno' selected. The top-right panel, titled 'Tagset details', shows the details for the selected tagset: 'Name: NoSta-D', 'Language: de', 'Layer: named entity', and a 'Description' field containing the text 'Named Entity annotation as defined by F-AG7 KP2, Mark Rezniecek and Burkhard Dieterle'. At the bottom of this panel are buttons for 'Export as: JSON', 'Export tagset', 'Save tagset', and 'Delete tagset'. The bottom-left panel, titled 'Tags', contains a list box with the following items: 'UNCLEAR', 'LOC', 'LOCderiv', 'LOCpart', 'ORG', 'ORGderiv', 'ORGpart', and 'OTH'. Below the list is a 'Create tag' button. The bottom-right panel, titled 'Tag details', contains fields for 'Name:' and 'Description:', and buttons for 'Save tag' and 'Delete tag'.

In the Frame **Tagset details**, you can change them, export a tagset, save the changes you made on it or delete it by clicking on **Delete tagset**. To change an individual tag, you select one in the list displayed in the frame **Tags**. You can then change its description or name or delete it by clicking **Delete tag** in **Tag details**. Please do not forget to save your changes by clicking on **Save tag**. To add a new tag, you have to click on **Create tag** in **Tag details**. Then you add the name and the description, which is optional. Again, do not forget to click **Save tag** or the new tag will not be created.

To create an own tagset, click on **Create tagset** and fill in the fields that will be displayed in the new frame. Only the first field is obligatory. Adding new tags works the same way as described for already existing tagsets. If you want to have a free annotation, as it could be used for lemma or meta information annotation, do not add any tags.

Tagset details

Name:

Language:

Description:

Create Tag?: ☒

Export as: JSON ▼ Export tagset Save tagset Delete tagset

To export a tagset, choose the format of the export at the bottom of the frame and click **Export tagset**.

Constraints

To import a constraints file, go to **Project** and click on the particular project name. On the left side of the screen, a tab bar opens. Choose **Constraints**. You can now choose a constraint file by clicking on **Choose Files**. Then, click on **Import**. Upon import, WebAnno checks if the constraints file is well formed. If they conform to the rules of writing constraints, the constraints are applied.

Guidelines

To add or delete guidelines, which will be accessible by users in the project, you have to select the tab **Guidelines**. Two new frames will be displayed. To upload guidelines, click on **Choose files** in the first frame – **Add guideline document**, select a file from your local disc and then click **Import guidelines**.

Add guideline document

Guideline document: Choose Files No file chosen Import guidelines

Uploaded guidelines are displayed in the second frame – **Guideline documents**. To delete a guideline document, click on it and then on **Delete** in the right lower corner of the frame.

Import



This functionality is only available to **administrators**.

Projects are associated with the accounts of users that act as project managers, annotators, or curators. When importing a previously exported project, you can choose to automatically **generate missing users** (enabled by default). If this option is disabled, projects still maintain their association to users by name. If the respective user accounts are created manually after the import, the users will start showing up in the projects.



Generated users are disabled and have no password. They must be explicitly enabled and a password must be set before the users can log in again.

Export

Details Users Documents Tagsets Guidelines **Export/Import**

Export

Export progress: 0%

Export curated documents to the file system Export the whole project to the file system Cancel

WebAnno offers two modes of exporting projects:

- **Export the whole project** for the purpose of creating a backup, of migrating it to a new WebAnno version, of migrating to a different WebAnno instance, or simply in order to reimport it as a duplicate copy.
- **Export curated documents** for the purpose of getting an easy access to the final annotation results. If you do not have any curated documents in your project, this export option is not offered.

The format of the exported annotations is selected using the **Format** drop-down field. When **AUTO** is selected, the file format corresponds to the format of the source document. If WebAnno has not write support for the source format, the file is exported in the WebAnno TSV format instead.



Do not leave the export page after initiating an export before the progress bar is complete or your WebAnno instance can become locked until it is restarted!



Some browsers automatically extract ZIP files into a folder after the download. Zipping this folder and trying to re-import it into WebAnno will generally not work because the process introduces an additional folder within the archive and WebAnno is unable to handle that. The best option is to disable the automatic extraction in your browser. E.g. in Safari, go to **Preferences** → **General** and disable the setting **Open "safe" files after downloading**.

When exporting a whole project, the structure of the exported ZIP file is as follows:

- **<project ID>.json** - project metadata file
- **annotation**
 - **<source document name>**
 - **<user ID>.XXX** - file representing the annotations for this user in the selected format.
- **annotation_ser**
 - **<source document name>**
 - **<user ID>.ser** - serialized CAS file representing the annotations for this user
- **curation**
 - **<source document name>**
 - **CURATION_USER.XXX** - file representing the state of curation in the selected format.
 - **CORRECTION_USER.XXX** - *correction* project: original document state, *automation* project automatically generated suggestions
- **curation_ser**
 - **<source document name>**
 - **CURATION_USER.ser** - serialized UIMA CAS representing the state of curation
 - **CORRECTION_USER.ser** - *correction* project: original document state, *automation* project automatically generated suggestions
- **log**
 - **<project ID>.log** - project log file
- **source** - folder containing the original source files



The files under **annotation** and **curation** are provided for convenience only. They are ignored upon import.

Currently, WebAnno does not allow the user to choose a specific format for bulk-exporting annotations. However, [this mailing list post](#) describes how **DKPro Core** can be used to transform the UIMA CAS formats into alternative formats.

Constraints

Constraints reorder the choice of tags based on the context of an annotation. For instance, for a given lemma, not all possible part-of-speech tags are sensible. Constraint rules can be set up to reorder the choice of part-of-speech tags such that the relevant tags are listed first. This speeds up the annotation process as the annotator can choose from the relevant tags more conveniently.

The choice of tags is not limited, only the order in which they are presented to the annotator. Thus, if the project manager has forgotten to set up a constraint or did possibly not consider an oddball case, the annotator can still make a decision.

A **constraint set** consists of two components:

- import statement
- scopes
- Import statements* are composed in the following way:

```
import <fully_qualified_name_of_layer> as <shortName>;
```

It is necessary to declare short names for all fully qualified names because only short names can be used when writing a constraint rule. Short names cannot contain any dots or special characters, only letters, numbers, and the underscore.



If you are not sure what the fully qualified name of a layer is, you can look it up going to **Layers** in **Project settings**. Click on a particular layer and you can view the fully qualified name under **Technical Properties**.

Scopes consist of a **scope name** and one or more **rules** that refer to a particular annotation layer and define restrictions for particular conditions. For example, it is possible to reorder the applicable tags for a POS layer, based on what kind of word the annotator is focusing on.

While scope names can be freely chosen, scope rules have a fixed structure. They consist of **conditions** and **restrictions**, separated by an arrow symbol (**->**). Conditions consist of a **path** and a **value**, separated by an equal sign (**=**). Values always have to be embraced by double-quotes. Multiple conditions in the same rule are connected via the **&**-operator, multiple restrictions in the same rule are connected via the **|**-operator.

Typically a rule's syntax is

Single constraint rule

```
<scopeName> {  
  <condition_set> -> <restriction_set>;  
}
```

This leads to the following structure:

Multiple constraint rules

```
<scopeName> {  
  <rule_1>;  
  ...  
  <rule_n>;  
}
```

Both conditions and restrictions are composed of a **path** and a **value**. The latter is always enclosed in double quotes.

Structure of conditions and restrictions

```
<path>="<value>"
```

A **condition** is a way of defining whether a particular situation in WebAnno is based on annotation layers and features in it.

A **condition set** consists of one or more conditions. They are connected with logical AND as follows.

```
<condition> & <condition>
```

A **restriction set** defines a set of restrictions which can be applied if a particular condition set is evaluated to true. As multiple restrictions inside one rule are interpreted as conjunctions, they are separated by the **|**-operator”.

```
<restriction> | <restriction>
```

A **path** is composed of one or more steps, separated by a dot. A **step** consists of a **feature selector** and a **type selector**. **Type selectors** are only applicable while writing the condition part of a rule. They comprise a **layer operator** @ followed by the type (Lemma, POS, etc). **Feature selectors** consist of a feature name, e.g.

```
pos.PosValue
```

Navigation across layers is possible via

```
@<shortLayerName>
```

Hereby all annotations of type **<shortLayerName>** at the same position as the current context are found.

Conditional features

Constraints can be used to set up conditional features, that is features that only become available in the UI if another feature has a specific value. Let's say that for example you want to annotate events and only **causing** events should additionally offer a **polarity** feature, while for **caused** events, there should be no way to select a polarity.

Sticking with the example of annotating events, conditional features can be set up as following:

- Go to the **Layer** tab of the project settings
- Create a new tagset called **Event category** and add the tags **causing** and **caused**
- Create a new tagset called **Event polarity** and add the tags **positive** and **negative**
- Create a new span layer called **Event**
- Add a string feature called **category** and assign the tagset **Event category**
- Save the changes to the **category** feature
- Add a string feature called **polarity** and assign the tagset **Event polarity**
- Enabled the checkbox **Hide Un-constraint feature** on the **polarity** feature
- Save the changes to the **polarity** feature
- Create a new text file called **constraints.txt** with the following contents .

```
import webanno.custom.Event as Event;

Event {
  category="causing" -> polarity="positive" | polarity="negative";
}
```

- Import **constraints.txt** in the tab **Constraints** in the project settings.

When you now annotate an **Event** in this project, then the **polarity** feature is only visible and editable if the **category** of the annotation is set to **causing**.



It is important that both of the features have tagsets assigned - otherwise the conditional effect will not take place.

Constraints for slot features

Constraints can be applied to the roles of slot features. This is useful, e.g. when annotating predicate/argument structures where specific predicates can only have certain arguments.

Consider having a span layer **SemPred** resembling a semantic predicate and bearing a slot feature **arguments** and a string feature **senseId**. We want to restrict the possible argument roles based on the lemma associated with the predicate. The first rule in the following example restricts the **senseId** depending on the value of a **Lemma** annotation at the same position as the **SemPred** annotation. The second rule then restricts the choice of roles for the arguments based on the **senseId**.

Note that some role labels are marked with the flag (!). This is a special flag for slot features and indicates that slots with these role labels should be automatically displayed in the UI ready to be filled. This should be used for mandatory or common slots and saves time as the annotator does not have to manually create the slots before filling them.

```
SemPred {
  // Rule 1
  @Lemma.value = "ask" -> senseId = "Questioning" | senseId = "Request" | senseId =
  "XXX";
  // .. other lemmata
  // Rule 2
  senseId = "Questioning" ->
    // core roles
    arguments.role = "Addressee" (!) | arguments.role = "Message" (!) | arguments.role
= "Speaker" (!) |
    // non-core roles
    arguments.role = "Time" | arguments.role = "Iterations";
  // .. other senses
}
```

Constraints language grammar

Constraints language grammar

```
// Basic structure -----
<file>          ::= <import>* | <scope>*
<scope>         ::= <shortLayerName> "{" <ruleset> "}"
<ruleset>       ::= <rule>*
<import>        ::= "import" <qualifiedLayerName>
                  "as" <shortLayerName>
<rule>          ::= <conds> "->" <restrictions> ";"

// Conditions -----
<conds>         ::= <cond> | <cond> "&" <conds>
<cond>          ::= <path> "=" <value>
<path>          ::= <featureName> | <step> "." <path>
<step>          ::= <featureName> | <layerSelector>
<layerSelector> ::= <layerOperator>? <shortLayerName>
<layerOperator> ::= "@" // select annotation in layer X

// Restrictions -----
<restrictions>  ::= <restriction> |
                  <restriction> "|" <restrictions>
<restriction>   ::= <restrictionPath> "=" <value>
                  ( "(" <flags> ")" )
<restrictionPath> ::= <featureName> |
                    <restrictionPath> "." <featureName>
<flags>         ::= "!" // core role
```

User Management



This functionality is only available to **administrators**.

After selecting this functionality, a frame which shows all users is displayed. By selecting a user, a frame is displayed on the right.

Now you may change his role or password, specify an e-mail address and dis- or enable his account by placing the tick.



Disabling an account prevents the user from logging in. The user remains associated with any projects and remains visible in on the [Monitoring](#) page.

To create a new user, click on **Create** in the left frame. This will display a similar frame as the one described in the last paragraph. Here you have to give a login-name to the new user.

In both cases, do not forget to save your changes by pressing the **Save** button.

1. User roles

Role	Description
ROLE_USER	User. Required to log in to the application. Removal of this role from an account will prevent login even for users that additionally hold the ROLE_ADMIN!
ROLE_ADMIN	Administrator. Can manage users and has access to all other functionalities.
ROLE_PROJECT_CREATOR	Project creator. Can create new projects.
ROLE_REMOTE	Remote API access. Currently experimental and undocumented. Do not use.

Formats

Table 18. Supported annotation formats

Format	Read	Write	Custom Layers	Description
CoNLL 2000	yes	yes	no	POS, chunks
CoNLL 2002	yes	yes	no	Named entities
CoNLL 2006	yes	yes	no	Lemma, POS, dependencies (basic)
CoNLL 2009	yes	yes	no	Lemma, POS, dependencies (basic)
CoNLL-U	yes	yes	no	Lemma, POS, dependencies (basic & enhanced), surface form
Plain text	yes	yes	no	No annotations
TCF	yes	no	no	Lemma, POS, dependencies (basic), coreference, named entities
TEI CPH dialect	yes	no	no	
WebAnno TSV 1	yes	no	no	
WebAnno TSV 2	yes	no	yes	token, multiple token, and arc annotations supported. No chain annotation is supported. no sub-token annotation is supported
WebAnno TSV 3	yes	yes	yes	
Binary	yes	yes	yes	UIMA Binary CAS
XMI	yes	yes	yes	UIMA XMI CAS

WebAnno TSV 3.2 File format

In this section, we will discuss the WebAnno TSV (Tab Separated Value) file format version 3.2. The format is similar to the CoNNL file formats with specialized additions to the header and column representations. The file format inhabits a header and a body section. The **header** section present information about the different types of annotation layers and features used in the file. While importing the WebAnno TSV file, the specified headers should be first created in to the running WebAnno project. Otherwise, the importing of the file will not be possible.

The **body** section of the TSV file presents the document and all the associated annotations including sentence and token annotations.

Encoding and Offsets

TSV files are always encoded in UTF-8. However, the offsets used in the TSV file are based on UTF-16. This is important when using TSV files with texts containing e.g. Emojis or some modern non-latin Asian, Middle-eastern and African scripts.

WebAnno is implemented in Java. The Java platform internally uses a UTF-16 representation for text. For this reason, the offsets used in the TSV format currently represent offsets of the 16bit units in UTF-16 strings. This is important if your text contains Unicode characters that cannot be represented in 16bit and which thus require two 16bit units. For example a token represented by the Unicode character (U+1F60A) requires two 16bit units. Hence, the offset count increased by 2 for this character. So Unicode characters starting at U+10000 increase the offset count by 2.

Example: TSV sentence containing a Unicode character from the Supplementary Planes

```
#Text=I like it .
1-1 0-1 I _
1-2 2-6 like _
1-3 7-9 it _
1-4 10-12 *
1-5 13-14 . _
```



Since the character offsets are based on UTF-16 and the TSV file itself is encoded in UTF-8, first the text contained in the file needs to be transcoded from UTF-8 into UTF-16 before the offsets can be applied. The offsets cannot be used for random access to characters directly in the TSV file.

File Header

WebAnno TSV 3.2 file starts with the following header marker

Example: format in file header

```
#FORMAT=WebAnno TSV 3.2
```

Layers are marked by the # character followed by **T_SP=** for **span types** (including **slot features**), **T_CH=** for **chain layers**, and **T_RL=** for **relation layers**. Every layer is written in new line, followed by the features in the layer. If all layer type exists, first, all the span layers will be written, then the chain layer, and finally the relation layers. Features are separated by the | character and only the short name of the feature is provided.

Example: Span layer with simple features in file header

```
#T_SP=webanno.custom.Pred|bestSense|lemmaMapped|senseId|senseMapped
```

Here the layer name is **webanno.custom.Pred** and the features are named **bestSense**, **lemmaMapped**, **senseId**, **senseMapped**. Slot features start with a prefix **ROLE_** followed by the name of the role and the link. The role feature name and the link feature name are separated by the **_** character.

The target of the slot feature always follows the role/link name

Example: Span layer with slot features in file header

```
#T_SP=webanno.custom.SemPred|ROLE_webanno.custom.SemPred:RoleSet_webanno.custom.SemPredRoleSetLink|uima.tcas.Annotation|aFrame
```

Here the name of the role is **webanno.custom.SemPred:RoleSet** and the name of the role link is **webanno.custom.SemPredRoleSetLink** and the target type is **uima.tcas.Annotation**.

Chain layers will have always two features, **referenceType** and **referenceRelation**.

Example: Chain layers in file header

```
#T_CH=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.coref.type.CoreferenceLink|referenceType|referenceRelation
```

Relation layers will come at last in the list and the very last entry in the features will be the type of the base (governor or dependent) annotations with a prefix **BT_**.

Example: Relation layers in file header

```
#T_RL=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.syntax.type.dependency.Dependency|DependencyType|BT_de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS
```

Here, the relation type **de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.syntax.type.dependency.Dependency** has a feature **DependencyType** and the relation is between a base type of **de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS**.

File Body / Annotations

In this section we discuss the different representations of texts and annotation in WebAnno TSV3format

Reserved Characters

Reserved characters have a special meaning in the TSV format and must be escaped with the **backslash** (\) character if they appear in text or feature values. Reserved characters are the following:

Reserved Characters

```
\, [, ], |, _ , -> , ; , \t , \n , *
```



The way that TSV is presently defined/implemented, it kind of considers `->` as a single "character"... and it is also escaped as a single unit, i.e. `->` becomes `\->`. It is something to be addressed in a future iteration of the format.

Sentence Representation

Sentence annotations are presented following the text marker `#Text=`, before the token annotations. All text given here is inside the sentence boundaries.

Example: Original text sections

```
#Text=Bell , based in Los Angeles , makes and distributes electronic , computer and  
building products .
```

The text of an imported document is reconstructed from the sentence annotations. Additionally, the offset information of the sentence tokens are taken into account to determine whether padding needs to be added between sentences. The TSV format can presently not record text that occurs in between two sentences.

If a sentence spans multiple lines, the text is split at the line feed characters (ASCII 12) and multiple `#Text=` lines are generated. Note that carriage return characters (ASCII 13) are kept as escaped characters (`\r`).

Example: Original multi-line text

```
#Text=Bell , based in Los Angeles , makes and distributes  
#Text=electronic , computer and building products .
```

Token and Sub-token Annotations

Tokens represent a span of text within a sentence. Tokens cannot overlap, although then can be directly adjacent (i.e. without any whitespace between them). The start offset of the first character of the first token corresponds to the start of offset of the sentence.

Token annotation starts with a `sentence-token` number marker followed by the begin-end offsets and the token itself, separated by a TAB characters.

Example: Token position

```
1-2 4-8 Haag
```

Here **1** indicates the sentence number, **2** indicates the token number (here, the second token in the first sentence) and **4** is the begin offset of the token and **8** is the end offset of the token while **Haag** is the token.

Sub-token representations are affixed with a **.** and a number starts from 1 to N.

Example: Sub-token positions

```
1-3 9-14   plays
1-3.1  9-13   play
1-3.2  13-14   s
```

Here, the sub-token **play** is indicated by sentence-token number **1-3.1** and the sub-token **s** is indicated by **1-3.2**.

While tokens may not overlap, sub-tokens may overlap.

Example: Overlapping sub-tokens

```
1-3 9-14   plays
1-3.1 9-12   pla
1-3.2 11-14  ays
```

Span Annotations

For every features of a span Annotation, annotation value will be presented in the same row as the token/sub-token annotation, separated by a TAB character. If there is no annotation for the given span layer, a **_** character is placed in the column. If the feature has no/null annotation or if the span layer do not have a feature at all, a ***** character represents the annotation.

Example: Span layer declaration in file header

```
#T_SP=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS|PosValue
#T_SP=webanno.custom.Sentiment|Category|Opinion
```

Example: Span annotations in file body

```
1-9 36-43   unhappy JJ   abstract   negative
```

Here, the first annotation at column 4, **JJ** is a value for a feature **PosValue** of the layer **de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS**. For the two features of the layer **webanno.custom.Sentiment** (**Category** and **Opinion**), the values **abstract** and **negative** are presented at column 5 and 6 resp.

Disambiguation IDs

Within a single line, an annotation can be uniquely identified by its type and stacking index. However, across lines, annotation cannot be uniquely identified easily. Also, if the exact type of the referenced annotation is not known, an annotation cannot be uniquely identified. For this reason, disambiguation IDs are introduced in potentially problematic cases:

- stacked annotations - if multiple annotations of the same type appear in the same line
- multi-unit annotations - if an annotations spans multiple tokens or sub-tokens
- un-typed slots - if a slot feature has the type `uima.tcas.Annotation` and may thus refer to any kind of target annotation.

The disambiguation ID is attached as a suffix `[N]` to the annotation value. Stacked annotations are separated by `|` character.

Example: Span layer declaration in file header

```
#T_SP=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS|PosValue
#T_SP=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.ner.type.NamedEntity|value
```

Example: Multi-token span annotations and stacked span annotations

```
1-1 0-3 Ms. NNP PER[1]|PERpart[2]
1-2 4-8 Haag NNP PER[1]
```

Here, `PER[1]` indicates that token `1-1` and `1-2` have the same annotation (multi-token annotations) while `PERpart[2]` is the second (stacked) annotation on token `1-1` separated by `|` character.



On chain layers, the number in brackets is **not** a disambiguation ID but rather a chain ID!

Slot features

Slot features and the target annotations are separated by TAB character (first the feature column then the target column follows). In the target column, the `sentence-token` id is recorded where the feature is drawn.

Unlike other span layer features (which are separated by `|` character), multiple annotations for a slot feature are separated by the `;` character.

Example: Span layer declaration in file header

```
#T_SP=webanno.custom.Frame|FE|ROLE_webanno.custom.Frame:Roles_webanno.custom.FrameRole
sLink|webanno.custom.Lu
#T_SP=webanno.custom.Lu|luvalue
```

Example: Span annotations and slot features

```
2-1 27-30 Bob _ _ _ bob
2-2 31-40 auctioned transaction seller;goods;buyer 2-1;2-3[4];2-6
2-3 41-44 the _ _ _ clock[4]
2-4 45-50 clock _ _ _ clock[4]
2-5 52-54 to _ _ _ _
2-6 55-59 John _ _ _ john
2-7 59-60 . _ _ _ _
```

Here, for example, at token 2-2, we have three slot annotations for feature **Roles** that are **seller**, **goods**, and **buyer**. The targets are on token 2-1 **'**, **'2-3[4]**, and 2-6 respectively which are on annotations of the layer **webanno.custom.Lu** which are **bob**, **clock** and **john**.

Chain Annotations

In the Chain annotation, two columns (TAB separated) are used to represent the **referenceType** and the **referenceRelation**. A chain ID is attached to the **referenceType** to distinguish to which of the chains the annotation belongs. The **referenceRelation** of the chain is represented by the relation value followed by **->** and followed by the **CH-LINK** number where **CH** is the chain number and **LINK** is the link number (the order the chain).

Example: Chain layer declaration in file header

```
#T_CH=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.coref.type.CoreferenceLink|referenceType|referenceRelation
```

Example: Chain annotations

```
1-1 0-2 He pr[1] coref->1-1
1-2 3-7 shot _ _
1-3 8-15 himself pr[1] coref->1-2
1-4 16-20 with _ _
1-5 21-24 his pr[1] *->1-3
1-6 25-33 revolver _ _
1-7 33-34 . _ _
```

In this example, token 1-3 is marked as **pr[1]** which indicates that the **referenceType** is **pr** and it is part of the chain with the ID **1**. The relation label is **coref** and with the **CH-LINK** number **1-2** which means that it belongs to chain **1** and this is the second link in the chain.

Relation Annotations

Relation annotations comes to the last columns of the TSV file format. Just like the span annotations, every feature of the relation layers are represented in a separate TAB. Besides, one extra column (after all feature values) is used to write the token id from which token/sub-token this arc of a relation annotation is drawn.

Example: Span and relation layer declaration in file header

```
#T_SP=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS|PosValue
#T_RL=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.syntax.type.dependency.Dependency|DependencyType|BT_de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS
```

Example: Span and relation annotations

```
1-1 0-3 Ms. NNP SUBJ 1-3
1-2 4-8 Haag NNP SBJ 1-3
1-3 9-14 plays VBD P|ROOT 1-5|1-3
1-4 15-22 Elianti NNP OBJ 1-3
1-5 23-24 . . - -
```

In this example (say token **1-1**), column 4 (**NNP**) is a value for the feature **PosValue** of the **de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.lexmorph.type.pos.POS** layer. Column 5 (**SBJ**) records the value for the feature **DependencyType** of the **de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.syntax.type.dependency.Dependency** relation layer, where as column 6 (**1-3**) shows from which governor (**VBD**) the dependency arc is drawn.

For relations, a single disambiguation ID is not sufficient. If a relation is ambiguous, then the source ID of the relation is followed by the source and target disambiguation ID separated by an underscore (_). If only one of the relation endpoints is ambiguous, then the other one appears with the ID **0**. E.g. in the example below, the annotation on token **1-5** is ambiguous, but the annotation on token **1-1** is not.

Example: Disambiguation IDs in relations

```
#FORMAT=WebAnno TSV 3.2
#T_SP=de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.ner.type.NamedEntity|value
#T_RL=webanno.custom.Relation|value|BT_de.tudarmstadt.ukp.dkpro.core.api.ner.type.NamedEntity

#Text=This is a test .
1-1 0-4 This * _ _
1-2 5-7 is _ _ _
1-3 8-9 a _ _ _
1-4 10-14 test _ _ _
1-5 15-16 . *[1]|*[2] * 1-1[0_1]
```

Troubleshooting

If the tool is kept open in the browser, but not used for a long period of time, you will have to log in again. For this, press the reload button of your browser.

If the tool does not react for more than 1 minute, please also reload and re-login.

We are collecting error reports to improve the tool. For this, the error must be reproducible: If you find a way how to produce the error, please open an issue and describe it.