Isabel Meraner

Software Developer
for Nature & Biodiversity

About me ——————

I am a dynamic junior developer thrilled to access and safeguard nature-related data using state-of-the-art technologies.

Besides diving into the complexities of biodiversity and front-end development, I also love sharing some fun facts about my garden & my silkie chickens during the coffee breaks.

Last but not least, I'll also ask what is going on in the private lives of my teammates.

Technical Skills —

- 🎓 Natural Language Processing
- ✳ JavaScript, Python, Oracle SQL
- </> Vue.js, PrimeVue, OpenLayers
- 🕸 Git, GitLab, LaTeX

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Profile

- Multilingual, sunny South Tyrolean spirit working at the intersection of state-of-the-art research, software development, and biodiversity.
- Deep knowledge about the preservation of rare species and botany through courses in several countries.
- Structured development of creative solutions for old problems.
- Empathetic person promoting team cooperation instead of competition.

Work experience

06/2022 – now
Freelance Developer and Editor   PAYROLLPLUS (CH)
- Technical support for CSA and market gardening software.

01/2020 – 02/2022
Software Developer   FED. RESEARCH INSTITUTE WSL (CH)
- Implementation of web and GIS applications.
- Development of databases for *SwissLichens* & *SwissFungi*.
- Technical support for IUCN red list projects.
- Modelling the Swiss National Forest Inventory in Linked Data.

07/2019 – 12/2019
Internship Biodiversity   FED. RESEARCH INSTITUTE WSL (CH)
- Revision of the red list of endangered lichens in Switzerland according to IUCN criteria in collaboration with *SwissLichens*.
- Fieldwork all over Switzerland, data analysis, and processing.

02/2017 – 09/2019
Student assistant   UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH (CH)
- *GeoKokos*: Deep learning for toponym recognition in texts.
- MOOC course "Language Technology in Digital Humanities".
- *Impresso* project: OCR correction of historical news articles.

09/2014 – 10/2018
Freelance editor   LANGENSCHEIDT PUBL. (DE)
- Mitmach-Sprachführer Italienisch (German Design Award 2019).
- Visueller Sprachkurs "Bild für Bild".
- Sag's auf Deutsch. Die 1.000 Wörter, die man wirklich braucht.

04/2014 – 09/2014
Internship Lexikography/Education   LANGENSCHEIDT PUBL. (DE)
- Testing for agile dictionary app project.
- SEO optimization, neologisms, machine translation.

09/2013 – 04/2016
Student assistant   LMU MUNICH (DE)
- Institute homepage and student advisory service.
- Research assistance, editorial office.

Studies

2017 – 2019
MA Multilingual Text Analysis   UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH (CH)
Focus: Biodiversity informatics, deep learning, digitization, multilingual corpus linguistics.
Master thesis   grade: 6
"Neural Entity Recognition for Scientific & Vernacular Plant Names"

2012 – 2016
BA Romance/Scandinavian linguistics   LMU MUNICH (DE)
Fokus: French and Scandinavian translation and linguistics, corpus and field linguistics for endangered varieties.
Bachelor thesis   grade: 6
"Romanische Einflüsse in der Südtiroler Umgangssprache: Entlehnungsprozesse im Sprachkontaktgebiet Südtirol mit Fokus auf den Raum Bozen, Überetsch und Unterland"

2006 – 2011
High scool   HUM. GYMNASIUM BOLZANO (IT)
Linguistic Lyceum "Walther v. d. Vogelweide"

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Languages ——————

🇩🇪	German	Native (C2)
🇮🇹	Italian	Fluent (C1)
🇬🇧	English	Fluent (C1)
🇫🇷	French	Good (B1)

Contact ——————

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🌐 Italy/South Tyrol (B permit)

📅 16.09.1992

🔑 github.com/IsabelMeraner/

Publications

2021   Bischof et al. (2021): *Schlussbericht LD-LFI. Dokumentation des Prototypen zur Nutzbarmachung der LFI-Ergebnisdaten mit Linked Data.* [Fed. Research Institute WSL, DORA]

2019   Kew et al. (2019): *Geotagging a Diachronic Corpus of Alpine Texts: Comparing Distinct Approaches to Toponym Recognition.* [Workshop @RANLP19]

2019   Meraner (2019): *Neural Entity Recognition for Scientific and Vernacular Plant Names.* [MA-Thesis, Researchgate]

2018   Egorova et al. (2018): *Crowdsourcing Toponym Annotation for Natural Features: How hard is it?* [GIScience 2018 workshop]

... more publications

Courses

ProSpecie Rara   Documentation, pruning and grafting of old fruit tree varieties, Knonau (CH), 2021-22.

UZH award 2019   Semester award for outstanding scholarly work, Zurich (CH), 2019.

GSCL award 2019   GSCL research award for the best master thesis, conference on "Natural Language Processing" (KONVENS) Erlangen (DE), 2019.

Certificate 200   Botanical certificate "Bellis" of the Swiss Botanical Society, Zurich (CH), 2019.

ProSpecie Rara   "Seeds": Safeguarding old varieties through sustainable multiplication of seeds, Zurich/Rheinau (CH), 2019.

Laimburg   Training course (6 months) on cultivating and processing of medical plants and herbs in Laimburg, Bolzano (IT), 2016.

Other projects

1:1 project   Teaching German to refugees at Students Across Borders, Zurich (CH), 2019.

MLTA   Student represantant of "Multilingual Text Analysis" at the Institute of Computational Linguistics at the University of Zurich (CH), 2017–2019.

Schmiedthof   Volunteering for harvesting herbs on the mountain farm Schmiedthof, Bressanone (IT), 2016.

WWOOFing   WWOOFing experience in biodynamic garden centre Randesund, Christiansand (NO), 2015.

Massmann   Engagement in self-administration of student association Massmannplatz, Munich (DE), 2012–2016.