GRASS does not distinguish between **single and multi parts** (features and multifeatures). Attributes are simply linked to primitives (usually points, lines, or centroids) via so called “category”. More primitives can have the same category assigned, so the same attributes linked. This is a way how GRASS handles multiparts. By default [v.out.ogr](http://grass.osgeo.org/grass80/manuals/v.out.ogr.html) exports such primitives as single parts, ie. features. Multi parts (multifeatures) are written only when -m flag is given.

**Linking external formats**

To avoid data duplication GRASS also allows linking raster data using [r.external](http://grass.osgeo.org/grass80/manuals/r.external.html) (*Link external raster data*) and vector data by [v.external](http://grass.osgeo.org/grass80/manuals/v.external.html) (*Link external vector data*) which are also accessible from the toolbar [grass-layer-import](https://training.gismentors.eu/grass-gis-workshop-jena/_images/layer-import.png)in Data tab.

Linking data is mainly recommended when working with raster data such large datasets of imagery data. GRASS can handle linked raster data similarly as native raster maps. Both from point of stability and accessibility.