BENJAMIN GEER

Senior Software Developer

Over 12 years of back-end experience in Scala and Java

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EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Developer
Data and Service Center for the Humanities (DaSCH), University of Basel

📅 February 2014 – ongoing   📍 Basel, Switzerland

- Lead developer of Knora (https://www.knora.org/), Switzerland's flagship system for editing, storing, searching, and reusing humanities research data. Design and implementation from scratch in Scala (130,000 lines of code) with Akka and an RDF triplestore.
- Lead developer of Gravsearch, an innovative SPARQL-based query language compiler with type inference and optimisation (see Publications).
- Refactored Sipi (https://sipi.io/), a IIIF-conformant image server, to use modern C++.

Post-doctoral Research Fellow
Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

📅 August 2012 – July 2013   📍 Singapore

Visiting Assistant Professor and Associate Director
Middle East Studies Center, American University in Cairo

📅 August 2011 – June 2012   📍 Cairo, Egypt

Software Architect
Misys International Banking Systems (now Finastra)

📅 August 2000 – May 2005   📍 London, UK

- Led a team of 6 to write Meridian (now Fusion Total Messaging), a Java middleware program used by banks worldwide to connect back-office applications with the SWIFT payments network.

Software Developer
Think New Ideas

📅 1998 – 1999   📍 New York, USA

- Developed a Java-based content management system, including the FreeMarker template engine (https://freemarker.apache.org).

SKILLS

Scala   Java   Akka   RDF   SPARQL   C++   Linux
Python   SQL   OCaml   Haskell

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English   French   Arabic
Intermediate: German   Italian

EDUCATION

PhD in Middle East Studies
SOAS, University of London

📅 September 2008 – January 2012

M.A. in Middle East Studies
SOAS, University of London

📅 September 2007 – September 2008

B.A. in Arabic
Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille I

📅 September 2005 – September 2006

M.A. in French
University of Florida (USA)

📅 January 1993 – August 1995

B.A. in Liberal Arts
Hampshire College (USA)

📅 September 1986 – January 1991

PUBLICATIONS

📄 Articles

- Schweizer, Tobias and Benjamin Geer (2020). "Gravsearch: Transforming SPARQL to query humanities data". In: *Semantic Web* (in press). DOI: 10.3233/SW-200386.
- Rosenthaler, Lukas et al. (2017). "Simple Image Presentation Interface (SIPI): An IIIF-based Image Server". In: *Archiving Conference*, pp. 28–33. DOI: 10.2352/issn. 2168-3204.2017.1.0.28.

👥 Talk

- Schweizer, Tobias and Benjamin Geer (2015). "Knora: A Generic Storage System and API for Accessing and Reusing Digital Qualitative Research Data in the Humanities". URL: https://bit.ly/38YnO0T.