

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 storing, editing, searching, and linking humanities research data (over 130,000 lines of Scala and 18,000 lines of SPARQL).
- Lead developer of Gravsearch, Knora's innovative SPARQL-based query language compiler with type inference and optimisation (see Publications).
- Contributed to Sipi (<https://sipi.io/>), a IIIF-conformant image server written in C++.

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

📅 August 2012 – June 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

- Lead 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

📅 January 1993 – August 1995

B.A. in Music

Hampshire College

📅 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/38YnOOT>.