

# OpenAtlas

Open software for overcoming borders  
between disciplines language

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# About the Speaker

Alexander Watzinger (Alex)



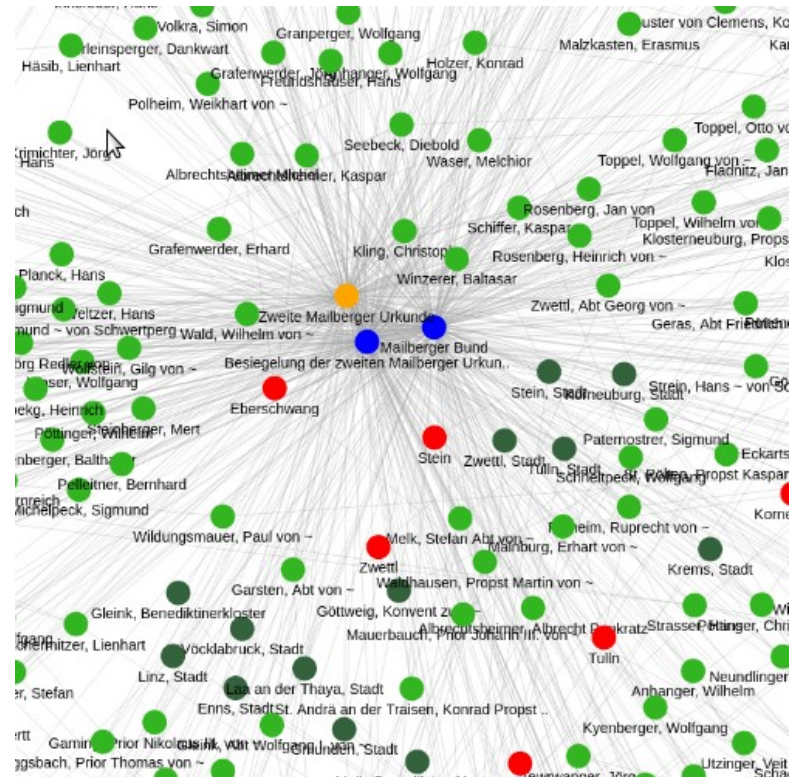
INDIGO workshop 2021

- Lead developer of OpenAtlas
- Works at the ACDH-CH, an institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Loves open source and scientific projects

# About OpenAtlas

<https://openatlas.eu>

- Open source, browser based database software
- Initiated about 10 years ago by Stefan Eichert
- Acquire, edit and manage research data
- CIDOC CRM as model
- Historical, archaeological and prosopographic projects, like MAMEMS



<https://demo.openatlas.eu/overview/network/>

# Questions

## For the Audience



IMC Leeds 2018

- Have you heard of OpenAtlas before?

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- Have you heard of OpenAtlas before?
- Have you used OpenAtlas, in a project or the demo?
- Have you ever worked with software developers?

# Overcoming Borders

## Cooperation between disciplines

- Starting situation
  - An idea for a scientific research project
  - Available sources and defined research questions
- Cooperation services
  - Providing the infrastructure
  - Data modeling and planning
  - Software development
  - Meetings and training
  - Long time archiving



# Overcoming Borders

## Challenges

- Different knowledge domains (concepts)
- Ever changing requirements
- Long time frame (years)
- Difficult to plan research and software





# Overcoming Borders

## Solutions

- Planning
- Feedback loops
- Communication
- Close cooperation



# Planning

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- Show and discuss progress regularly,  
e.g. monthly releases
- Flexible: adapt planning when needed
- If it gets overwhelming: prioritize

# Communication

Many different forms

- Direct communication: meetings, email, chat, ...
- Project website (<https://openatlas.eu>)
- Manual
- Issue tracker and roadmap
- Documentation: how-to guides, protocols, ...
- Demo and development demo versions
- Software releases

# Communication

## Meetings



IMC Leeds 2017

- Preferable in person
- **Structure:** clear purpose and decisions
- **Moderation:** respectful but decisive
- **Documentation:** before and after
- Take time: but use it wisely

# Tips

## When working with Software Developers

- If not there already, insist on
  - Regular updates
  - Visible progress
- Work together
  - Planning
  - Finding solutions
  - Prioritizing



OpenAtlas and THANADOS Summer Meeting 2019

# Thank you for listening



<https://openatlas.eu>