



OpenAtlas

An Open Source Application to Map Historical data with CIDOC CRM

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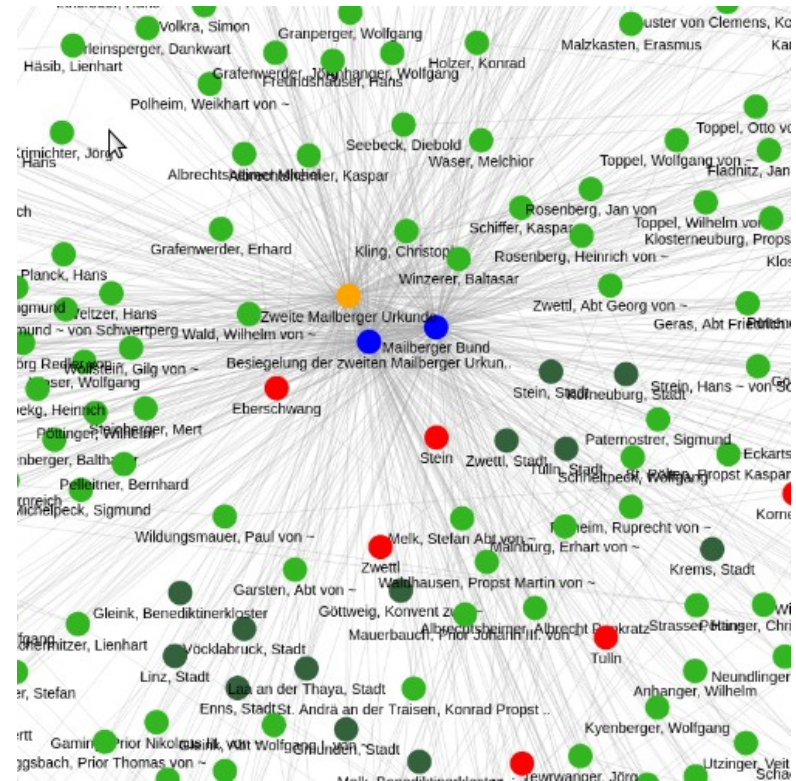
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OpenAtlas

<https://openatlas.eu>

- Open source, browser based database software
- Acquire, edit and manage research data
- Historical, archeological and prosopographic projects
- Developed by a small core team

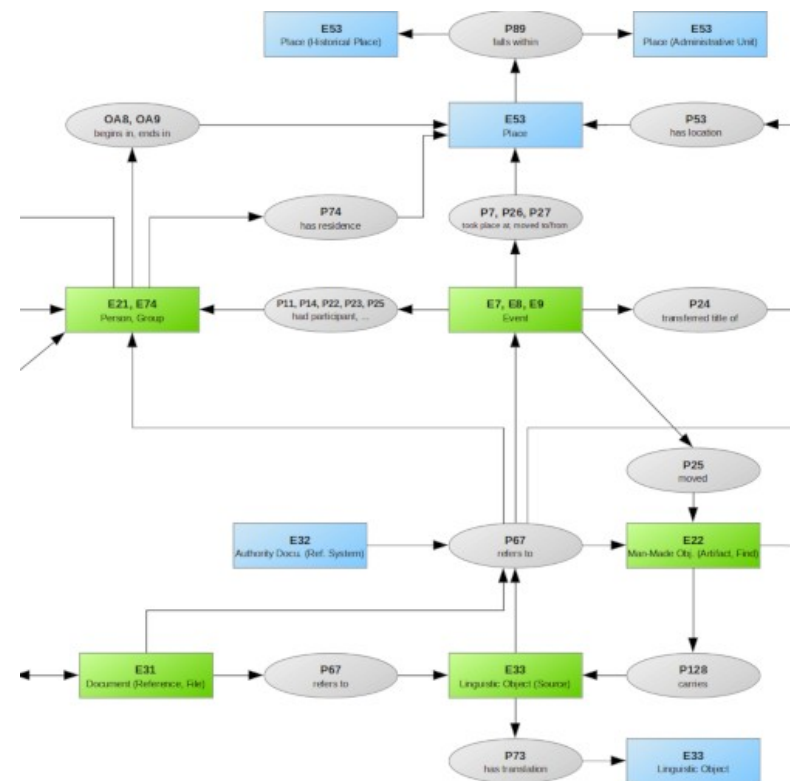


<https://demo.openatlas.eu/overview/network/>

Model

CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model

- International standard (ISO)
- Developed by CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group
- Entities with classes like actor, source, event, place connected via links
- Stored in an object oriented network



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

Names in Historical Projects

Challenges

- Different or uncertain spelling
- Name parts with meaning
- Ambiguous names
- Possible duplicates
- Changes over time

Falsehoods Programmers Believe About Names

1. People have exactly one canonical full name.
2. People have exactly one full name which they go by.
3. People have, at this point in time, exactly one canonical full name.
4. People have, at this point in time, one full name which they go by.
5. People have exactly N names, for any value of N.
6. People's names fit within a certain defined amount of space.
7. People's names do not change.
8. People's names change, but only at a certain enumerated set of events.
9. People's names are written in ASCII.
10. People's names are written in any single character set.
11. People's names are all mapped in Unicode code points.
12. People's names are case sensitive.
13. People's names are case insensitive.
14. People's names sometimes have prefixes or suffixes, but you can safely ignore those.
15. People's names do not contain numbers.

Patrick McKenzie: Falsehoods Programmers Believe About Names

<https://www.kalzumeus.com/2010/06/17/falsehoods-programmers-believe-about-names/>

Names in Historical Projects

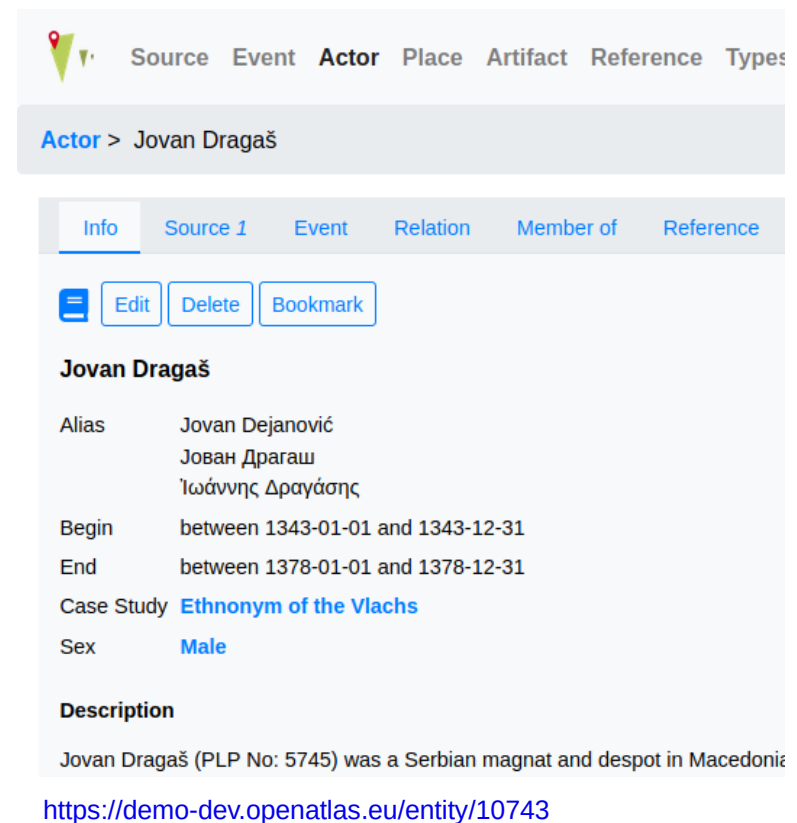
Names in Forms

- Classical approach
 - Title
 - First Name
 - Last Name
- This approach gets quickly problematic if:
 - A former name exists
 - A middle name exists
 - It's uncertain what was the first and what was the last name
- Would be adding more fields be a viable solution?

Names in Historical Projects

Names in OpenAtlas

- Only **one** free text field
- Unlimited aliases
- Supports a wide range of Unicode characters
- Title/function/profession via relations
- Tools to manage names



The screenshot displays the OpenAtlas web interface for an entity named 'Jovan Dragaš'. At the top, a navigation bar includes a location pin icon and tabs for 'Source', 'Event', 'Actor', 'Place', 'Artifact', 'Reference', and 'Types'. Below this, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Actor > Jovan Dragaš'. The main content area has a sub-navigation bar with tabs for 'Info', 'Source 1', 'Event', 'Relation', 'Member of', and 'Reference'. Under the 'Info' tab, there are buttons for 'Edit', 'Delete', and 'Bookmark'. The entity details are listed as follows:

- Jovan Dragaš**
- Alias:** Jovan Dejanović, Јован Драгаш, Ἰωάννης Δραγάσης
- Begin:** between 1343-01-01 and 1343-12-31
- End:** between 1378-01-01 and 1378-12-31
- Case Study:** [Ethnonym of the Vlachs](#)
- Sex:** [Male](#)
- Description:** Jovan Dragaš (PLP No: 5745) was a Serbian magnat and despot in Macedonia

The URL at the bottom is <https://demo-dev.openatlas.eu/entity/10743>.

Names in Historical Projects

Title, Function, Profession

- Always in a relation to a group or institution
- Multiple relations possible
 - Can differ in time
 - Can differ in context
 - Can differ in function
- Allows more detailed data and analysis

Actor > Maximilian I.

Info	Source	Event 44	Relation 21	Member of 4	Reference 1	File	Note
Link	+ Person	+ Group					
Show	25	entries					
Relation	Actor						
Child in law of	Karl der Kühne, Herzog von Burgund						
Child of	Friedrich III.						
Cousin of	Baden, Christoph I, Markgraf von ~						
Dienstherr von	Affligem, Geffroy von ~						
Dienstherr von	Carondelet, Jean de ~						
Dienstherr von	Gondeval, Nicolas de ~						
Dienstherr von	Groote, Charles de						
Dienstherr von	Kleve, Philipp von ~						
Dienstherr von	Liechtenstein, Bartholomäus von ~						
Dienstherr von	Wittem, Hendrik van ~						
Dienstherr von	Wolkenstein, Veit von ~						
Entsender von	Affligem, Geffroy von ~						
Entsender von	Groote, Charles de						
Entsender von	Kleve, Philipp von ~						
Entsender von	Lannoy, Jean de ~						
Entsender von	Vertreter Maximilians 1484 Juni 17						
Entsender von	Wittem, Hendrik van ~						
Husband of	Maria, Herzogin von Burgund						
Parent of	Philipp der Schöne						

<https://demo.openatlas.eu/entity/144#tab-relation>

Names in Historical Projects

Tools for names in OpenAtlas

- Links to external reference systems
- Display aliases in table overviews
- Also search in aliases
- Find name duplicates
- Find orphaned data

Admin > Check similar names

Class

Ratio

Show entries

Name
Andreya
Andreya
Andronikos III Palaiologos
Andronikos II Palaiologos
Banislavъ
Stanislavъ
Bogda
Bogde
Bogdan Prodan
Ioan Prodan
Bogdanъ (2)
Bogdanъ (1)
Bolta Exino
Costa Exino
Boyo
Boyo

<https://demo-dev.openatlas.eu/admin/similar>

Names in Historical Projects

Open Challenges

- There isn't one right solution, no silver bullet
- (Many) anonymous persons
- Track uncertainty if one name identifies one or more persons

Thank you for listening



<https://openatlas.eu>