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OpenAtlas

A Database System for the Humanities and Beyond

12th December 2025, OpenAtlas Workshop @ LMU

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Agenda

- Introduction to OpenAtlas and OpenAtlas Discovery
- Live presentation
- Finding groups and topics
- Entering data: interactive group work
- Results, feedback and discussions

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Alexander Watzinger (Alex)

- Lead developer of OpenAtlas
- Works at the ACDH / ÖAW
- Loves open source and scientific projects

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OpenAtlas 

- Project site: https://openatlas.eu
- Open Source, browser based database software
- Acquire, edit and manage research data
- Based on the model of CIDOC CRM
- Initiated over 10 ago by Stefan Eichert
- Mainly developed at the ACDH / ÖAW

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OpenAtlas Cooperations

- Projects from all fields of the humanities
- Mostly historical and archaeological projects
- A lot of synergy between the cooperations

MAMEMS

EPT

bITEM

APPROACHING BYZANTIUM

FemCare Vienna

ENtangled CHarters of ANaTolia (1200-1300) FWF

THANADOS

MEDICON

indigo

connec

DPP Digitising Patterns of Power

acdh

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Mission Statement

- https://openatlas.eu/mission
- Open source – Open data access
- Transparent workflow and communication
- High data integrity and coding standards
- Usability
- Interoperability through
  - CIDOC CRM
  - FAIR principles
  - API and links to external reference systems

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Structured data

Aim

- Search
- Compare
- Merge
- Research questions

Workflow

- Identify classes for entities
- Add attributes
- Link entities -> network

Challenge

- Balance between easy data entry and acquiring detailed information

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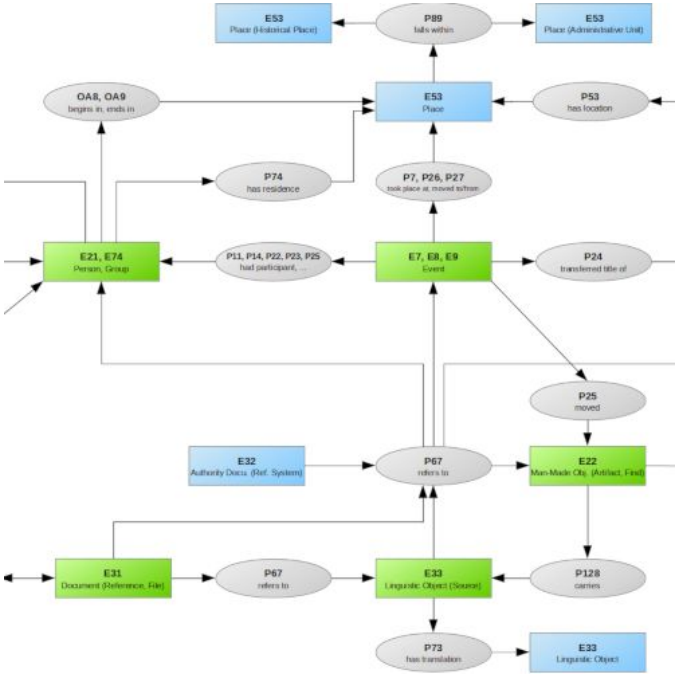
Model - CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model

- International standard (ISO)
- Developed by the CIDOC CRM Special Interest Group
- Specifies classes for entities like actor, source, event, place and rules how to link them



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Features

- Detailed description of Features in the manual
- Spatial, object, actor and event information
  - Detailed descriptions of objects
  - Person networks
    - Members of groups and their functions
    - Personal relations, kinship and more
  - Events
    - Hierarchical structure
    - Sequences of events
  - Geographical and temporal information about every entity

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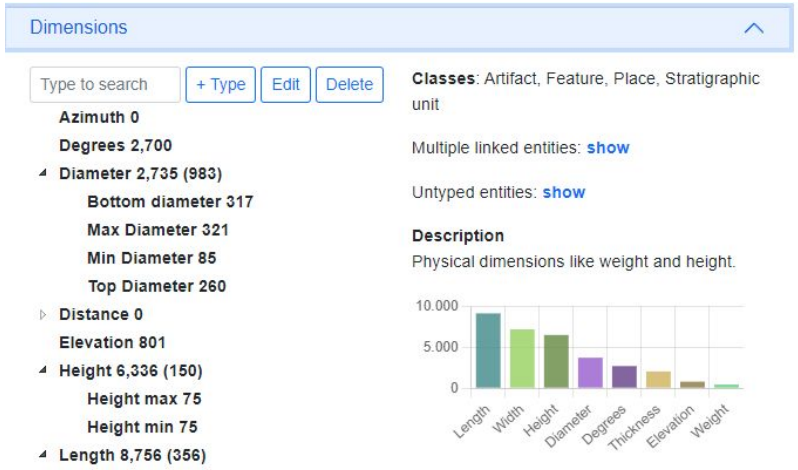
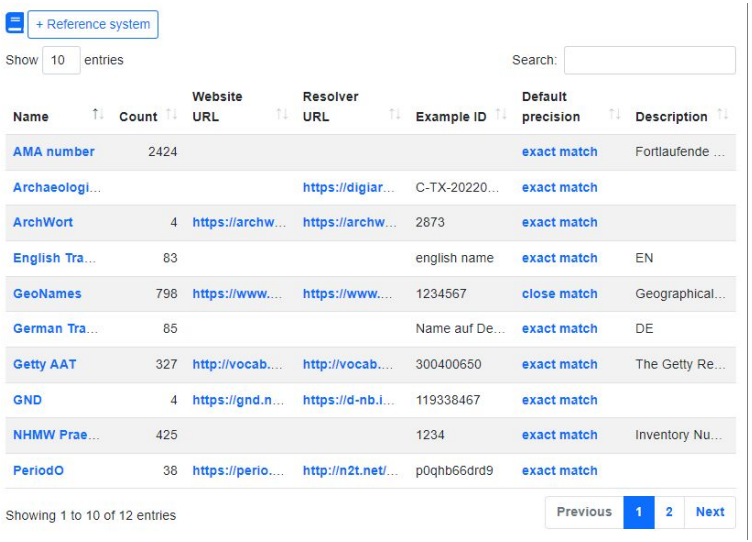
Features

- Very adaptable types and reference systems





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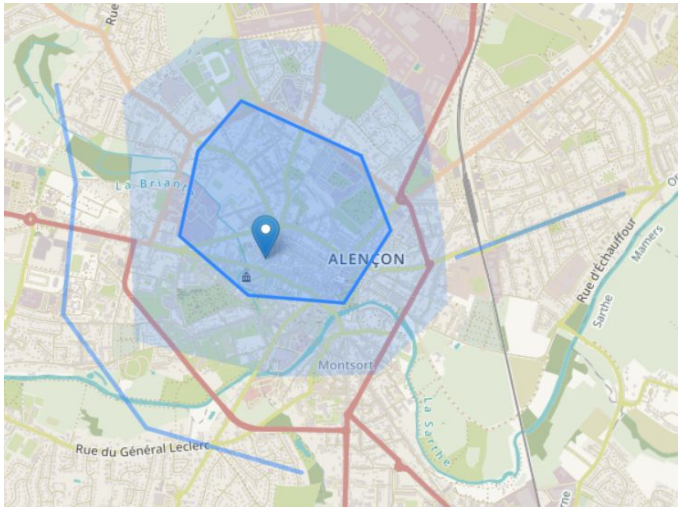
Features

- Solutions for uncertainty in space and time

Begin	1011	01	01	comment
	1020	12	31	
End	1425	08	01	destruction
	1425	10	31	



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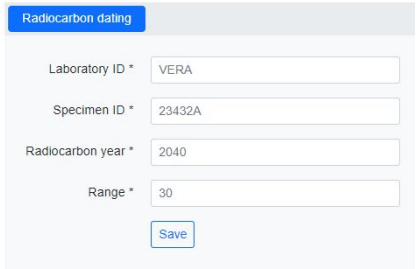
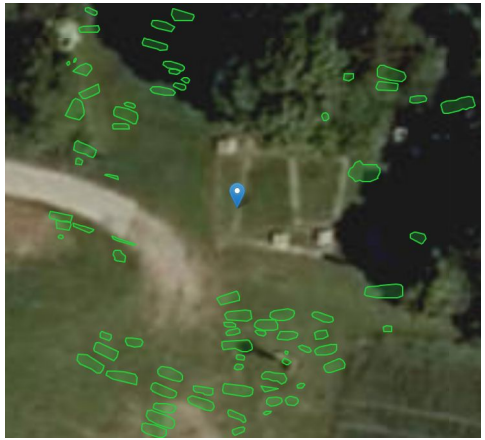
Features

- Archaeological/anthropological features
  - Subunits
  - Radiocarbon dating
  - Sex estimation





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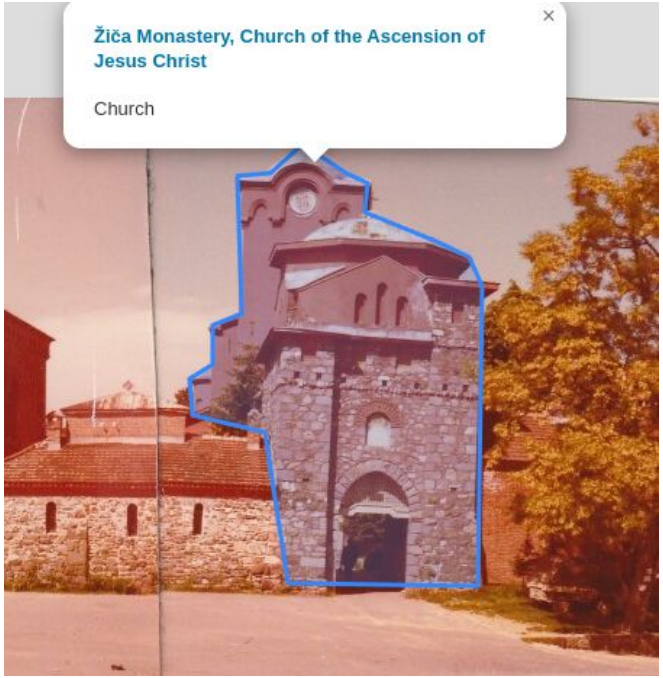
Features

- IIIF technology
- Image annotation
- Text annotation



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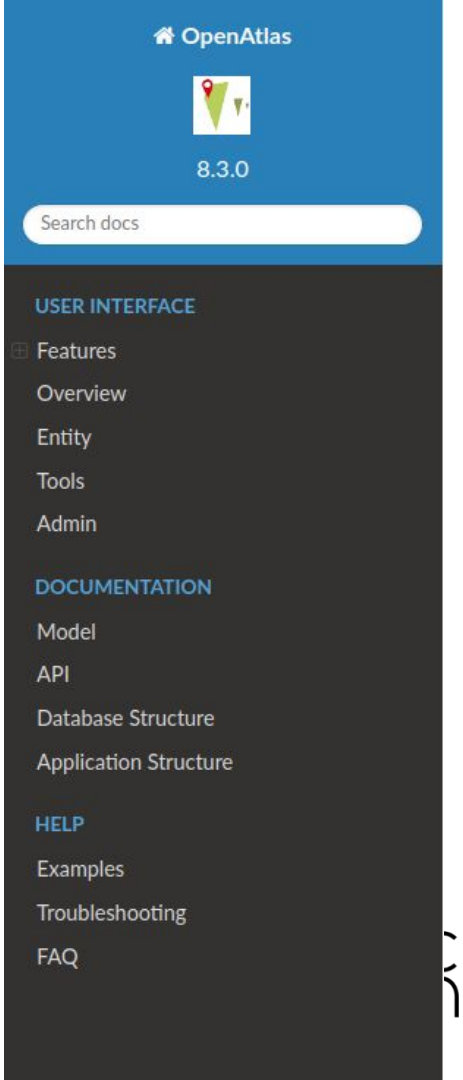
Features

- Documentation
  - Project website: openatlas.eu
  - Code on GitHub
  - Detailed User Manual
  - Technical Wiki, installation notes
  - Issue tracker, roadmap for planning
  - Public meeting protocols



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Features

- User management
- Password functions
- Newsletter

	Admin	Manager	Editor	Contributor	Readonly	Guest
Browse data	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Edit data	yes	yes	yes	yes*		
Edit types	yes	yes	yes			
Add custom types	yes	yes				
Add reference systems	yes	yes				
Import/Export	yes	yes				
User management	yes	yes				
System settings	yes					

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A Cross-Domain Visualization Platform for the Digital Humanities

12th December 2025, OpenAtlas Workshop @ LMU

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Olivia Reichl

- Frontend developer in the OpenAtlas team
- Works at ACDH / ÖAW
- Studies at the Danube University Krems
- Loves everything about good design, gamification and lifelong learning

OpenAtlas Discovery

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OpenAtlas Discovery

Presentation site for OpenAtlas projects

Demo: https://openatlas-discovery-demo.acdh-ch-dev.oeaw.ac.at

- Currently under development: Version 1.0.0 is coming soon
- Open source, accessible via GitHub
- Goal: make project data and results available to a wider audience

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Features

Accessible

Visual

Configurable

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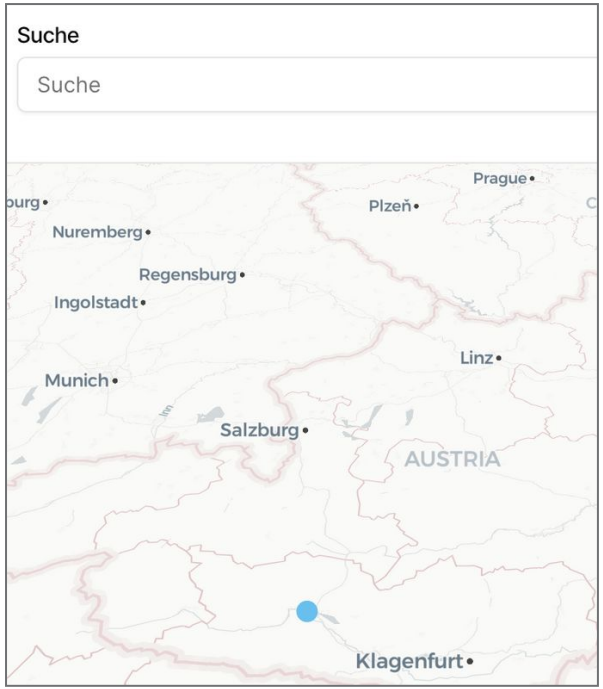
2 Parts



Team

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Stefan Eichert

Stefan is the the initiator and master mind behind the OpenAtlas project. His main research fields

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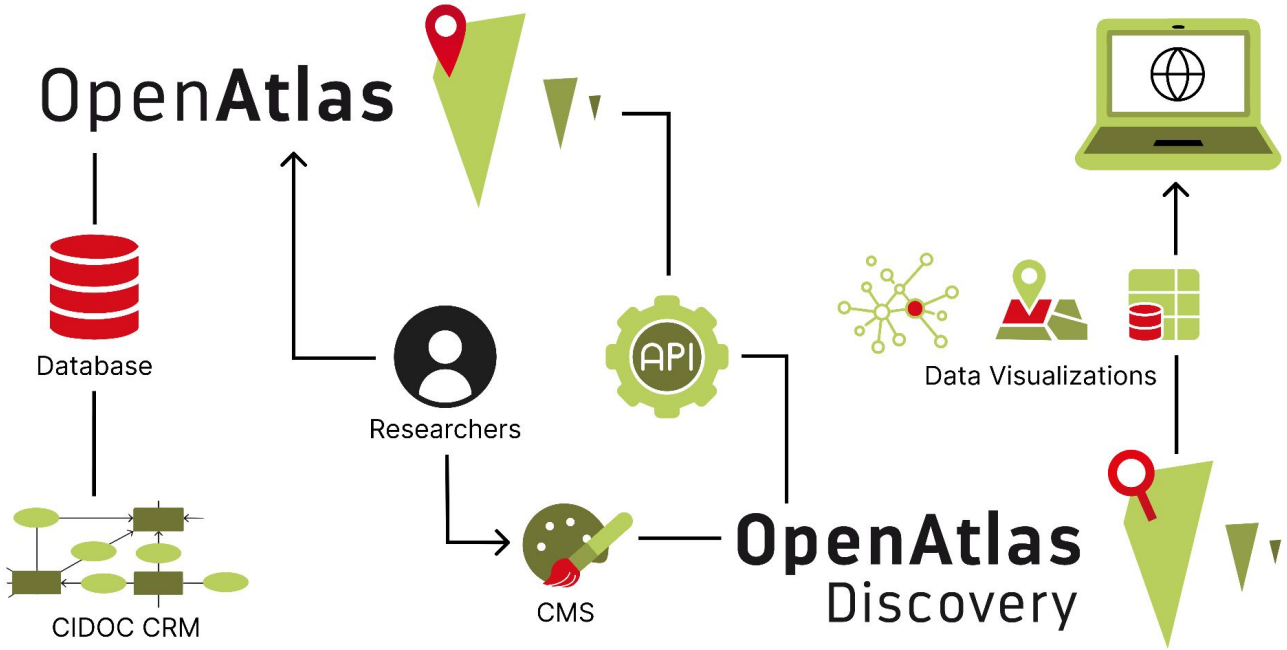

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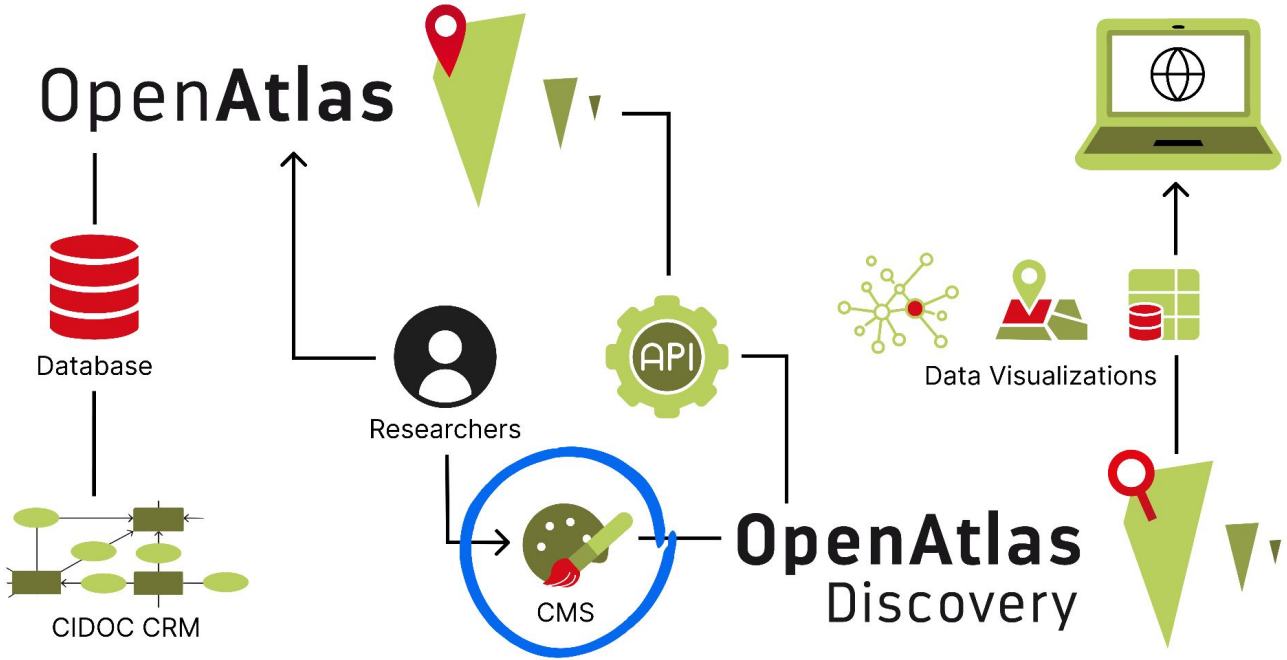

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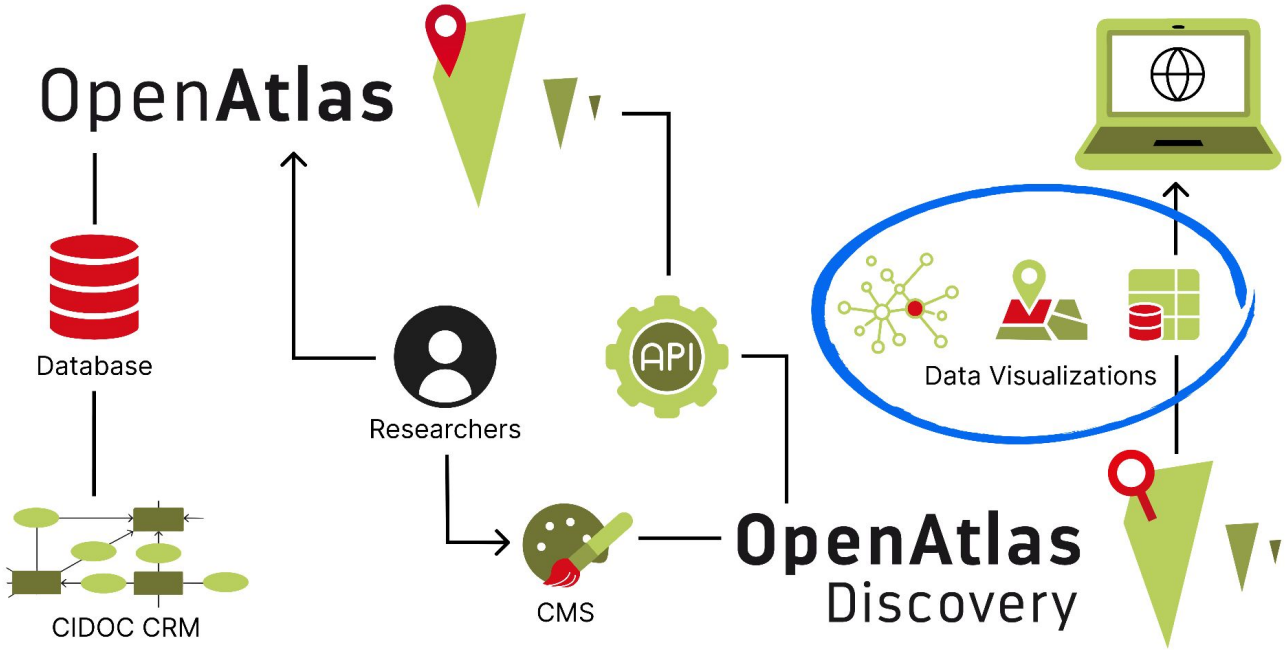

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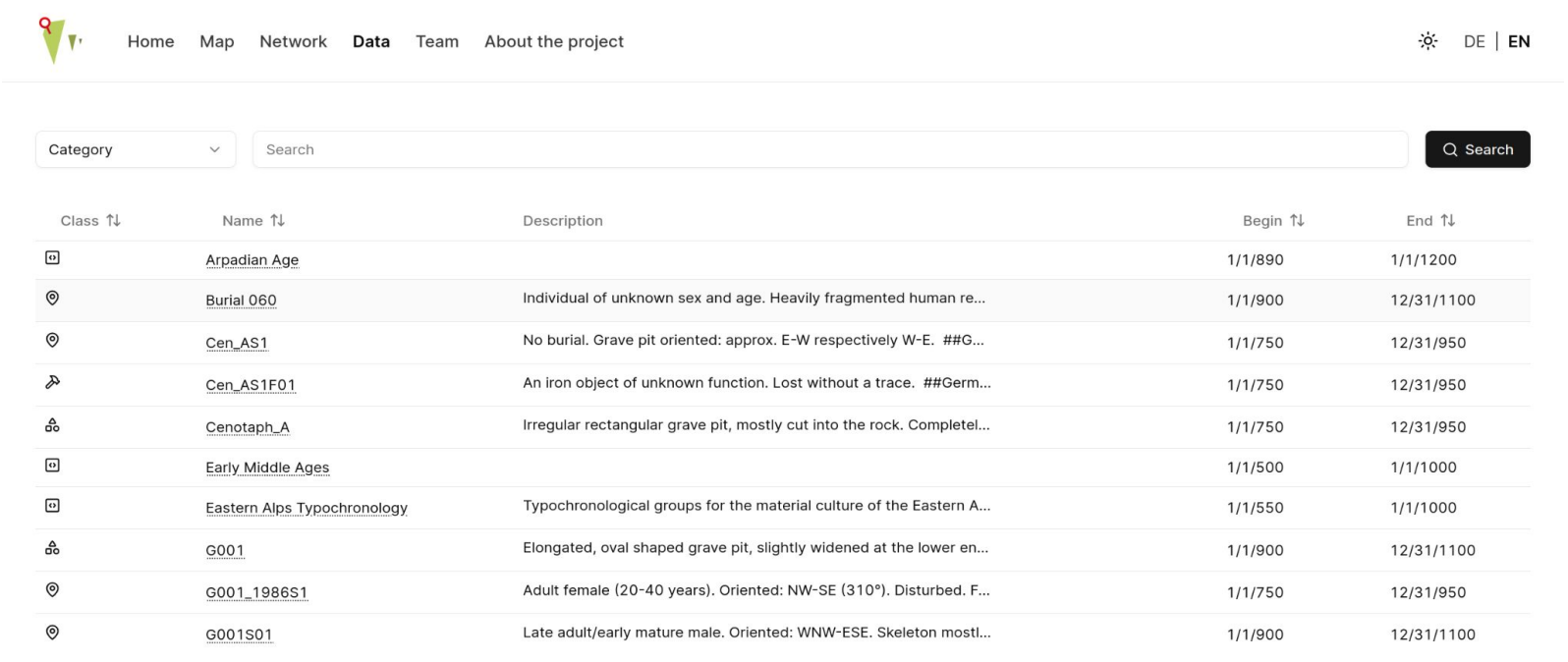
Data Table



Class	Name	Description	Begin	End
	Arpadian Age		1/1/890	1/1/1200
	Burial 060	Individual of unknown sex and age. Heavily fragmented human re...	1/1/900	12/31/1100
	Cen_AS1	No burial. Grave pit oriented: approx. E-W respectively W-E. ##G...	1/1/750	12/31/950
	Cen_AS1F01	An iron object of unknown function. Lost without a trace. ##Germ...	1/1/750	12/31/950
	Cenotaph_A	Irregular rectangular grave pit, mostly cut into the rock. Completel...	1/1/750	12/31/950
	Early Middle Ages		1/1/500	1/1/1000
	Eastern Alps Typochronology	Typochronological groups for the material culture of the Eastern A...	1/1/550	1/1/1000
	G001	Elongated, oval shaped grave pit, slightly widened at the lower en...	1/1/900	12/31/1100
	G001_1986S1	Adult female (20-40 years). Oriented: NW-SE (310°). Disturbed. F...	1/1/750	12/31/950
	G001S01	Late adult/early mature male. Oriented: WNW-ESE. Skeleton mostl...	1/1/900	12/31/1100

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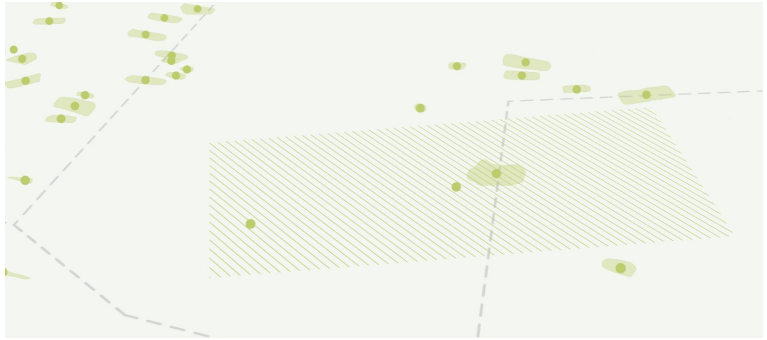
Map



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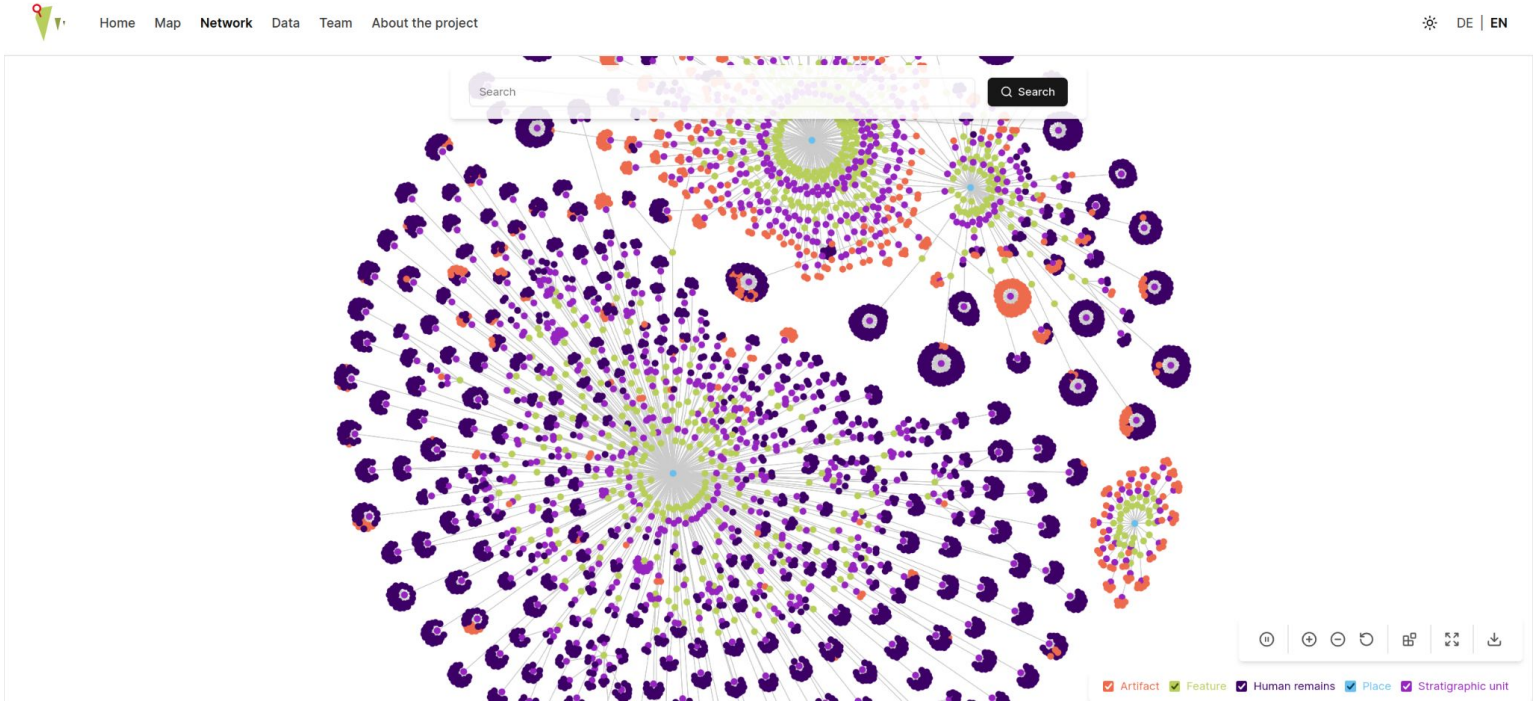
Network



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Live Demonstration

https://demo.openatlas.eu

User: Demolina, Password: Demolina

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Exercise Level: **easy**

- https://lmu.openatlas.eu
- Create an artifact (painting / sculpture / ...) and add an image
- Create a person and add it as the artifact owner
- Create a place where it has been created
- Create a place where it is at this date
- Create a move event to showcase it's movement
- Results are visible at the presentation site: https://discover-lmu.openatlas.eu

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Exercise Level: **advanced**

- https://lmu.openatlas.eu
- Use your own ideas / data
- Ideally, the data contains sources, persons, places and events
- The features of text- or image-annotation should be explored
- Relevant data connections should be entered via links
- Results are visible at the presentation site:
  https://discover-lmu.openatlas.eu

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Thank you!

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