Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey for my master thesis at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It concerns temporal vagueness within historical datasets.

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In the next sections, you will find an introduction to the topic, followed by 3 blocks of questions. This survey takes around 10 minutes to complete.

When working with datasets that contain historical data, date values like "ca. 1820" or "1880?" are not uncommon. Here is an example that shows how such entries typically look like:

title: Watch and pair case creator: Francis Stamper mediaURL: <url to image>

date: ca. 1690

This entry is taken from the Europeana dataset and is about a pocketwatch created in "ca. 1690" by the British watchmaker Francis Stamper, where the media URL leads to an image of the watch. Vague date values like the above "ca. 1690" are problematic because they are not precise. "ca." indicates that the watch was most likely created in 1690 but it could have been another year as well. Furthermore, the degree of deviation is unknown since different historians may have different definitions of "ca.": some may interpret it as a deviation of +/- 5 years, others as a deviation of +/- 15 years.

With my research, I want to solve this problem and enable historians to be on the same page when creating or analyzing such vague statements in the context of dates. I will extend the existing Linked Open Data ontology "LODE" which represents historical time(see: https://yocabs.acdb.oeaw.ac.at/date.entities/en/). I will create a new data model that is capable of

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With this survey I want to find out how domain experts typically deal with dates and occurrences of vagueness within them in everyday work and where the main difficulties and problems lie when doing so. Based on this feedback I will prioritize the functionalities that should be implemented.

Thank you for the feedback in advance!

Q1: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event(which is a point in time) lies between two dates(in other words: within a timespan).

An event/thing may be virtually anything that a data record has been created for. This applies to all subsequent questions as well. In the introductory example this would be the creation of the watch.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree
AgreeStrongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
✓ straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient itime-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient itime-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree Disagree
Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agreeAgreeStrongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
✓ straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q10: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated after a specific year that I specify. For example: After 1850

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
✓ straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
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For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agreeAgreeStrongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) □ inefficient □ time-consuming □ prone to error □ resulting in inaccurate results □ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems ☑ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question □ straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
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requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
O Somewhat agree	
O Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	
inefficient	
time-consuming	
prone to error	
resulting in inaccurate results	
requiring technical work-arounds	
requiring misuse of one or more systems	
☐ requiring misuse of one or more systems✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	

Q15: Given two date options like "1880/1881" I am wondering: which year is more probable to be the correct one and how high is this probability?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
○ Agree
O Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) vinefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
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Providing (sometimes very wide or very vague) date ranges for purposes of search/indexing/sorting/classification, but avoiding the appearance of spurious exactitude for the reader.

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In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
O Somewhat agree	
Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	*
	*
possible)	*
possible) inefficient	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	*

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
Somewhat agree	
Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient	•
possible)	•
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	•
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	•
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	•
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	•
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds	•
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
O Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
Somewhat agree	
O Agree	
Strongly agree	
M/han an finanta divitib this much lang finaling a salution for it is divined.	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are	*
possible)	*
	*
possible)	*
possible) inefficient	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	*
possible) □ inefficient ☑ time-consuming □ prone to error □ resulting in inaccurate results	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds	*
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	*

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is

after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) winefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
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possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
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Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

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In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
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requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q10: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated after a specific year that I specify. For example: After 1850

In m	ny daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
\bigcirc	Strongly disagree
\bigcirc	Disagree
0	Somewhat disagree
0	Neither agree or disagree
0	Somewhat agree
()	Agree
\bigcirc	Strongly agree
	en confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are *sible)
	inefficient
	time-consuming
	prone to error
	resulting in inaccurate results
	requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
	requiring middae of one of more systems
	I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
	I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward

Q12: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated as one of two years that I specify. For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
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straightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *		
Strongly disagree		
O Disagree		
Somewhat disagree		
Neither agree or disagree		
Somewhat agree		
Agree		
Strongly agree		
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)		
inefficient		
time-consuming		
prone to error		
resulting in inaccurate results		
requiring technical work-arounds		
requiring misuse of one or more systems		
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question		
straightforward		
Q15: Given two date options like "1880/1881" I am wondering: which year is more probable to		
The second of th		

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V-gIREXC3RTQw-y0N1hX_wmd9U7cAdRvN2mC_77tOWc/edit#responses

 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming
Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
 Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
 Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
 Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
 Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
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I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

It is difficult to express e.g. someones birthday was on May 5th but I don't know the year: So having fixed day and month but uncertain year

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In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
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O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree 	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) □ inefficient ✓ time-consuming □ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results	*
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Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. * Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree * When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward	
Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	Strongly disagree
Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	
Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	Disagree
Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	Somewhat disagree
Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	Neither agree or disagree
Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient itime-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	Somewhat agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds lam never/very rarely confronted with this question ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **	○ Agree
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	Strongly agree
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	
	possible)

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are * possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

For example: After 1850

 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
 Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
 Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
 Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
 Agree Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
 Strongly agree When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
✓ straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Q12: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated as one of two years that I specify. For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
DisagreeSomewhat disagreeNeither agree or disagree	
	Somewhat agree
	○ Agree
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	
inefficient	
time-consuming	
time-consuming prone to error	
prone to error	
prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	
prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	
prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	
prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	

was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagreeDisagreeSomewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
Somewhat agree	
○ Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient	*
time-consuming	
prone to error	
resulting in inaccurate results	
requiring technical work-arounds	
requiring misuse of one or more systems	
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	
straightforward	
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the	

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are *
possible)
possible) inefficient
inefficient
inefficient time-consuming
inefficient time-consuming prone to error
inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
 inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
 inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems ✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q15: Given two date options like "1880/1881" I am wondering: which year is more probable to be the correct one and how high is this probability?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
O Somewhat agree	
○ Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	*
	*
possible)	*
possible) inefficient	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question	*

Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

I have also found cases where it says "Published before 1700" or similar.

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Temporal vagueness within historical datasets

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey for my master thesis at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It concerns temporal vagueness within historical datasets.

If you choose to participate in this survey, all of your responses will be treated anonymously, i.e., none of the responses will be connected to identifying information. If you have any doubts or questions, feel free to contact me: Fabian Witeczek, f.m.witeczek@student.vu.nl

In the next sections, you will find an introduction to the topic, followed by 3 blocks of questions. This survey takes around 10 minutes to complete.

When working with datasets that contain historical data, date values like "ca. 1820" or "1880?" are not uncommon. Here is an example that shows how such entries typically look like:

title: Watch and pair case creator: Francis Stamper mediaURL: <url to image>

date: ca. 1690

This entry is taken from the Europeana dataset and is about a pocketwatch created in "ca. 1690" by the British watchmaker Francis Stamper, where the media URL leads to an image of the watch. Vague date values like the above "ca. 1690" are problematic because they are not precise. "ca." indicates that the watch was most likely created in 1690 but it could have been another year as well. Furthermore, the degree of deviation is unknown since different historians may have different definitions of "ca.": some may interpret it as a deviation of \pm 0 years, others as a deviation of \pm 1 years.

With my research, I want to solve this problem and enable historians to be on the same page when creating or analyzing such vague statements in the context of dates. I will extend the existing Linked Open Data ontology "LODE" which represents historical time(see:

https://vocabs.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/date_entities/en/). I will create a new data model that is capable of representing different types of temporal vagueness or rather vague dates.

With this survey I want to find out how domain experts typically deal with dates and occurrences of vagueness within them in everyday work and where the main difficulties and problems lie when doing so. Based on this feedback I will prioritize the functionalities that should be implemented.

Thank you for the feedback in advance!

Q1: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event(which is a point in time) lies between two dates(in other words: within a timespan).

An event/thing may be virtually anything that a data record has been created for. This applies to all subsequent questions as well. In the introductory example this would be the creation of the watch.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient ime-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagreeDisagree
Somewhat disagreeNeither agree or disagreeSomewhat agree
AgreeStrongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
○ Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
resulting in inaccurate results
resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
✓ prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) □ inefficient ☑ time-consuming □ prone to error □ resulting in inaccurate results □ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question □ straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
v time-consuming
✓ time-consuming✓ prone to error
prone to error
✓ prone to error✓ resulting in inaccurate results
 ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ☐ requiring technical work-arounds
 ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results □ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems
 ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results □ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q10: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated after a specific year that I specify. For example: After 1850

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In m	ny daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
0	Strongly disagree
O	Disagree
\bigcirc	Somewhat disagree
\bigcirc	Neither agree or disagree
\bigcirc	Somewhat agree
\bigcirc	Agree
\bigcirc	Strongly agree
	en confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are * ssible) inefficient time-consuming
	prone to error
	resulting in inaccurate results
	requiring technical work-arounds
	requiring misuse of one or more systems
	requiring initiates of one of more dysterns
✓	I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
✓	

Q12: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated as one of two years that I specify. For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

Strongly disagree		
O Disagree		
Somewhat disagree		
Neither agree or disagree		
Somewhat agree		
Agree		
Strongly agree		
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)		
inefficient		
☐ inefficient ✓ time-consuming		
time-consuming		
time-consuming prone to error		
 ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results 		
 time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds 		
 time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems 		
 ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds ☐ requiring misuse of one or more systems ☐ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question 		

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
✓ prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

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date: ca. 1690

This entry is taken from the Europeana dataset and is about a pocketwatch created in "ca. 1690" by the British watchmaker Francis Stamper, where the media URL leads to an image of the watch. Vague date values like the above "ca. 1690" are problematic because they are not precise. "ca." indicates that the watch was most likely created in 1690 but it could have been another year as well. Furthermore, the degree of deviation is unknown since different historians may have different definitions of "ca.": some may interpret it as a deviation of +/- 5 years, others as a deviation of +/- 15 years.

With my research, I want to solve this problem and enable historians to be on the same page when creating or analyzing such vague statements in the context of dates. I will extend the existing Linked Open Data ontology "LODE" which represents historical time(see:

https://vocabs.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/date_entities/en/). I will create a new data model that is capable of representing different types of temporal vagueness or rather vague dates.

With this survey I want to find out how domain experts typically deal with dates and occurrences of vagueness within them in everyday work and where the main difficulties and problems lie when doing so. Based on this feedback I will prioritize the functionalities that should be implemented.

Thank you for the feedback in advance!

Q1: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event(which is a point in time) lies between two dates(in other words: within a timespan).

An event/thing may be virtually anything that a data record has been created for. This applies to all subsequent questions as well. In the introductory example this would be the creation of the watch.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
Somewhat agree	
Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	
possible)	
possible) inefficient	
possible) inefficient time-consuming	
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds	
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *		
Strongly disagree		
O Disagree		
O Somewhat disagree		
Neither agree or disagree		
O Somewhat agree		
Agree		
Strongly agree		
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)		
possible)		
possible) inefficient		
possible) inefficient time-consuming		
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error		
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results		
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds		
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems		

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *		
O Strongly disagree		
O Disagree		
O Somewhat disagree		
Neither agree or disagree		
Somewhat agree		
Agree		
Strongly agree		
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)		
inefficient		
time-consuming		
prone to error		
resulting in inaccurate results		
requiring technical work-arounds		
requiring misuse of one or more systems		
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question		
straightforward		

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
O Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) □ inefficient ☑ time-consuming □ prone to error □ resulting in inaccurate results ☑ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) □ inefficient ☑ time-consuming □ prone to error □ resulting in inaccurate results ☑ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

For example: After 1850

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q12: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated as one of two years that I specify. For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V-gIREXC3RTQw-y0N1hX_wmd9U7cAdRvN2mC_77tOWc/edit#responses

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

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Google Formulare

Temporal vagueness within historical datasets

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey for my master thesis at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It concerns temporal vagueness within historical datasets.

If you choose to participate in this survey, all of your responses will be treated anonymously, i.e., none of the responses will be connected to identifying information. If you have any doubts or questions, feel free to contact me: Fabian Witeczek, f.m.witeczek@student.vu.nl

In the next sections, you will find an introduction to the topic, followed by 3 blocks of questions. This survey takes around 10 minutes to complete.

When working with datasets that contain historical data, date values like "ca. 1820" or "1880?" are not uncommon. Here is an example that shows how such entries typically look like:

title: Watch and pair case creator: Francis Stamper mediaURL: <url to image>

date: ca. 1690

This entry is taken from the Europeana dataset and is about a pocketwatch created in "ca. 1690" by the British watchmaker Francis Stamper, where the media URL leads to an image of the watch. Vague date values like the above "ca. 1690" are problematic because they are not precise. "ca." indicates that the watch was most likely created in 1690 but it could have been another year as well. Furthermore, the degree of deviation is unknown since different historians may have different definitions of "ca.": some may interpret it as a deviation of \pm 0 years, others as a deviation of \pm 1 years.

With my research, I want to solve this problem and enable historians to be on the same page when creating or analyzing such vague statements in the context of dates. I will extend the existing Linked Open Data ontology "LODE" which represents historical time(see:

https://vocabs.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/date_entities/en/). I will create a new data model that is capable of representing different types of temporal vagueness or rather vague dates.

With this survey I want to find out how domain experts typically deal with dates and occurrences of vagueness within them in everyday work and where the main difficulties and problems lie when doing so. Based on this feedback I will prioritize the functionalities that should be implemented.

Thank you for the feedback in advance!

Q1: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event(which is a point in time) lies between two dates(in other words: within a timespan).

An event/thing may be virtually anything that a data record has been created for. This applies to all subsequent questions as well. In the introductory example this would be the creation of the watch.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
O Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
O Somewhat agree	
Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming	*
possible) inefficient	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	*

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems l am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient inefficient prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) ✓ inefficient ✓ time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) vinefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems lam never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
✓ prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) vinefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) vinefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

For example: After 1850

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
v prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient
time-consuming
✓ prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
O Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

At least in the archaeology of Southern Pampean Hills (Córdoba, Argentina) there is not a consensus about periods that summarize the history of prehispanic populations. The result is a large list of different periods or/and temporal categories produced by many archaeologist, in consequence is confusing understand the local archaeological past, because two different periods can alude to the same event.

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date: ca. 1690

This entry is taken from the Europeana dataset and is about a pocketwatch created in "ca. 1690" by the British watchmaker Francis Stamper, where the media URL leads to an image of the watch. Vague date values like the above "ca. 1690" are problematic because they are not precise. "ca." indicates that the watch was most likely created in 1690 but it could have been another year as well. Furthermore, the degree of deviation is unknown since different historians may have different definitions of "ca.": some may interpret it as a deviation of +/- 5 years, others as a deviation of +/- 15 years.

With my research, I want to solve this problem and enable historians to be on the same page when creating or analyzing such vague statements in the context of dates. I will extend the existing Linked Open Data ontology "LODE" which represents historical time(see:

https://vocabs.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/date_entities/en/). I will create a new data model that is capable of representing different types of temporal vagueness or rather vague dates.

With this survey I want to find out how domain experts typically deal with dates and occurrences of vagueness within them in everyday work and where the main difficulties and problems lie when doing so. Based on this feedback I will prioritize the functionalities that should be implemented.

Thank you for the feedback in advance!

Q1: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event(which is a point in time) lies between two dates(in other words: within a timespan).

An event/thing may be virtually anything that a data record has been created for. This applies to all subsequent questions as well. In the introductory example this would be the creation of the watch.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
O Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
Somewhat agree	
Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	*
	*
possible)	*
possible) inefficient	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error	*
possible) □ inefficient ☑ time-consuming □ prone to error □ resulting in inaccurate results	*
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds	*
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems	*

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagreeDisagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagreeSomewhat agree
AgreeStrongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
v time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
 inefficient ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question □ straightforward

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
 inefficient ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question □ straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are * possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) □ inefficient ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) □ inefficient ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient ✓ time-consuming ✓ prone to error ✓ resulting in inaccurate results ✓ requiring technical work-arounds □ requiring misuse of one or more systems □ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q10: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated after a specific year that I specify.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
O Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
✓ prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems lam never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q15: Given two date options like "1880/1881" I am wondering: which year is more probable to

be the correct one and how high is this probability?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are
possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

Different types of dates other than date ranges

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Temporal vagueness within historical datasets

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey for my master thesis at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It concerns temporal vagueness within historical datasets.

If you choose to participate in this survey, all of your responses will be treated anonymously, i.e., none of the responses will be connected to identifying information. If you have any doubts or questions, feel free to contact me: Fabian Witeczek, f.m.witeczek@student.vu.nl

In the next sections, you will find an introduction to the topic, followed by 3 blocks of questions. This survey takes around 10 minutes to complete.

When working with datasets that contain historical data, date values like "ca. 1820" or "1880?" are not uncommon. Here is an example that shows how such entries typically look like:

title: Watch and pair case creator: Francis Stamper mediaURL: <url to image>

date: ca. 1690

This entry is taken from the Europeana dataset and is about a pocketwatch created in "ca. 1690" by the British watchmaker Francis Stamper, where the media URL leads to an image of the watch. Vague date values like the above "ca. 1690" are problematic because they are not precise. "ca." indicates that the watch was most likely created in 1690 but it could have been another year as well. Furthermore, the degree of deviation is unknown since different historians may have different definitions of "ca.": some may interpret it as a deviation of +/- 5 years, others as a deviation of +/- 15 years.

With my research, I want to solve this problem and enable historians to be on the same page when creating or analyzing such vague statements in the context of dates. I will extend the existing Linked Open Data ontology "LODE" which represents historical time(see:

https://vocabs.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/date_entities/en/). I will create a new data model that is capable of representing different types of temporal vagueness or rather vague dates.

With this survey I want to find out how domain experts typically deal with dates and occurrences of vagueness within them in everyday work and where the main difficulties and problems lie when doing so. Based on this feedback I will prioritize the functionalities that should be implemented.

Thank you for the feedback in advance!

Q1: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event(which is a point in time) lies between two dates(in other words: within a timespan).

An event/thing may be virtually anything that a data record has been created for. This applies to all subsequent questions as well. In the introductory example this would be the creation of the watch.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems

Q2: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of a certain artifact/event is completely vague(meaning it does not indicate a date) or is specifying a date(even if it is vague).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward

Q3: I would like to know whether the date(typically a point in time) for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is before a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
O Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
✓ time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward

Q4: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is after a certain date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q5: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is provided with a "circa" statement.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q6: I would like to know whether the date for the creation/happening of an artifact/event is one of two date options(e.g. 1880/1881).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are * possible)
possible)
possible) inefficient
possible) inefficient time-consuming
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems
possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q7: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely* but lie within a timespan that I specify.

* vaguely in this context means: the event/artifact is not dated clearly(e.g. "ca. 1880-1882" in this case). In all following questions it is assumed that the events/artifacts do not have a clear date.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q8: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely with complete vagueness(e.g. "?" as a date).

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q9: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated vaguely before a certain year that I specify. For example: Before 1700.

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *	
Strongly disagree	
O Disagree	
O Somewhat disagree	
Neither agree or disagree	
Somewhat agree	
Agree	
Strongly agree	
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)	*
inefficient	
time-consuming	
prone to error	
resulting in inaccurate results	
requiring technical work-arounds	
requiring misuse of one or more systems	
I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward	

Q10: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated after a specific year that I specify. For example: After 1850

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
○ Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Q11: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated around a specific year that I specify. For example: ca. 1800

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
inefficient
time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
012: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated as one of two years that I specify

Q12: I would like to know which events/artifacts are dated as one of two years that I specify. For example: 1880/1881

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
 Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree or disagree Somewhat agree Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
 inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems ✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question straightforward
Q13: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: what deviation (from the year 1830) was known to the creator of the record?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this questionstraightforward
Q14: Given a vague date like "ca. 1830" I am wondering: how high is the confidence that the specified year is correct(and does NOT deviate)?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
○ Agree
O Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are possible)
possible)
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possible) inefficient time-consuming prone to error resulting in inaccurate results requiring technical work-arounds requiring misuse of one or more systems I am never/very rarely confronted with this question

Q15: Given two date options like "1880/1881" I am wondering: which year is more probable to be the correct one and how high is this probability?

In my daily work, I am often confronted with this problem. *
Strongly disagree
O Disagree
O Somewhat disagree
Neither agree or disagree
O Somewhat agree
Agree
Strongly agree
When confronted with this problem, finding a solution for it is (multiple answers are * possible)
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time-consuming
prone to error
resulting in inaccurate results
requiring technical work-arounds
requiring misuse of one or more systems
✓ I am never/very rarely confronted with this question
straightforward
Last question: Beyond the questions asked(Q1-Q15), what are some other struggles/problems you encounter when dealing with vague dates in the context of historical data? Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire!

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