## Point and Find: The Intuitive User Experience in Accessing Spatially Structured Dialect Dictionaries

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## Abstract

The WBÖ is a long-term dictionary project (1911: foundation of the institute, 1963-~2020: publication). The collection of unique dialect data (\pm Fig.1) in the era of the former Austrian-Hungarian monarchy took place mainly until 1930. At that point of time about 5 mio. hand-written paper slips had been collected.



Figure 1: Voucher to be digitized in the DBÖ with information about location ('Ort') and collector ('Sammler')

In 1993 the project *Datenbank der bairischen Mundarten in Österreich (DBÖ)* started, aiming the digitization of the whole material and background information ( $\downarrow$  Fig.2).

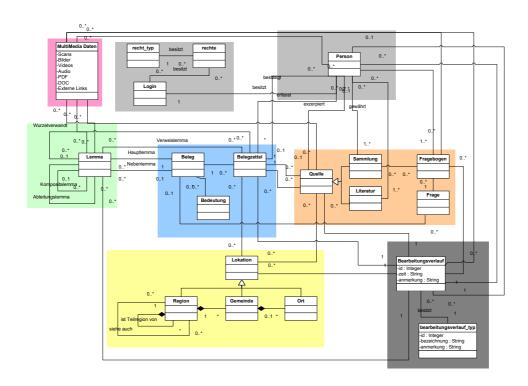


Figure 2: New Database schema developed in the project dbo@ema

In 1998 a so called 'Straffungskonzept' was issued to the WBÖ targeting the completion of the dictionary in 2020 as a (virtual) unit consisting of the printed dictionary and the complementary database.

Dialect data are heterogenous. The headwords in the WBÖ are due to a highly sophisticated lemma (etymological-historical background), which is not easily accessible for laypersons (e.g. teütsch for deutsch ['german']). But all of the collected dialect data include specific details about their place of origin (georeferences) and thus document a certain headword in a specific definition and geographic location (e.g. ↑ Fig.1: Pottendorf [a municipality in lower Austria]). Furthermore, laypersons and scientists are often interested in material originating from a certain location or area. Usually, the WBÖ is not prepared to answer such questions.

All information about documented places is currently being standardized, georeferenced, stored in a database and mapped within the project *Datenbank der bairischen Mundarten in Österreich (DBÖ) electronically mapped (dbo@ema)* managed by the lecturer. The resulting web GIS application enables users to query and drilldown database and dictionary contents by, e.g., intuitively clicking locations or areas in maps shown in their browser.

Superior aims of the project *dbo@ema* are: free data access and real interactivity: maps and registers should be available on mouseclick wherever whenever and however users want them to be.

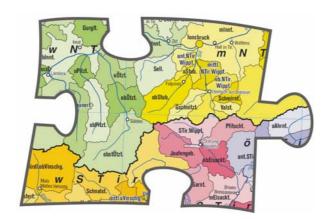


Figure 3: Map (detail) of cited areas in the WBÖ