

Utilising ANNIS for search and analysis of historical data

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Reuse or New Development: sustainability of resources and
tools for multi-faceted historical data and languages.
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Outline

1. Challenges for a query system for historical corpora
2. Development process of ANNIS (also concerning sustainability)
3. Case study: Using ANNIS for Coptic corpora

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- ▶ representation of different linguistic theories
 - ▶ multiple layers of different kinds of annotations (grids, constituent trees, dependencies trees, ...)
 - ▶ no fixed annotation scheme

Are these challenges unique?

- ▶ these challenges will arise when dealing with almost any historical corpus
- ▶ examples: RIDGES Herbology [2], Coptic SCRIPTORIUM [4], Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch [3], ...
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Does developing a corpus search system together as community solve some of the sustainability issues we have with academic software?

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 - ▶ ...
- ▶ goal: develop a corpus-independent multi-layer corpus search tool

ANNIS technology

- ▶ web-based, using the Vaadin Framework (<https://vaadin.com/home>)
- ▶ written in the Java Programming Language
- ▶ Maven build system (<https://maven.apache.org/>)
- ▶ relational database PostgreSQL (<https://www.postgresql.org/>) is used for the actual search
- ▶ split into web front-end and REST service
- ▶ new visualizations and exporters can be added as plug-ins

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Goal:

Allow people to use your software without any restriction and provide a clear legal path of how to maintain the project even without participation of the original copyright holders.

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Goal:

Make infrastructure as independent from current maintainers as possible.

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Goal:

Foster a community of developers and users with interest in the project and make participation as easy as possible.

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- ▶ ANNIS included most required features but was also missing some
 - ▶ Unicode for search ✓
 - ▶ multi-layer ✓
 - ▶ multiple tokenization ✓
 - ▶ web-fonts for displaying coptic script ✗
 - ▶ re-creating the appearance of the facsimiles without using the actual images ✗

Demo

`https://corpling.uis.georgetown.edu/annis/?id=
bff7712f-b60d-4d58-876e-483048e79eb5`

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- ▶ virtual keyboard
- ▶ Unicode search
- ▶ visualization layers (grid), including custom font
- ▶ HTML document visualization

HTML visualizer: idea

- ▶ facsimile not publicly available
- ▶ sub-set of graphical TEI annotations
- ▶ specialized visualizer needed that renders these graphical annotations
 - ▶ substantial overhead to write visualizer for a single corpus
 - ▶ different historical corpora (not just based on TEI) would need the same kind of visualizer but have different annotations

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Idea

To write a generic visualizer that maps the structure of the span annotations (grid) to HTML tags with configurable rules and custom CSS.

HTML visualizer: implementation

- ▶ joint effort of Amir Zeldes (Georgetown) and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- ▶ common discussions over design, with influences from the Coptic Scriptorium project and the RIDGES corpus
- ▶ implementation split up into several smaller features
- ▶ different features implemented by different developers from the working groups

HTML visualizer: improvement

- ▶ early releases with basic features and incremental updates for new features
- ▶ new features mostly driven by new corpora or new perspectives on how to use them
 - ▶ visualizations can be embedded to other web-sites:
`https://corpling.uis.georgetown.edu/annis/?id=e99c10c9-f814-4be0-b71a-40dda541bccca,`
`https://korpling.org/annis3/?id=eb2d3696-d69b-4d7e-82f2-396c78ca01ba`
 - ▶ automatically generated links to dictionaries with a template system `http://data.copticscriptorium.org/texts/ap/ap004poemen65/norm`

Conclusion

- ▶ coordinating developers from different teams is possible even in academic research projects
- ▶ generalizing feature ideas helps to increase the impact, can be used by more than one corpus
- ▶ sharing tools possible when tools are generic and specific enough at the same time
- ▶ technical and legal issues must be tackled

References I

- [1] Thomas Krause and Amir Zeldes. “ANNIS3: A new architecture for generic corpus query and visualization”. In: *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 31.1 (2016), pp. 118–139. ISSN: 2055-7671. DOI: 10.1093/dsh/31.1/fqu057. eprint: <http://dsh.oxfordjournals.org/content/31/1/118.full.pdf>. URL: <http://dsh.oxfordjournals.org/content/31/1/118>.
- [2] Carolin Odebrecht et al. “RIDGES Herbology-Designing a Diachronic Multi-Layer Corpus”. Submitted. URL: <https://www.linguistik.hu-berlin.de/de/institut/professuren/korpuslinguistik/mitarbeiterinnen/carolin/odebrechtetalridges-submitted.pdf>.
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References II

- [4] Caroline T. Schroeder and Amir Zeldes. “Raiders of the Lost Corpus”. In: *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 10.2 (2016). URL: <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/10/2/000247/000247.html>.