



Gabmap – A Web Application for Dialectology

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Gabmap

- > What is Gabmap? (demo)
- > Why Gabmap?
- > Point of Departure
- > Goals
- > Team
- > Problems
- > Agit-Prop
- > Reflections



What is Gabmap?

- > Map-making facilities (based on Google Earth) available
 - Direct import into Gabmap
 - Not shown here (time)
- > <http://www.gabmap.nl>



Why develop Gabmap?

- > Stimulate investigation of exact techniques in dialectology
 - Influence especially younger dialectologists
- > Encourage use, but also deeper understanding of these techniques (practitioners still a minority in dialectology)
 - Empower criticism, better-informed debate



Point of Departure & Goals

> Point of Departure

- 14-yr research line, dozens of papers
- A suite of UNIX facilities (L04), effective but inaccessible for most dialectologists

> Goals

- Easy-to-use facility, suitable for classroom
- Intelligent options for novices (difficult)
- Feedback wrt to interpretation of results (often misunderstood)



A Team Effort

Groningen (Scientific)

- Charlotte Gooskens (Manager)
- Therese Leinonen (Tutorials)
- Rinke Colen (Film)
- John Nerbonne (Ideas)

Meertens (Infrastructure)

- Jan Pieter Kunst

CLARIN-NL (Feedback)

Peter Kleiweg (Development)



- Very productive, involved



Problems

- > Disagreements:
 - Scientific development \neq Development for unpracticed users

- > Standards often incomplete
 - Multiple entries in tables (= multiple responses)
 - Most phonetic, phonological and dialectological notions



Agit-Prop!

- > *Recruit users*, do not merely develop software
 - Features of general interest (data mining)
 - Website, film (screencast), online tutorial, manual
 - Journal paper
 - Gabmap – A Web Application for Dialectology. *Dialectologia*. Special Issue II, (2011), 65-89.
 - Tutorials
 - UvA (Heeringa), *Tagung des Forums Sprachvariation* (Erlangen), Universität Potsdam, Tvarminne (Finland), Helsinki, Uppsala, ICLAVE (Freiburg), Digital Humanities 2011 (Stanford), Methods in Dialectology (Ontario), LOT 2012 Winter School (Tilburg)
 - Collaborations (co-publications) underway on Catalan, Tuscan pronunciation and Estonian lexico-syntax



Reflections

- > Technically successful now even if incomplete
- > It will not be scientifically successful until it attracts more users (I want to see 20 papers published on the basis of Gabmap results.)
 - A textbook on dialectology using Gabmap would be great (but time consuming)
- > The source code of Gabmap is open to all, but
 - Open source development practices were *not* followed, making it difficult for others to modify Gabmap.