

OPENPOI: A WEB-BASED PORTAL TO COLLECT AND UTILIZE FREE AND OPEN POINTS-OF-INTEREST DATA

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Today navigation tools and web-based applications that provide routing services or geolocating services based on the Global Positioning System (GPS) are the applications of geoinformation which are well known in public. A crucial data source for these services is points-of-interest (POI) data, geolocated through their postal address. However, often a person searches for a location that is not related to a particular postal address. These fuzzy location-queries often emerge out of their topic; for example alpine regions or national parks provide a lot of interesting locations for visitors which are not related to a postal address. There are also many cultural or historical locations, such as ruins or archeological excavations that lack a postal address. These POI are of particular importance in application domains of public security, for example police, (alpine) rescue, firefighters, or tourism marketing.

To facilitate an easy collection and re-use of POI, a web-based portal is planned by the School of Geoinformation at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences. As the web-based portal will have a strong focus on the interests and requirements of young people between 14 and 18, a spatial data model will be designed together with students from a secondary school. Another important aspect regarding the data model is the temporal restriction of POI; A particular point can be of interest at a defined period in time, at regular or irregular temporal intervals. In order to support spatio-temporal queries and the presentation of change over time in POI, this fact will be considered in the data model. Based on this data model a web-based portal will be implemented using Open Source software. The portal should provide multi-language support and provide functionality to the community to share, rate and comment POI collected. POI, which are of particular interest for young people, will be collected by the before mentioned students. Afterwards we will design and implement two application-prototypes that use the collected POI as data source together with the students. The re-use of geographic data due to standardized interfaces will be demonstrated. Students and teachers will present this concept in 'their' community and act as ambassadors to multiply and spread the idea of volunteered geography.

This project (<http://www.sparklingscience.at/de/projekte/499-openpoi/>) is funded by the Sparkling sciences research program of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF).