Verba Alpina

Thomas Krefeld
Stephan Lücke
Current research question(s)

• What are your research fields?
  – Linguistics, Lexicography (frame: Digital Humanities)

• What is your current research question?
  – Documentation and analysis of languages and dialects spoken in the Alpine region with focus on lexis and with interdisciplinary and diachronic scope

• What data do you need to answer your research question?
  – traditional (printed) dictionaries and linguistic atlases
  – digitally structured lexical data from partner projects
  – digitally structured lexical data from online crowdsourcing
  – Media in the form of images or videos
Research workflows

• Describe and/or give an example of your research workflows
  – structured gathering of dictionary data from printed sources by manual data entry (ASCII-characters, using self-developed online tools; storing in a relational database)
  – import of digital, structured material from partner projects (often requires restructuring)
  – typecasting of gathered data to gain morpho-lexical items
  – Comment on morpho-lexical items from a linguistic and historical perspective
  – Visualize the distribution of lexical phenomena together with complementary non-linguistic data on interactive online maps, thus making linking patterns (e.g. common etymology, etymological relation of dialects) obvious
  – analyze and interpret the distribution of linguistic phenomena and write papers

• Does your research workflows coincide with the Data Life Cycle?
  – Yes, the complete data life cycle is supported
Challenges during the research

• What challenges do you meet during your research?
  – Workflows
    • Recurring but non-automatable tasks (transcribing, typecasting)
    • OCR of data from linguistic atlases
  – Data
    • mapping of data from partner projects (with regard to structure and character encoding)
  – Tools
    • maintenance of the project website and all its functionalities for an indefinite period
  – Others
    • problematic record linkage regarding data from other lexicographic online projects at a fine granular level
    • Retrieval of fine granulated data through library catalogues
    • Permanent citation of digital objects