

Underspecified, Ambiguous or Formal

Problems in Creating Maps Based on Texts

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Overview

- Method
- Results
- Interpretations
- Observations

Not using CRM directly,
but influenced by it

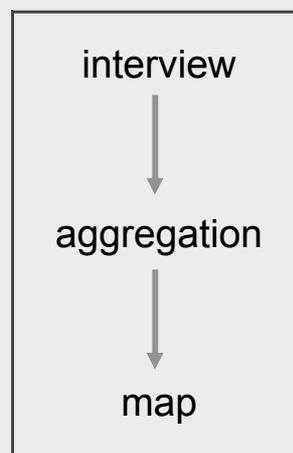
Hypothesis

Types of geographical information exist that can be stored in and read from texts, but which are impossible to express as geographical maps without significant loss of meaning

Case study: text vs. map

Schnitler: Scandinavia, 1740's

- From overlapping tax areas to borders between states
- Information gathering
- Common people seen as a source to information based on their knowledge, not on their status



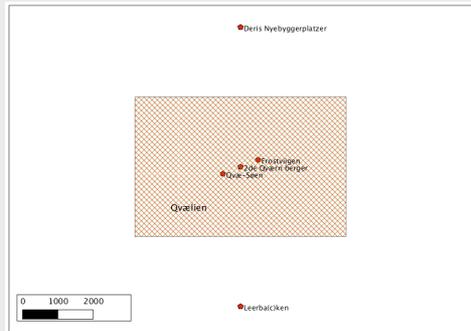
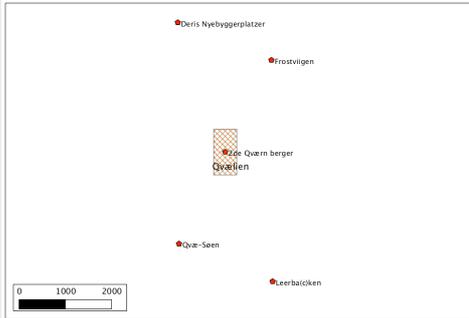
Too little and too much

- Too little: What do a map need in order to be made
- Too much: What do a text have to offer

Too little: underspecification

“A verbal text describing a spatial phenomenon in a way that can be understood as two or more significantly different phenomena by a competent reader, thus, an ambiguity stemming from a lack of information.”

Too little: choices



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Too much

“[...] in North of there,
there are no peasant
farm.”

“There are no More
Finns Close to the
Borders [...]”



$$\text{length}(A, B) \neq \text{length}(B, A)$$



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Why do we not see this?

As map

VS.

Onto map

Media restrictions: How to make maps anyway

- Dynamic
- Completeness definition
- Choices
- Text

Different media, different experiences

- How things are said
- What is said

``Every medium has the capacity of mediating only certain aspects of the total reality" (Elleström 2010)

...so it is no surprise that wayfinding is different from both maps and texts

Wayfinding vs. navigation

- Cognitive map?
- Landscape as a text?
- or...

wayfinding ≠ map use ≠ reading

Mapping events

Two different ways:

1. Each interview is an event
2. References to events in the interviews

this is in line with:

1. Map as a sign
2. Signs on the map

Reoccurring events

Examples:

- fishing in a specific area
- millstone cutting at a specific mountain

Past as well as future

- Land rights: seen as properties of the land; a sort of type

Ontological problems in texts and maps

What is a mountain?

- Long ontological discussion
- Not expressed directly on maps, but can be deduced from them
- Not a problem in texts

Identity (cf. Doerr/Tzitzikas)

- Schnitler's text can be seen as a Discrete Information Object
- Geographical vector data will be a Discrete Information Object
- A map will be an Analog Information Object

Thank you!

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