

Globalise / Utrecht OIS

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Goals / Challenges

- Audiences
- Sources
- Annotations
- Exploring & Finding
- Interacting & Contributing

Audiences

- VOC Historians
- Researchers
- Students
- Interested Public

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 - Interested Public
-
- > Historical expertise
 - > Technical expertise
 - > Dutch? Western European? Southeast Asian?
-
- **Learn more:** User panel reports; National Archives *IJsberg* personas; contested heritage reports/publications

Sources

- Scale (c. 5 million page images)
- Quality
- Language
- Structure

Sources

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 - Quality
 - Language
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-
- > Too much to ever read and review
 - > HTR transcripts are incomplete, inaccurate..
 - > Old Dutch, orthographic variants, unfamiliar words..
 - > Transcripts / Documents / Inventory numbers..
-
- **Learn more:** User panel reports; National Archives *IJsberg* prototypes (archieveninbeeld.nl, zoekintrascripties.nl)

Annotations

- Research Question: e.g. How did the VOC empire expand?
- Entities
 - e.g. people, polities, places, commodities, dates..
- Events
 - Political, Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental, Other

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- > Quality of automatic annotations (precision vs. recall)
- > How to represent annotations on/alongside the sources?
- > How to represent origin and uncertainty of annotations?

Learn more: User panel presentations; Event themes document; Existing annotation interfaces

Exploring & Finding

- Simple: a single search field (like a web browser)
- Expert: wildcards, fuzzy, proximity, phonetic, thesaurus, keyword expansion; also combined with entities, events..
- Semantic queries: i.e. who, which, what, when questions
- Browse across collections and categories

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- > Do our audiences want something they don't know (yet)?
 - > How do we make a complex query easy to use?
 - > How do we explain origin and uncertainty of results?
 - > How do you browse without pre-computed categories?

Learn more: User panel talks & reports; other websites

Interacting & Contributing

- Too much, too complex material and research questions to allow tasks to be completed in just a few, short sessions
- Feedback and contributions on transcriptions and annotations are welcome, even necessary
- Some audiences will want to selectively collect, re-order, categorise, and represent the sources & annotations

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- > How do we personalise interaction with the site?
- > How do we encourage and structure good contributions?
- > How do we make our material re-usable and re-presentable?

Learn more: User panels reports; websites; contested heritage reports/publications

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