

# Going Digital Native

Between Historian and Programmer in the Alps:  
The DemAlps website and database

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# The Promise of a Digital DemAlps

- collaborative online application
- collect, analyse, and share data and research outputs
- FAIR principles

.....“digitally native”

# What is “Natively Digital”?

- AKA “born digital”
- begins life digitally in “databases”, with controlled metadata
  - i.e. no retranscription, no rework
- queriable, comes with a suite of research tools
- collaborative within team and/or with public
- scientific ethos of transparency and re-usability
- FAIR data: *Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable*
  - <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

# Why a “Natively Digital” History Project?

- working as a true *team*
- possibilities of dynamic collaboration and discovery
- ethos of “testing hypotheses”
  - comparative analysis (within / between corpora)
  - categorization becomes an explicit, documented act
  - focus on the problems and messiness of data, not searching for the “ideal-type”: the analysis becomes more self-reflective
  - rapid publication of findings
  - heuristics, not just hermeneutics

# Future Developments

- masks for each record type
- spatial, network, and graph analysis
  - built-in tools for website
  - API for geographic information systems (GIS), network analysis, and graph analysis
- experiment with handwritten text recognition (HTR) to fully transcribe records