

Online Resource 2. Focus Group Interview Scenario

Article title: Enhancing usability of historical geoportal with user studies – Atlas Fontium case study

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1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome and introductions:

- please introduce yourself in 2-3 sentences.

1.2 Purpose of the meeting – to deepen the Atlas Fontium survey:

- diagnosis of areas to be optimized/improved/refined;
- improving the use, perception, and recognition of Atlas Fontium.

1.3 Meeting rules:

- time constraints – space for each person (approx. 1 minute per statement – it may be difficult, but let's try, sticking to the topic and questions);
- diversity of opinions, without the need to discuss and convince each other;
- encouragement for critical comments, team and people present – the value of feedback and opportunity for optimization, we encourage both negative and positive AF evaluations);
- GDPR clauses sent before the meeting (The meeting is recorded and kept at the IH PAN for 5 years).

2. Opening Questions

2.1 What are your first associations with Atlas Fontium?

We will start today's discussion with a very short presentation of Atlas Fontium. Maybe after the weekend we could use a little refresher on the topic.

[Presentation available at <https://vimeo.com/790467380>]

2.2 What do you think of Atlas Fontium? What are your overall impressions of Atlas Fontium? What are your experiences so far (what works and what doesn't)?

3. Transition Question

3.1 What should be changed at Atlas Fontium? What changes would you recommend? (What changes would you recommend to improve the Atlas Fontium?)

4. Key Questions

4.1 Data organisation

We now want to talk about ways to organize data in Atlas Fontium.

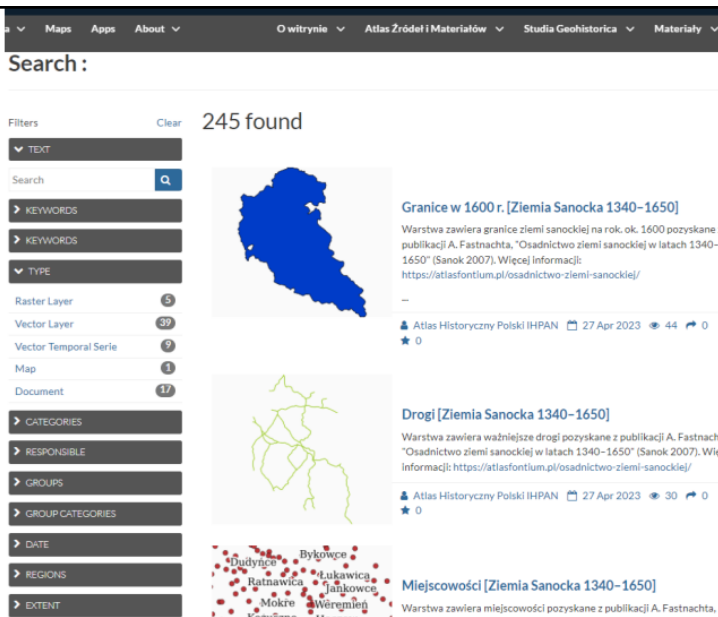
The slide shows what solutions are now [presenting SLIDE 1].

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Data = spatial data (vector or raster) relating to the past, e.g. towns, borders, roads, statistical data or old georeferenced maps.

Current Atlas Fontium GeoNode solutions:

- indexing: keywords, categories, spatial scope, regions, data type (raster, vector, temporal);
- publishing data: datasets, layers, publications, materials after internal review.



4.1.1 What other solutions would you see to improve data organization in Atlas Fontium?

On the next slide, you can see the proposed solutions prepared by the team. [presenting SLIDE2]

Data = spatial data (vector or raster) relating to the past, e.g. towns, borders, roads, statistical data or old georeferenced maps.

Suggestions:

- grouping scheme on the subpage - by regions, resources, or another solution?;
- subpages for individual datasets with links to specific layers;
- "Featured Datasets" on the homepage.

4.1.2 Which of them would you consider/describe as key/most important?

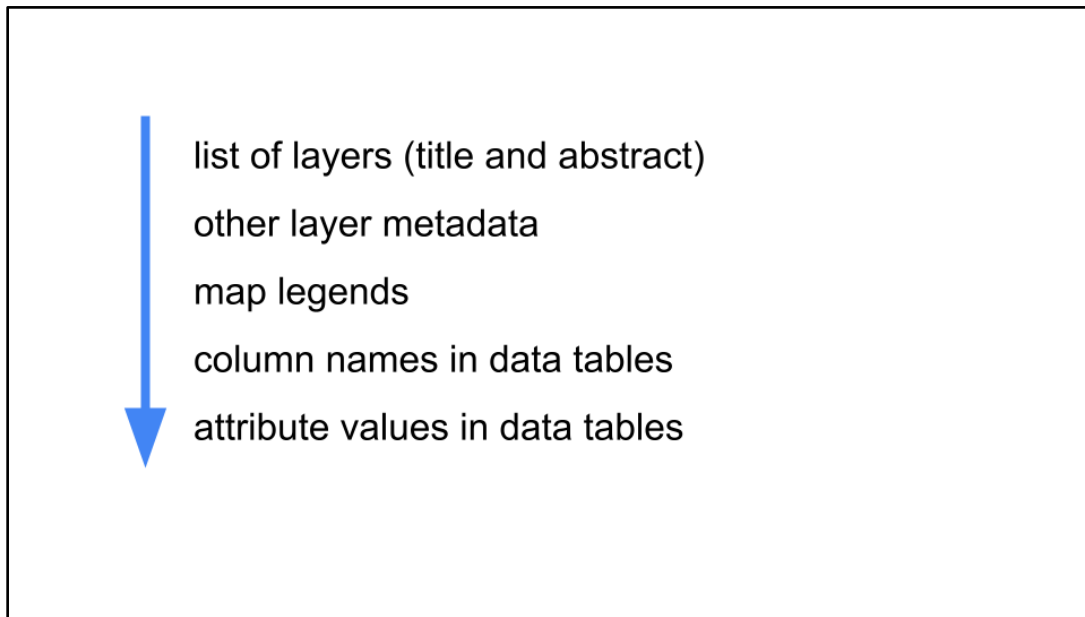
4.2 English

4.2.1 We know from the survey results that it is difficult for people from outside Poland to use the website due to the incomplete translation into English. How do you assess Atlas Fontium in this respect?

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4.2.2 How deep should the Atlas Fontium system be bilingual (in Polish and English)?

Translating which elements is necessary? [presenting SLIDE 3]



4.3 Dissemination and recognition

4.3.1 How can the recognition/visibility of Atlas Fontium be increased among scientists?

4.3.2 How can Atlas Fontium reach a wider audience of non-professionals, hobbyists and genealogists?

[Alternatively, ask about the team's ideas:

- data structured by location rather than a period, e.g. data for Poznań/Wielkopolska.
- use-case typical for non-GIS users, focus on problem-solving (instructional videos with example problem)
- Wikipedia – reaching people interested in the data
- Social media
- new data (e.g. administrative/political division of Polish lands)]

4.4 Improving the use and perception of AF

4.4.1 How can the Atlas Fontium be improved; among people who are not involved in scientific work? If and how would it change their perception of Atlas Fontium?

4.4.2 How can the Atlas Fontium be improved; among people who are involved in scientific work? If and how would it change their perception of Atlas Fontium?

4.4.3 How can the perception of Atlas Fontium among scientists who work with GIS tools be improved?

4.4.4 How to improve the perception of Atlas Fontium among historians so that they are not discouraged by technical aspects (GIS)?

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Do you have ideas for other modifications when you think about improving Atlas Fontium to make it a convenient and user-friendly tool for historians, especially in terms of GIS (technical aspects)?

- [Additional question: would the option to edit spatial data in Atlas Fontium help break down the barrier of lack of GIS competence?]

4.5 Adding new data to the website by users from outside Institution

4.5.1 Atlas Fontium is to be a portal not only for downloading and viewing data produced by the Department of Historical Atlas, but also for sharing data sets. How, in your opinion, scientists can be encouraged to share data on the site?

5. General Question

5.1 Let's now return to a slightly more general discussion. When you think about historical data, what map portals come to your mind first? What websites do you currently use?

- Supporting question: What differences between portals determine the choice of a particular solution? What is the decisive factor?

6. Closing Question

6.1 What was the most important thing for you in today's conversation? What do you feel would be worth adding?/Would you like to add something?