

From Historical Survey Sheets to Computational Dialectology

The Wenker Collection as Research Data

Hanna Fischer

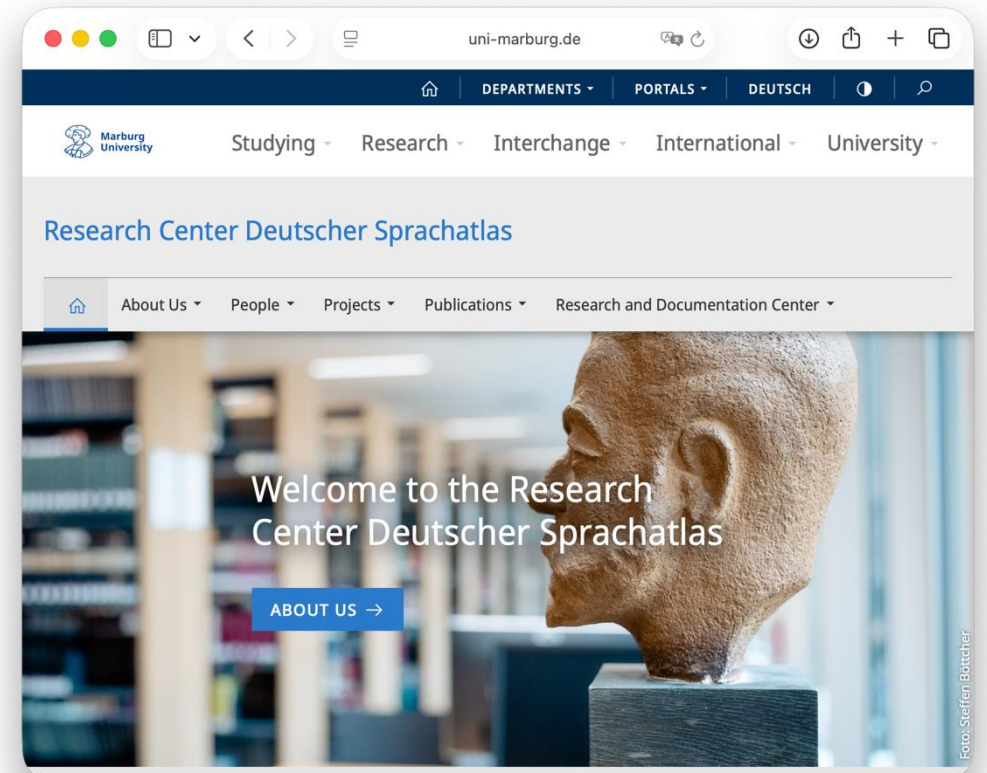
Fiesole Retreat, Tübingen, 13.-15.04.2026



**Universität
Marburg**

The Research Center *Deutscher Sprachatlas*

- Research institute at **Marburg University** (Germany): 150 years tradition of research on dialects and regional varieties of German worldwide



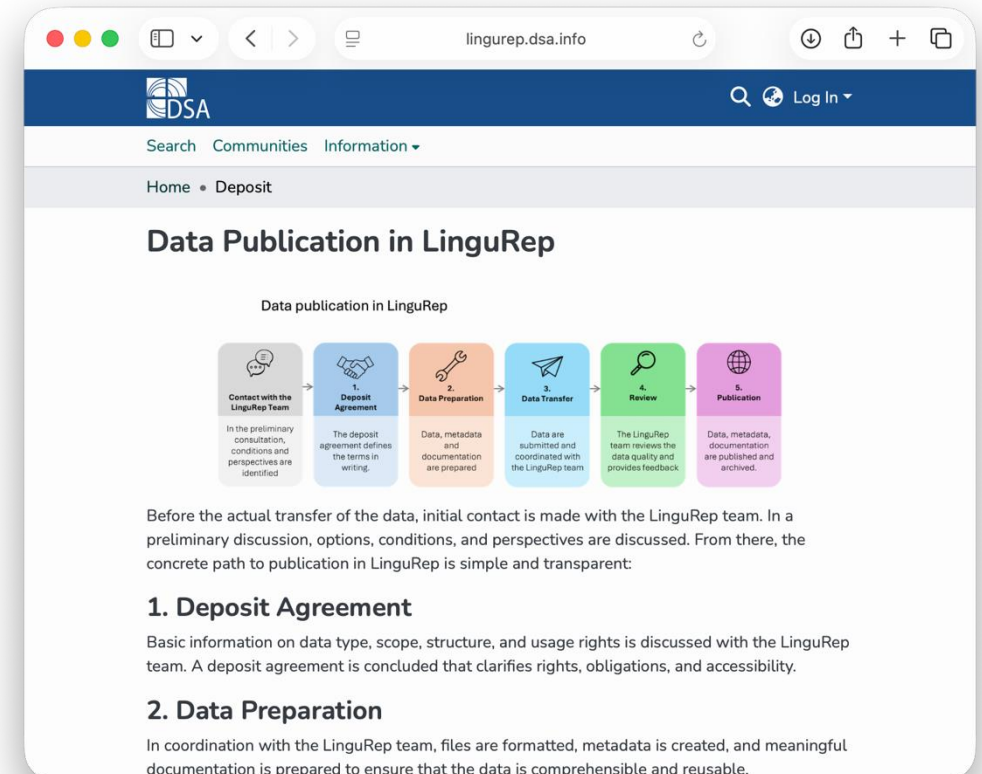
The Research Center *Deutscher Sprachatlas*

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- **Data center** in the consortium **Text+** in the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)

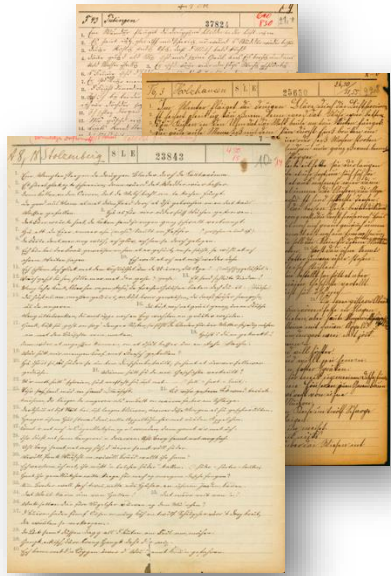


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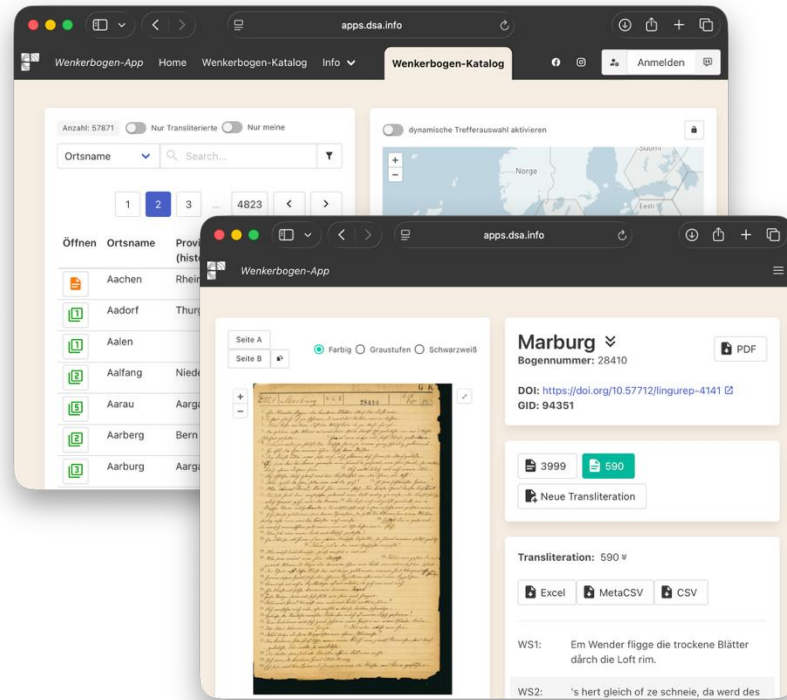
- Research institute at **Marburg University** (Germany): 150 years tradition of research on dialects and regional varieties of German worldwide
- **Data center** in the consortium **Text+** in the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)
- Unique **archive** and collections (University Library) & discipline-specific data repository **LinguRep**



From collection to data: Digitizing historical language documentations



Survey sheets

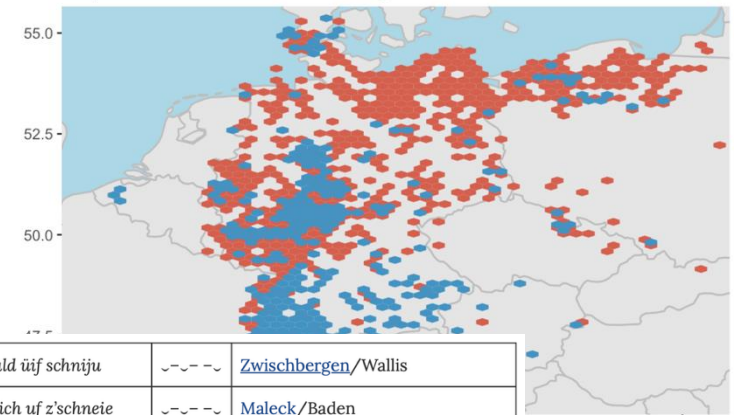


Web application



Linguistic data

Rhythmus WS-2 -- HS: Es hört gleich auf zu schneien.



1	Äs hert bald üf schniju	↘-↘-↘	Zwischbergen/Wallis
2	Es hört glich uf z'schneie	↘-↘-↘	Maleck/Baden
3	Et hõt gleich off z'schneie	↘-↘-↘	Langendernbach/Lahn-Dill-Kreis
4	Et hört glichs ob tau schmien	↘-↘-↘	Blankenburg/Harz

The Wenker Collection

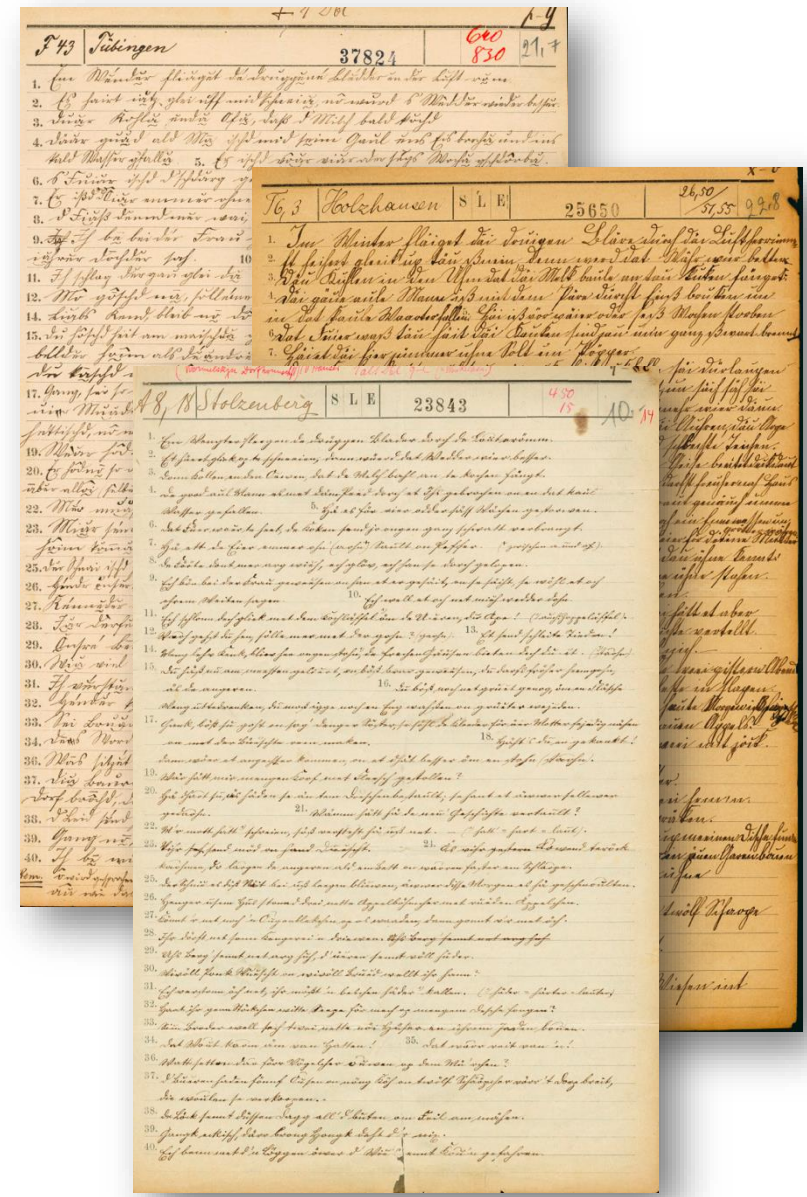
- Georg Wenker's survey on German dialects (from 1876 on)



Georg Wenker (1852–1911)

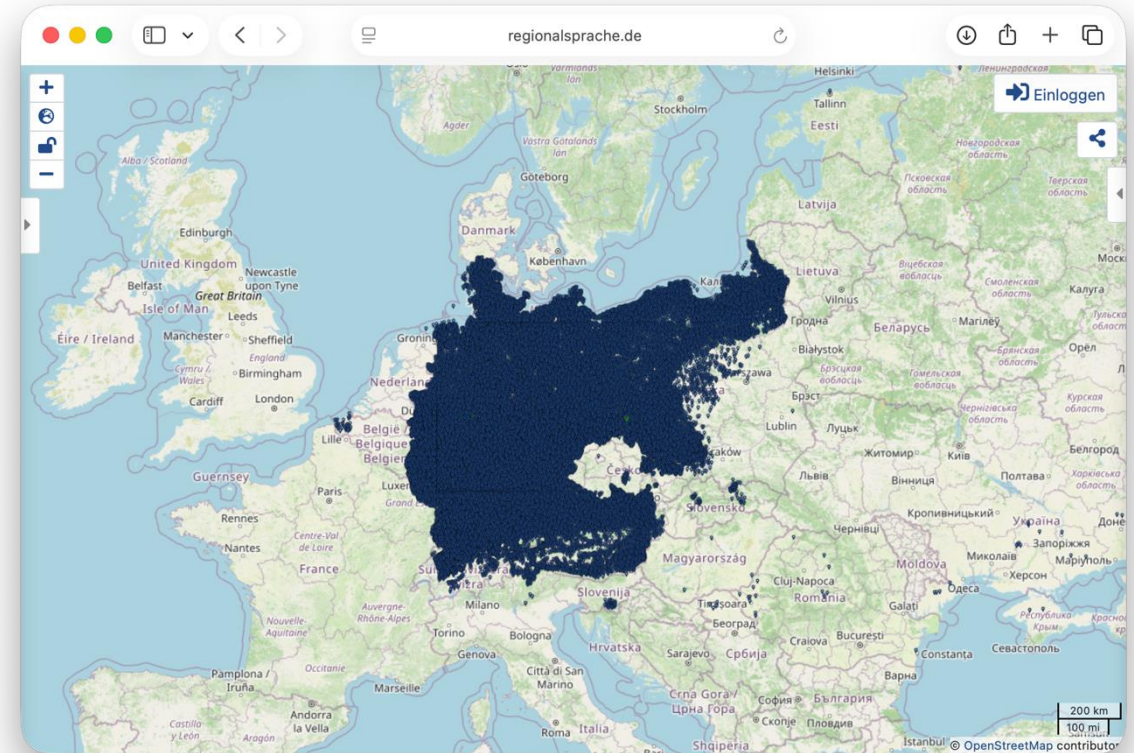
The Wenker Collection

- Georg Wenker's survey on German dialects (from 1876 on)
- Translation of 40 Standard German sentences into local dialects



The Wenker Collection

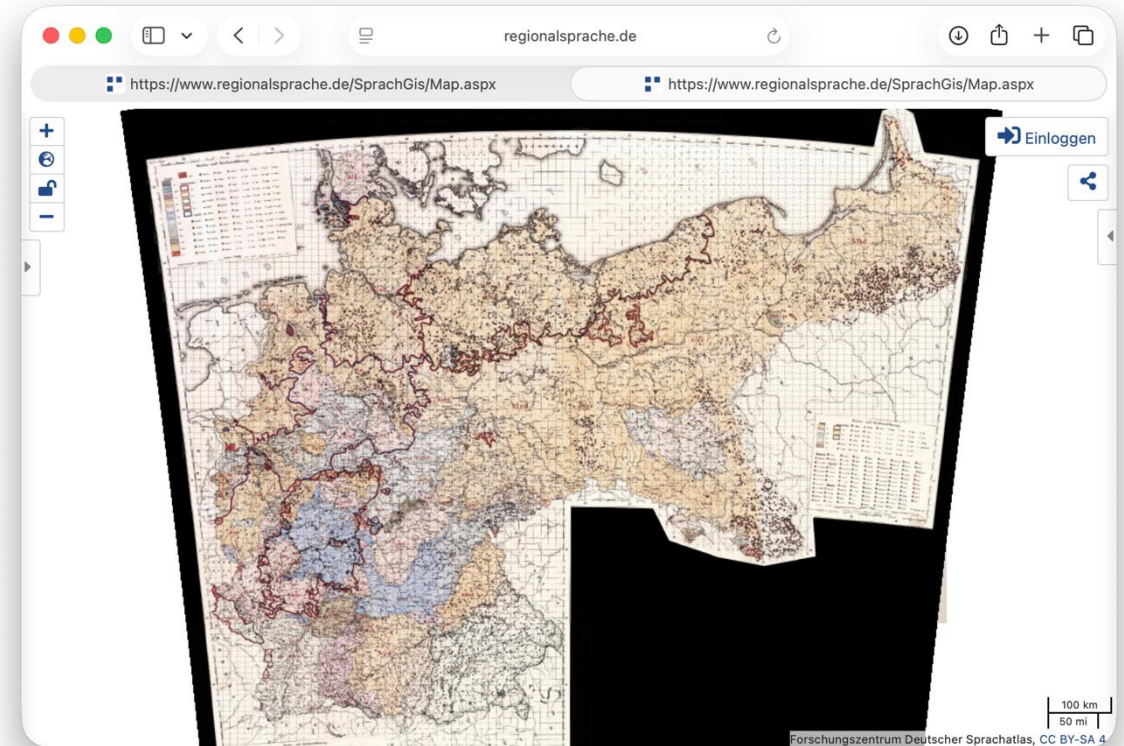
- Georg Wenker's survey on German dialects (from 1876 on)
- Translation of 40 Standard German sentences into local dialects
- Total amount of more than 57.000 Wenker survey sheets



57871 Wenker survey sheets in REDE SprachGIS

The Wenker Collection

- Georg Wenker's survey on German dialects (from 1876 on)
- Translation of 40 Standard German sentences into local dialects
- Total amount of more than 57.000 Wenker survey sheets
- *Sprachatlas des Deutschen Reichs* (1889–1923)

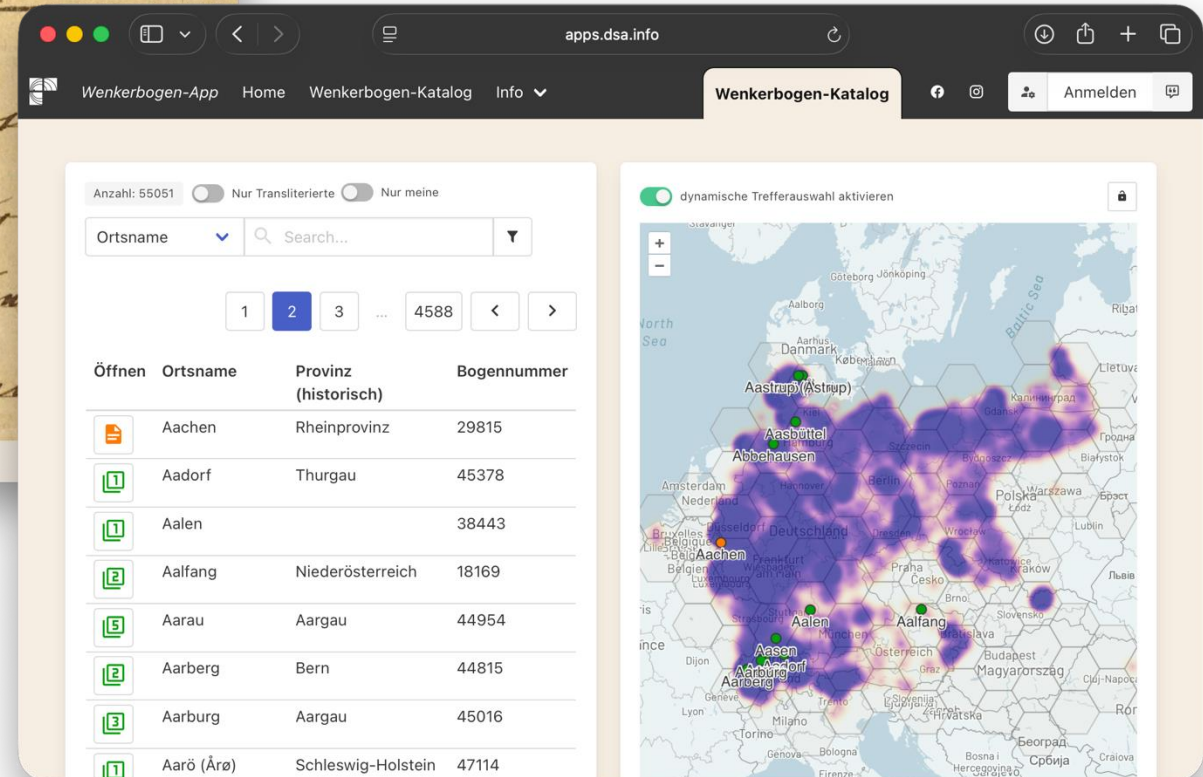


1.668 maps on 438 phonetic and 137 morphological variables

Importance of the Wenker Collection

- “Total documentation” of German dialects in Europe
- Fundamental insights; e.g., **dialect classification**
(new: concept of Central German and Rhenish fan)
- **Reference point** for all later studies on German dialects
- until 2005: only available in Marburg’s (physical) archive

Wenkerbogen-App – <https://apps.dsa.info/wenker/>



Wenkerbogen-App

– Search and filter options



The screenshot displays the 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog', and 'Info' options. The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel features a search bar with 'Tübingen' entered, a filter for 'Ortsname', and a table of results. The right panel shows a map of Europe with a heatmap overlay indicating the distribution of the search term, and a toggle for 'dynamische Trefferauswahl aktivieren'.

Wenkerbogen-App Home Wenkerbogen-Katalog Info

Wenkerbogen-Katalog

Anzahl: 1 Nur Transliterierte Nur meine

Ortsname

1 < >

Öffnen	Ortsname	Provinz (historisch)	Bogennummer
	Tübingen		37824

1 < >

dynamische Trefferauswahl aktivieren

Wenkerbogen-App

– Map-based search



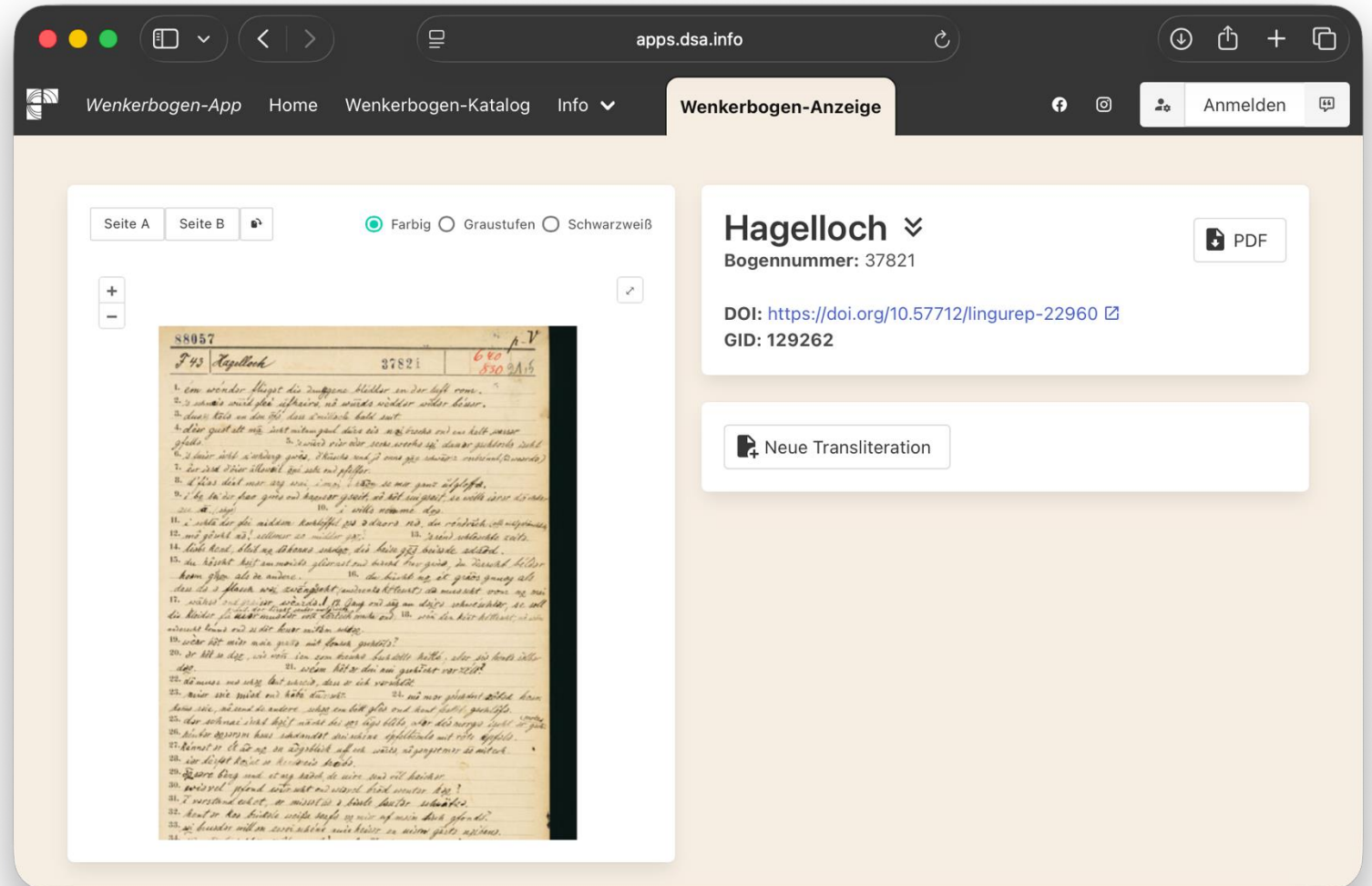
The screenshot displays the 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Wenkerbogen-App', 'Home', 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog', and 'Info'. The main content area is split into two panels. The left panel shows a search filter with 'Anzahl: 8', 'Nur Transliterierte', and 'Nur meine' options. Below this is a search bar with 'Ortsname' and 'Search...'. A pagination bar shows '1' of 1 page. The main list has the following data:

Öffnen	Ortsname	Provinz (historisch)	Bogennummer
	Derendingen		37823
	Jettenburg		37827
	Kusterdingen		37826
	Lustnau		37825
	Mähringen		37711
	Stockach		37707
	Tübingen		37824
	Wankheim		37710

The right panel shows a map view with 'dynamische Trefferauswahl aktivieren' checked. The map displays several locations marked with orange dots and hexagonal overlays: Wanne, Kliniken Berg, Lustnau, Tübingen, Derendingen, Wankheim, Mähringen, Stockach, Kusterdingen, and Jettenburg.

Wenkerbogen-App

– Access to Wenker survey sheets



<https://apps.dsa.info/wenker/bogennummer/37821>

Wenkerbogen-App

– Transliteration tool



The screenshot shows the 'Wenkerbogen-Editor' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Wenkerbogen-App', 'Home', 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog', 'Info', and 'Wenkerbogen-Editor'. Below this, there are options for 'Seite A' and 'Seite B', and a color selection menu with 'Farbig' (selected), 'Graustufen', and 'Schwarzweiß'. The main content area displays a handwritten document with the number '88057' and 'F 43 Hagelloch'. The document contains a list of four sentences in a dialect. Below the document, there is a transliteration tool with a text input field containing '1 Bitte tragen Sie hier Ihre Transliteration ein!'. Below the input field, there are buttons for 'Diakritika', 'Sonderzeichen', '[Unsicher]', 'Vorheriger Satz', and 'Nächster Satz'. There is also a 'Speichern (0/40)' button.

<https://apps.dsa.info/wenker/bogennummer/37821>

Wenkerbogen-App

– Access to transliterations



The screenshot shows the 'Wenkerbogen-Anzeige' page for 'Marburg' (Bogennummer: 28410). The interface includes a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog', and 'Info'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column displays a manuscript page with handwritten text and a table header. The right column contains metadata and options for downloading or creating transliterations. Two red boxes highlight specific features: the first box highlights the '3999' transliteration count, '590' download count, and 'Neue Transliteration' button; the second box highlights the transliteration text for 'WS1' and 'WS2'.

Wenkerbogen-App Home Wenkerbogen-Katalog Info **Wenkerbogen-Anzeige** Anmelden

Seite A Seite B Farbig Graustufen Schwarzweiß

PDF

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57712/lingurep-4141>
GID: 94351

3999 590 Neue Transliteration

Transliteration: 3999

Excel MetaCSV CSV

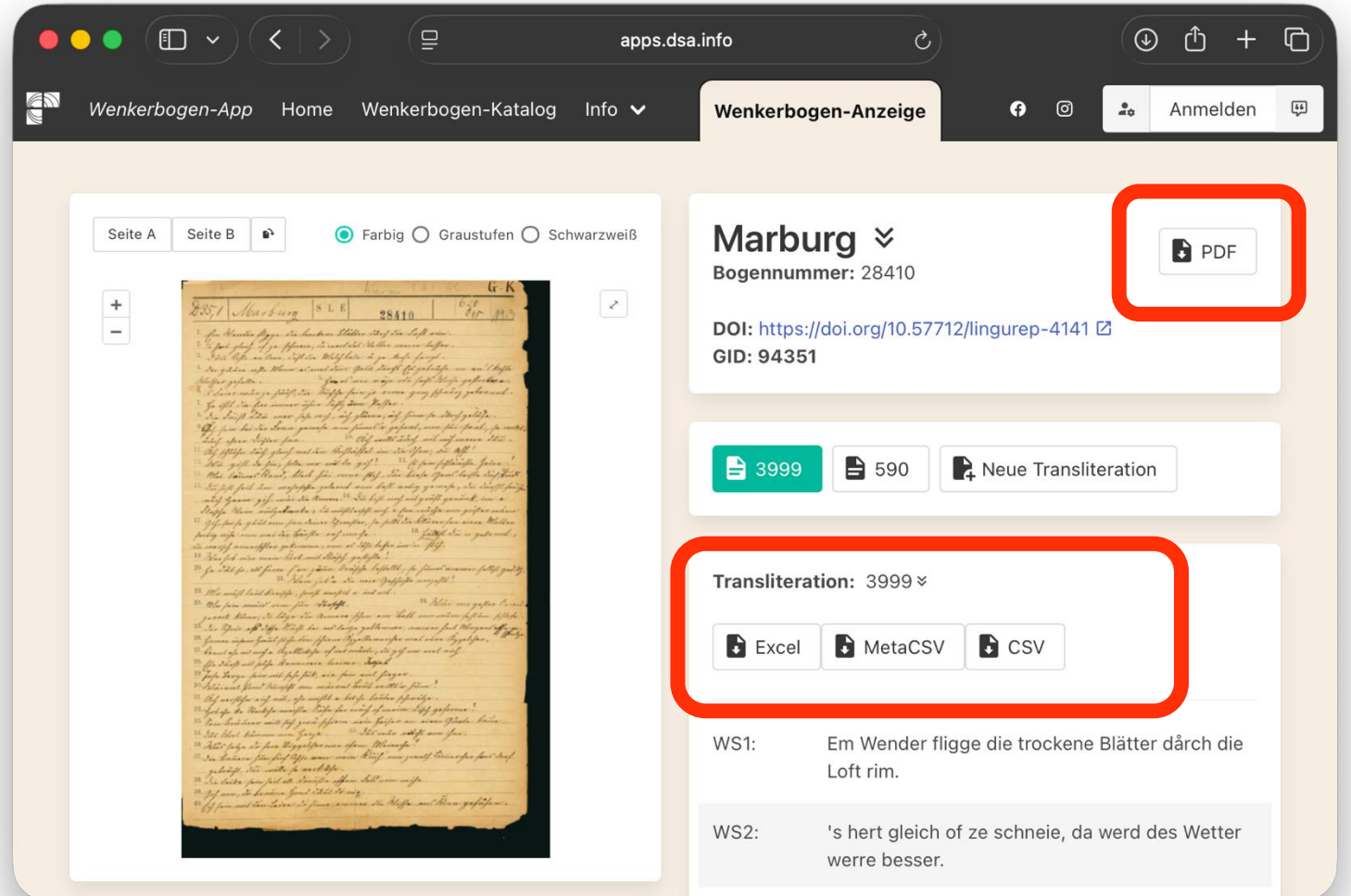
WS1: Em Wender fligge die trockene Blätter dârch die Loft rim.

WS2: 's hert gleich of ze schneie, da werd des Wetter werre besser.

<https://apps.dsa.info/wenker/bogennummer/37821>

Wenkerbogen-App

– Download options



<https://apps.dsa.info/wenker/bogennummer/37821>

Wenkerbogen-App

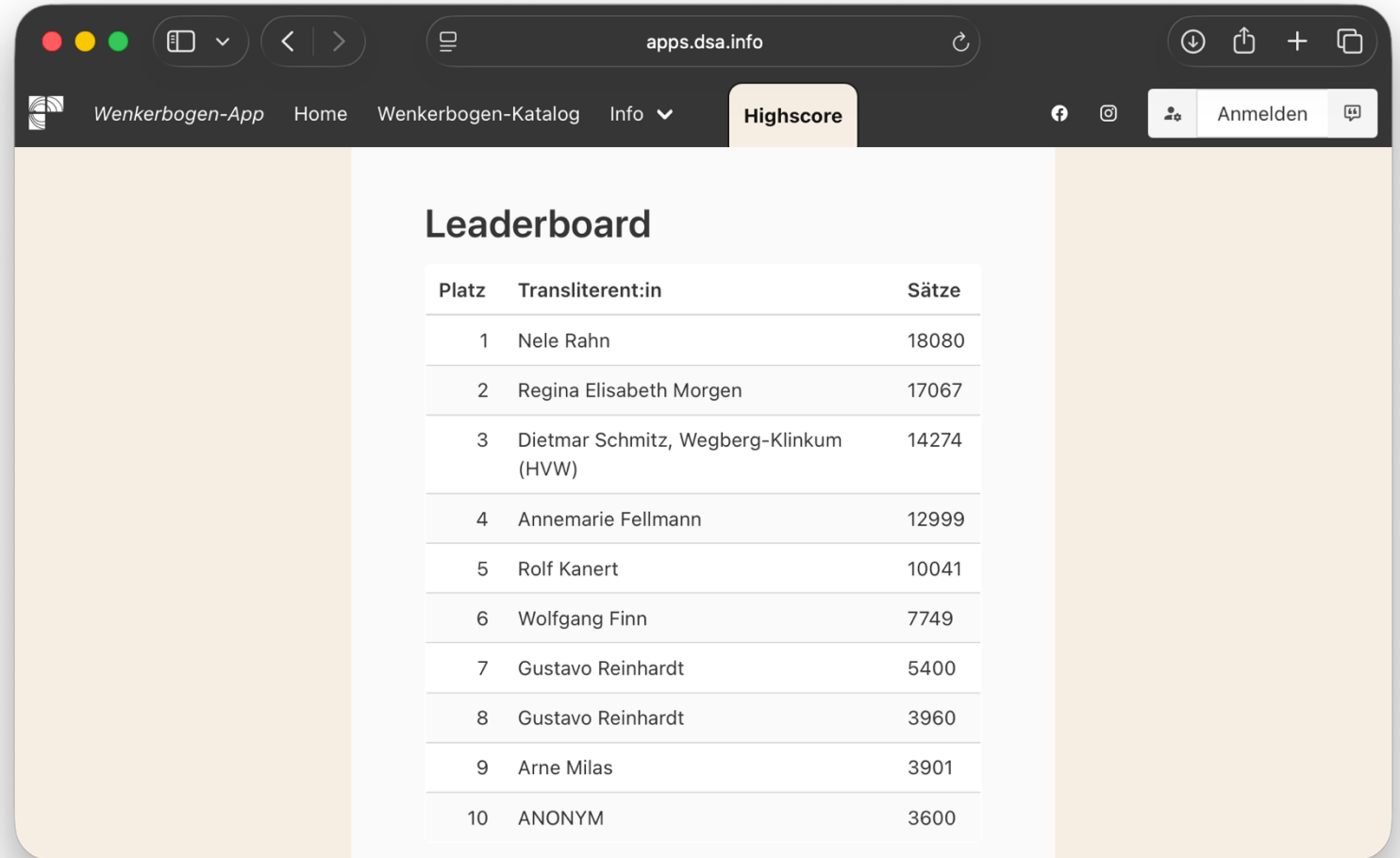
– Citizen Science tool

The screenshot shows the Wenkerbogen-App interface. At the top, there is a browser address bar with 'apps.dsa.info' and a mobile navigation menu. Below the browser bar, the app title 'Wenkerbogen-App' is visible. The main content area displays a background image of a handwritten document with the text 'D 35, 1 | Marburg'. A large black overlay box in the center contains two statistics: 'TRANSLITERATIONEN 7437' on the left and 'TRANSLITERIERTE SÄTZE 241775' on the right. At the bottom of the app, there is a navigation bar with three buttons: 'WENKERBÖGEN 57871', 'TRANSLITERATIONEN 7437', and 'TRANSLITERIERTE SÄTZE 241775'. The 'TRANSLITERATIONEN 7437' button is highlighted with a red border.

Category	Count
Wenkerbögen	57871
Transkriptionen	7437
Transkribierte Sätze	241775

Wenkerbogen-App

– Citizen Science tool

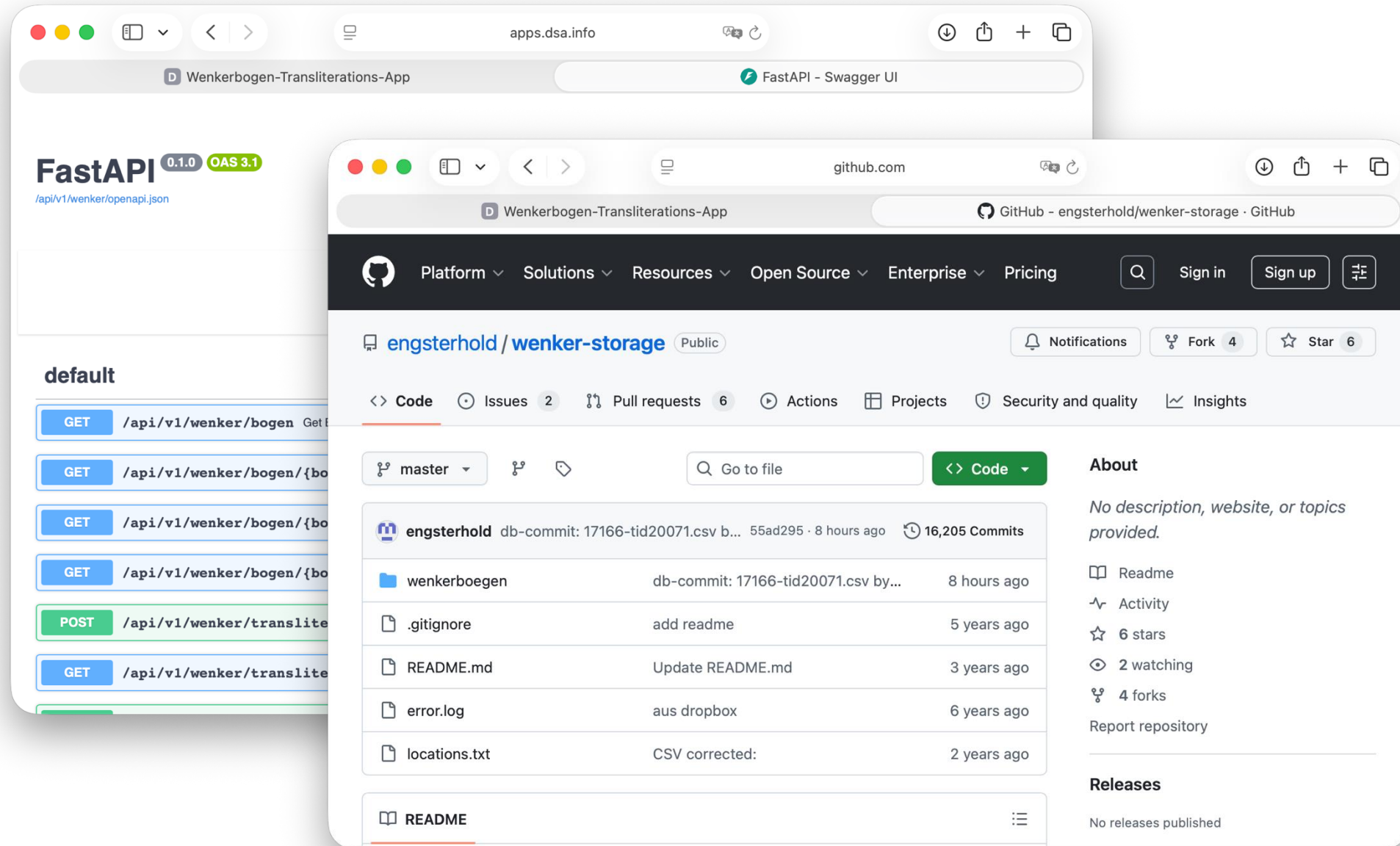


The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Highscore' page of the 'Wenkerbogen-App'. The browser's address bar shows 'apps.dsa.info'. The navigation menu includes 'Wenkerbogen-App', 'Home', 'Wenkerbogen-Katalog', 'Info', and 'Highscore'. The main content area features a 'Leaderboard' table with the following data:

Platz	Translitterent:in	Sätze
1	Nele Rahn	18080
2	Regina Elisabeth Morgen	17067
3	Dietmar Schmitz, Wegberg-Klinkum (HVW)	14274
4	Annemarie Fellmann	12999
5	Rolf Kanert	10041
6	Wolfgang Finn	7749
7	Gustavo Reinhardt	5400
8	Gustavo Reinhardt	3960
9	Arne Milas	3901
10	ANONYM	3600

Wenkerbogen-App

– API & GitHub



Wenkerbogen-App

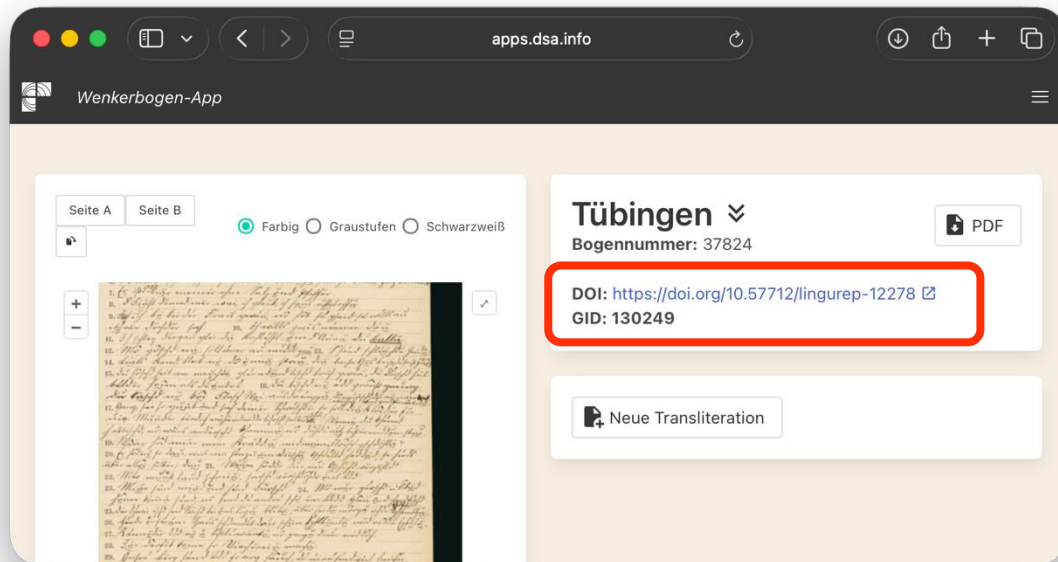
– Digital archive: LinguRep

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `lingurep.dsa.info`. The page title is "Erhebungsbögen zum Sprachatlas des Deutschen Reichs". The header includes the DSA logo and a "Log In" button. The main content area features a blue banner with the title "Erhebungsbögen zum Sprachatlas des Deutschen Reichs" and a permanent URI: `https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14450/430`. Below the banner, there is a paragraph of text describing the collection: "Diese Sammlung enthält Scans der ausgefüllten Erhebungsbögen, die die Grundlage für den Sprachatlas des Deutschen Reichs und den Sprach-Atlas der Rheinprovinz bilden (sog. Wenkerbögen). Dazu kommen Scans von Bögen aus weiteren Vorgänger- und Nachfolgerhebungen. Zitation: Forschungszentrum Deutscher Sprachatlas (Hrsg.): Erhebungsbögen zu Wenker, Georg (1889–1923): Sprachatlas des Deutschen Reichs. Handgezeichnet von Emil Maurmann, Georg Wenker & Ferdinand Wrede, Marburg. <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14450/430>".

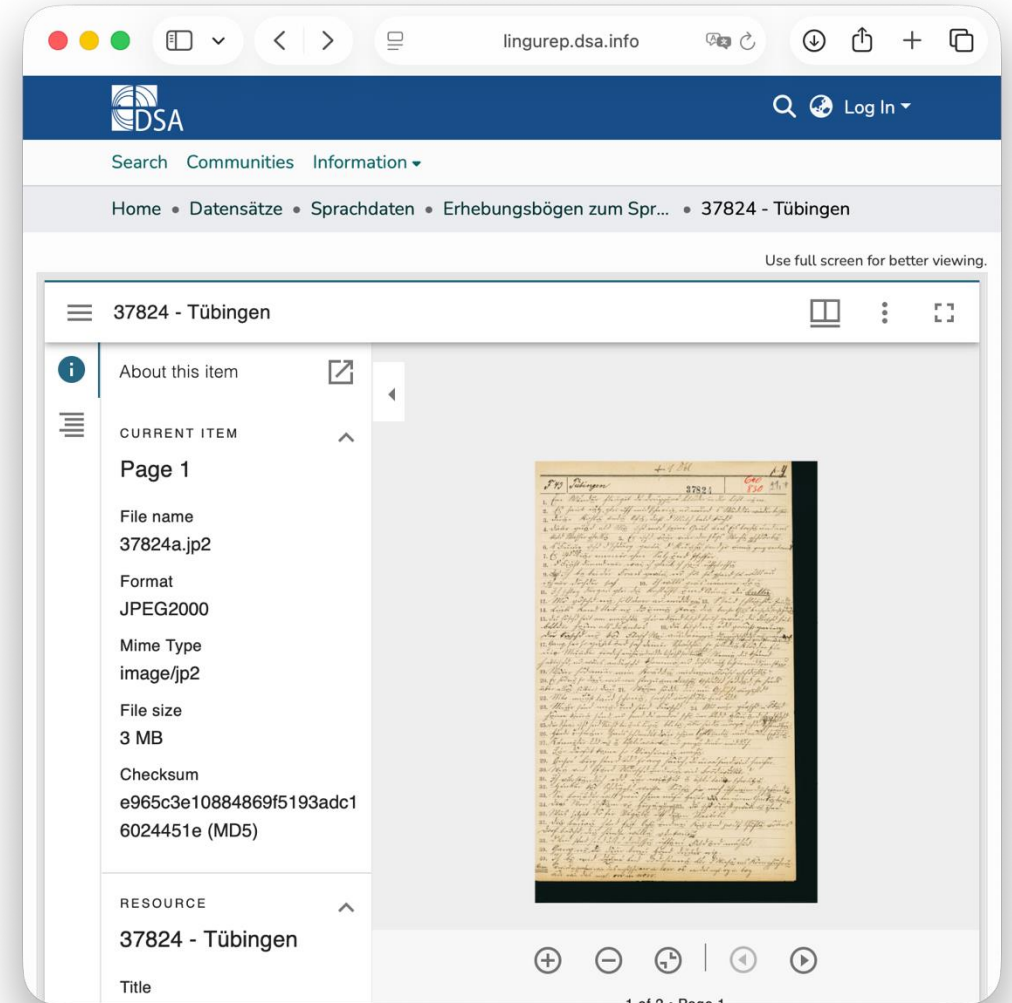
Below the text, there is a "Search ..." section with a search bar and a "Search" button. The search bar contains the text "Search the repository ...". To the left of the search bar, there are several filter buttons: "Search", "Issue Date", "Author", "Title", "Subject", and "Subject Category". Below the search bar, there is a "Filters" section with a "Has files" button and a "+" sign. To the right of the search bar, there is a "Search Results" section with the text "Now showing 1 - 10 of 57619".

Wenkerbogen-App

– Digital archive: LinguRep



Wenkerbogen-App



LinguRep

Transliterations as linguistic data

sprachspuren.de

Sprachspuren
Berichte aus dem Deutschen Sprachatlas

STARTSEITE WAS SIND SPRACHSPUREN? REDAKTION BEITRÄGE

ALLGEMEIN / FORSCHUNG / METHODE / PROJEKT / SPRACHGESCHICHTE

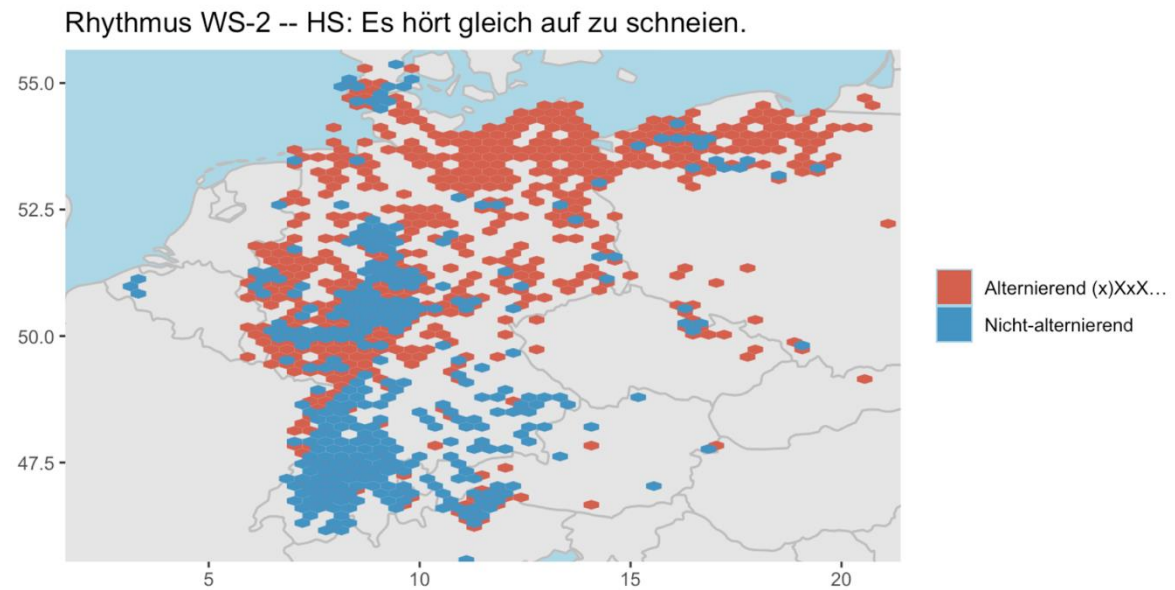
Rhythmus regional – Ein neuer Blick in den Sprachraum dank Citizen Science

Veröffentlicht am 1. Mai 2025 von Alfred Lameli

15 Forschungszentrum Deutscher Sprachatlas DSA

Dialekt [Dialektabbau](#)
[Dialekterkennung](#) [Fragebogenstudie](#)
[Hessen-Nassauisches Wörterbuch](#) [Hessisch](#)
Korpus [Lexik](#) [Mehrdeutigkeit](#)
[Niederdeutsch](#) [Nordhessisch](#) [Osthessisch](#)
[Phonotactics](#) [REDE](#) [Rheinfränkisch](#) [Schule](#)

1	Äs hert bald üif schniju	∪-∪-∪-∪	Zwischbergen /Wallis
2	Es hört glich uf z'schneie	∪-∪-∪-∪	Maleck /Baden
3	Et höt gleich off z'schneie	∪-∪-∪-∪	Langendernbach /Lahn-Dill-Kreis
4	Et hört glieks ob tau schnien	∪-∪-∪-∪	Blankenburg /Harz

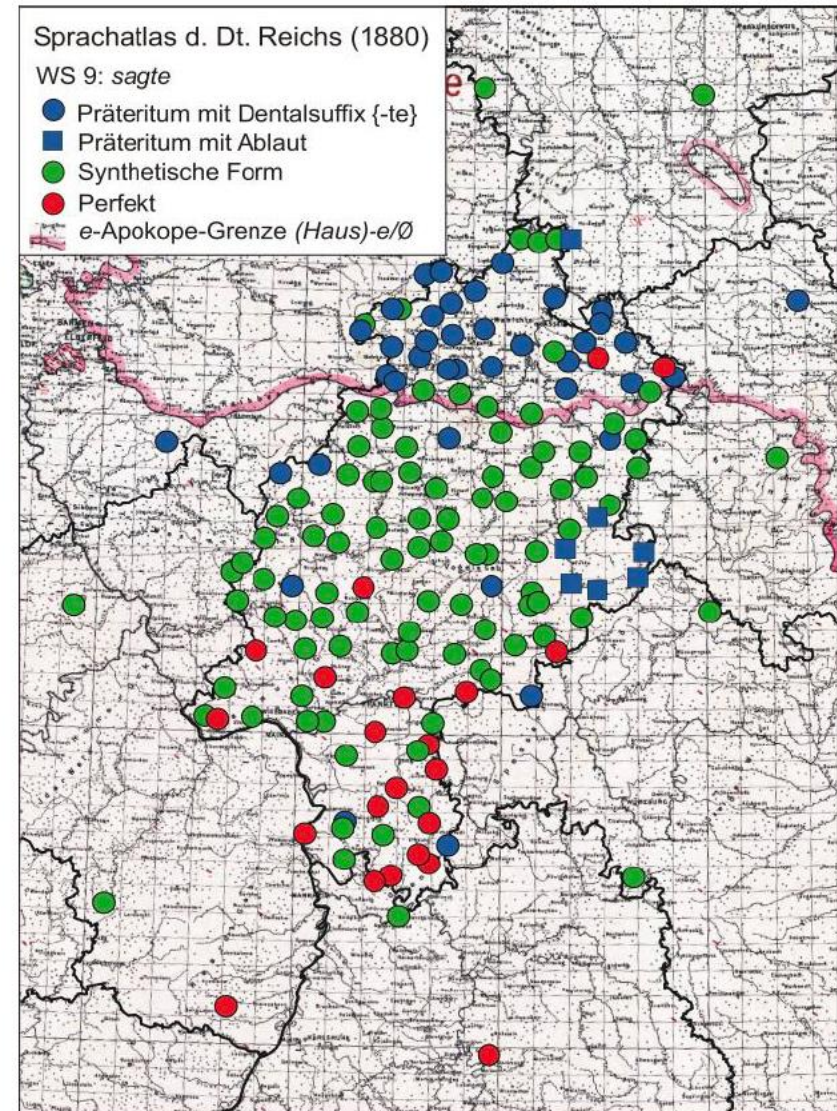


Lameli, Alfred. 2025. Rhythmus regional – Ein neuer Blick in den Sprachraum dank Citizen Science. In: Sprachspuren: Berichte aus dem Deutschen Sprachatlas 5(4). <https://doi.org/10.57712/2025-04>

Transliterations as linguistic data

– Innovative analyses of the Wenker data

- graphematics
 - apostrophes (Dücker in press)
- prosody
 - rhythm (Lameli 2015)
- morpho-syntax and syntax, e.g.:
 - pro-drop, pronominal enclise (Fleischer 2015, 2017)
 - tense forms (Fischer 2015, 2018)
 - prepositional enclise (Dücker & Oberdorfer in press)



Dialects as Cultural Heritage

- Dialects are part of the **Intangible Heritage** of our societies:
 - regional culture and history
 - anchor for regional identity
- **Our mission:** Enhancing access via web tools and repositories for
 - researchers of all disciplines
 - education
 - general public

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 - supporting the FAIR principles
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Akademie der Wissenschaften
und der Literatur | Mainz

Thank you.

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Research Center Deutscher Sprachatlas | DSA
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35037 Marburg
www.dsa.info



Universität
Marburg



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und Raumfahrt

Funded by



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