

## SHARING IRISH PLACENAMES AS LINKED OPEN DATA

### CONTACT DETAILS:

PROJECT NAME: LINKED LOGAINM

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### Objectives

Irish place names have a colourful history, with Irish and English language translations, and often variant spellings and pronunciations which are still in common use.

The Logainm.ie database provides official Irish language names for over 100,000 places in Ireland, plus alternate and archaic versions of names, archival records, sound files and mapping tools. This rich, hierarchical geographic dataset provided an ideal, challenging basis for the Linked Logainm project.

Linked Logainm is a collaborative project undertaken by the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) and the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI), with Fiontar at Dublin City University, the National Library of Ireland and the Irish Government's Placenames Branch of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Logainm dataset was automatically and semi-automatically extended and enhanced by exploiting Open Data, and deploying Linked Data to reuse data from the Web.

Linked Logainm shows how a data repository like DRI - the Irish national trusted digital repository for humanities and social science content, and computer science research organisations like DERI, an internationally leading Semantic Web research organisation, can collaborate and benefit from sharing expertise. In particular it shows opportunities to leverage Linked Data technologies in the context of social and cultural data.

### On-going activities:

Current activities in the Linked Logainm project involve the wide dissemination of the new data resource and user guides and tutorials, encouraging its adoption and implementation by information professionals. Promoting the dataset among organisations that already rely on Logainm data allows us to evaluate the advantages of using Linked Data (as opposed to the previous approach of XML dumps). Furthermore the simplified data access should attract new users and further integration of the Logainm dataset, improving the identification and discoverability of Irish place names in data and metadata both nationally and internationally.

The Linked Logainm project is one of a suite of projects demonstrating the benefits of sharing high-quality data that have been developed at the Digital Repository of Ireland and DERI, as part of the LION 2 Centre and continued in INSIGHT: Ireland's National Data Analytics Research Centre. INSIGHT and DRI also continue to actively promote data sharing as two of the organising partners for the third RDA plenary meeting in Dublin in March 2014.

### Results:

The Linked Logainm project has created a Linked Data version of the authoritative bilingual database of Irish place names Logainm.ie, as an open data resource. By publishing the dataset as Linked Data we provide a stable and up-to-date access layer to the underlying data and also enhanced it by establishing links to entities in other Linked Data datasets, for example DBpedia.

The Linked Logainm dataset is currently available to download at [Logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie) as Linked Open Data, providing Irish place name data in a structured, computer-readable format allowing its value to be fully exploited by researchers, web developers, computer scientists, the heritage community and information professionals.

The Location LODer website is an interactive map demonstrator, where visitors can explore Irish place names, linked with historical context and maps, images and contemporary data from sources such as Europeana, Wikipedia, the Irish Historic Towns Atlas and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas.

User documentation for the project includes an introduction to Linked Data for Library, Archives and Museum Professionals, and a broader guide to the potential use-cases for the Linked Logainm dataset, aiming to encourage the dissemination and wide usage of the data.

**URL:** <http://logainm.deri.ie/demo>