

Reading the text, walking the terrain, following the map: Do we see the same landscape?

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Outline

- 1 Document vs. landscape
- 2 Map document vs. textual document
- 3 Indications and suggestions

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Document or landscape?

- Viewing documents representing landscape
 - *Moving the eyes*
- Seeing the landscape
 - *Moving the eye-head-body system*

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Document vs. practice

- Distinction muddled by expressions such as “conceptual map”
- Embodied creatures finding our way

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But ...no mapless societies?

- No maps before 1500 (Wood 2010)
- Wayfinding: words, body, brain, senses, landscape, fellow creatures, ...and recently some maps

*The “History of Cartography” is not discussing maps.
They are discussing things we think look like maps.*

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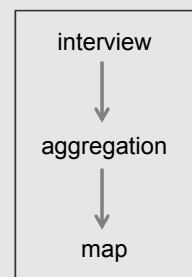
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Case study: text vs. map

Schnitler: Scandinavia, 1740's

- From overlapping tax areas to borders between states
- Information gathering
- Common people seen as a source to information based on their knowledge, not on their status



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The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal and map-based expressions of geographical information.

The model and formalisation

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The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal and map-based expressions of geographical information.

«Fall-off»

What is lost in the process

- Context
- Vagueness
- Under-specification
- Negation
- Disjunction
- ...

- Making an inventory

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The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal and map-based expressions of geographical information.

Too little and too much

- Too little: What do a map need in order to be made
- Too much: What do a text have to offer

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The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal and map-based expressions of geographical information.

Too little: underspecification

“A verbal text describing a spatial phenomenon in a way that can be understood as two or more significantly different phenomena by a competent reader, thus, an ambiguity stemming from a lack of information.”

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The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal and map-based expressions of geographical information.

Too little: choices

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The area told as a story. An inquiry into the relationship between verbal and map-based expressions of geographical information.

Too much

“[...] in North of there, there are no peasant farm.”

length(A, B) ≠ length(B, A)

“There are no More Finns Close to the Borders [...]”

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Why do we not see this?

As map

vs.

Onto map

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Media restrictions: How to make maps anyway

- Dynamic
- Completeness definition
- Choices
- Text

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Different media, different experiences

- How things are said
- What is said

“Every medium has the capacity of mediating
only certain aspects of the total reality”
(Elleström 2010)

*...so it is no surprise that wayfinding is
different from both maps and texts*

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Wayfinding vs. navigation

- Cognitive map?
- Landscape as a text?
- or...

wayfinding ≠ map use ≠ reading

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Thank you!

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