

Internet of Places: The Route about Fountains in Biel

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In this work a prototype of a web-based site was developed. The goal of the project was to provide the inhabitants of the City of Biel with interesting content, such as information about historic fountains of the city, in a playful manner. This project was realized in cooperation with the administration of the city of Biel and should primarily serve as a conceptual prototype for future developments.

About the project

Today, to find information about anything, the internet is used. For example, on Google you can quickly find information by entering keywords. However, the internet is not comprehensive. There are places, for instance, about which you cannot find information on the internet or other platforms. In offline places, such as historic libraries, books and information on such topics can be found. However, this is time consuming and not intuitive for most people anymore. This work addressed the specific case of the city of Biel. It has over 72 fountains, which are largely not documented on the internet. The project developed a historic route which connects the locations of the fountains. At each location more specific about the fountain is provided. The objective is to map all fountains of the city of Biel as a historic route accessible for tourists and inhabitants. By interviewing different target groups, the specific group “families with children” was defined for this work. In addition, different factors were consid-

ered, such as the safety of the route, the length of the route, the difficulty of the quizzes and the simplicity of the website. The project developed different versions of the websites where you can find information about the city of Biel and the corresponding fountains. By means of gamification, the attractiveness of the service offering was designed according to the requirements. The website features quizzes, GPS coordinates and also a Google Maps route. This project was realized in strong collaboration with the city of Biel and shows well how to connect places with the internet.



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Figure 1: The fontaine route