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Historical Photos on the Map

Exploring Photographs Through Space and Time

Locate the Past

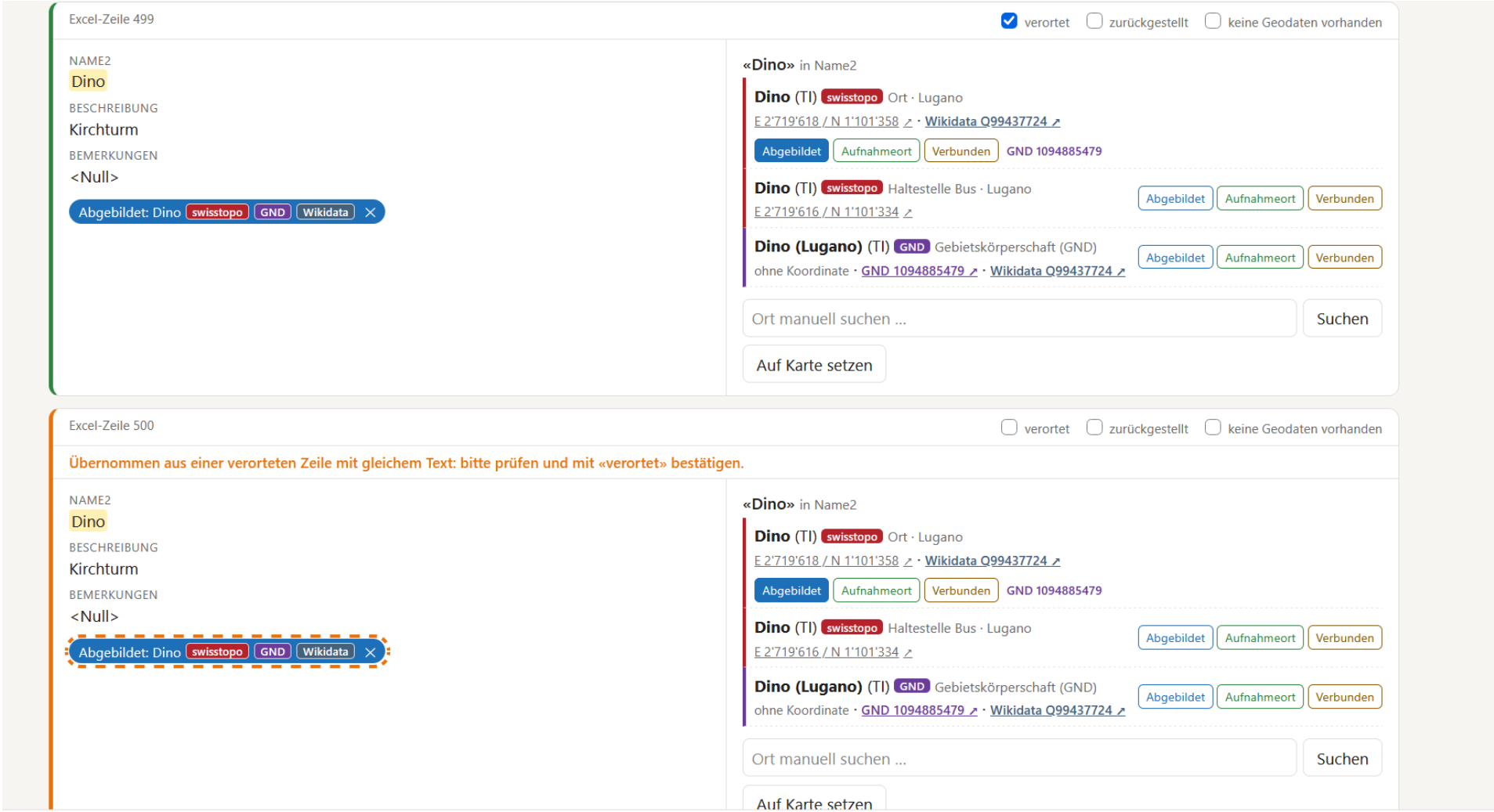
Geospatial metadata in Archives

14.11.2026

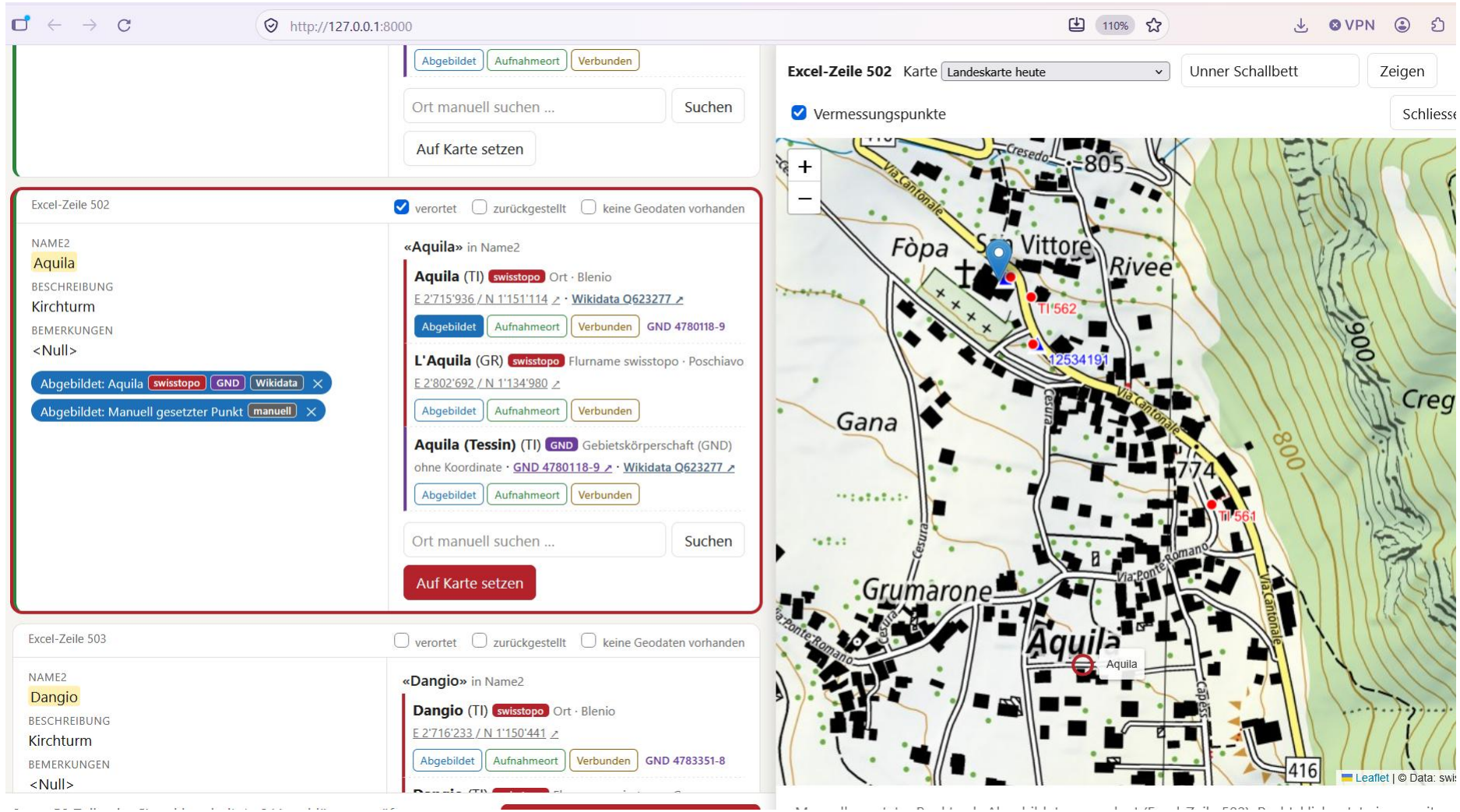
Swisstopo

- Question: How can we make historical photographs discoverable through interactive maps?
- Dataset: Technical Photographs (TnA) collection on Memobase
- Goal: Visual Entry Point for users instead of search bar

Tool for verifying the geodata and enriching it by matching it with wikidata, gnd and swisstopo

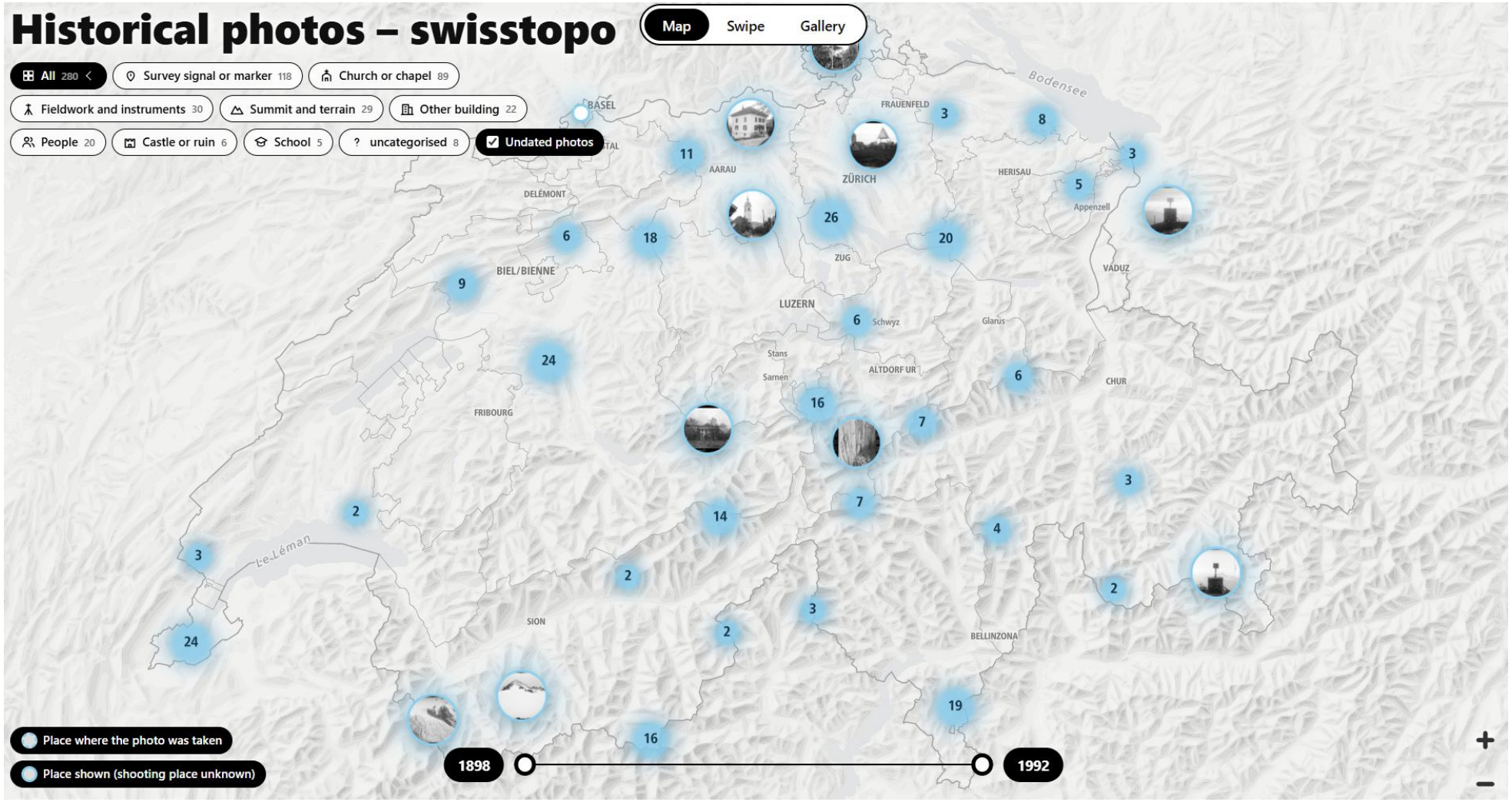


Function for manually setting the exact location.



Demo: Historical photos – swisstopo

https://odoma-ch.github.io/GLAMHACK26-HistoricalPhotos/

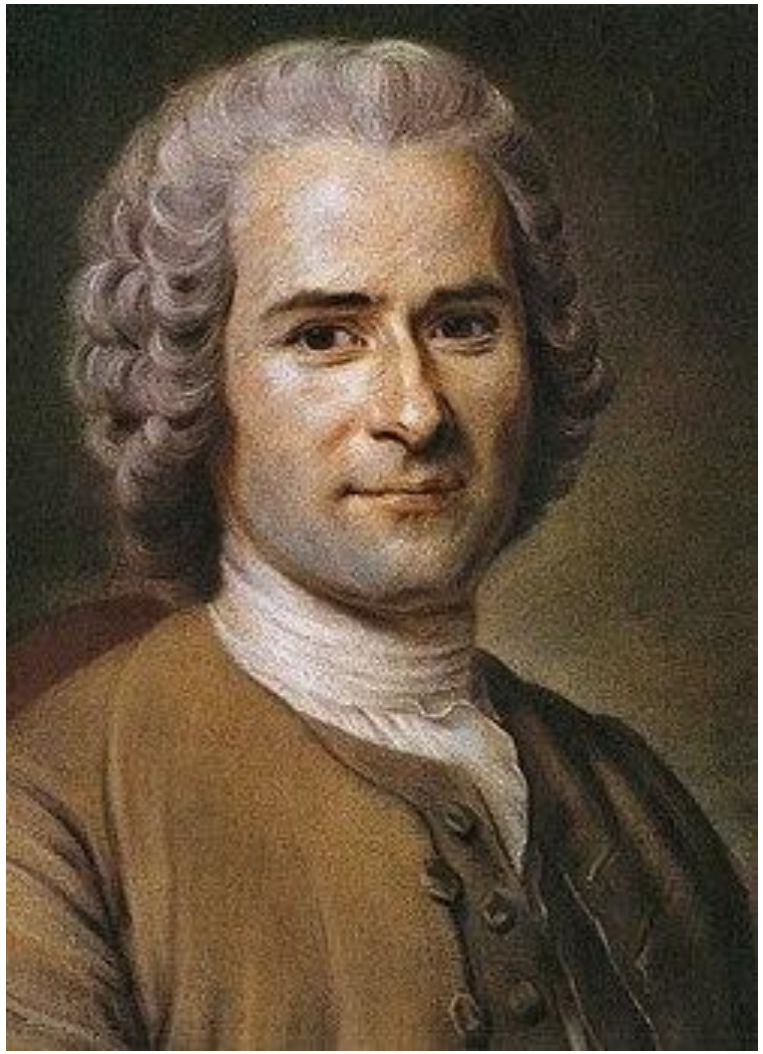


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Goal: Enriching our dataset with geospatial metadata to gain visualization possibilities

- Dataset: places descriptors (index terms) linked to our descriptive units, historical documents, pictures, or person descriptors
- OpenRefine to link the places to wikidata → include into archives catalogue
- For today: dataset with persons – places of birth and death
- Script to match the places with the coordinates from Nominatim API (OpenStreetMap)

Persons from the Burgerbibliothek Bern

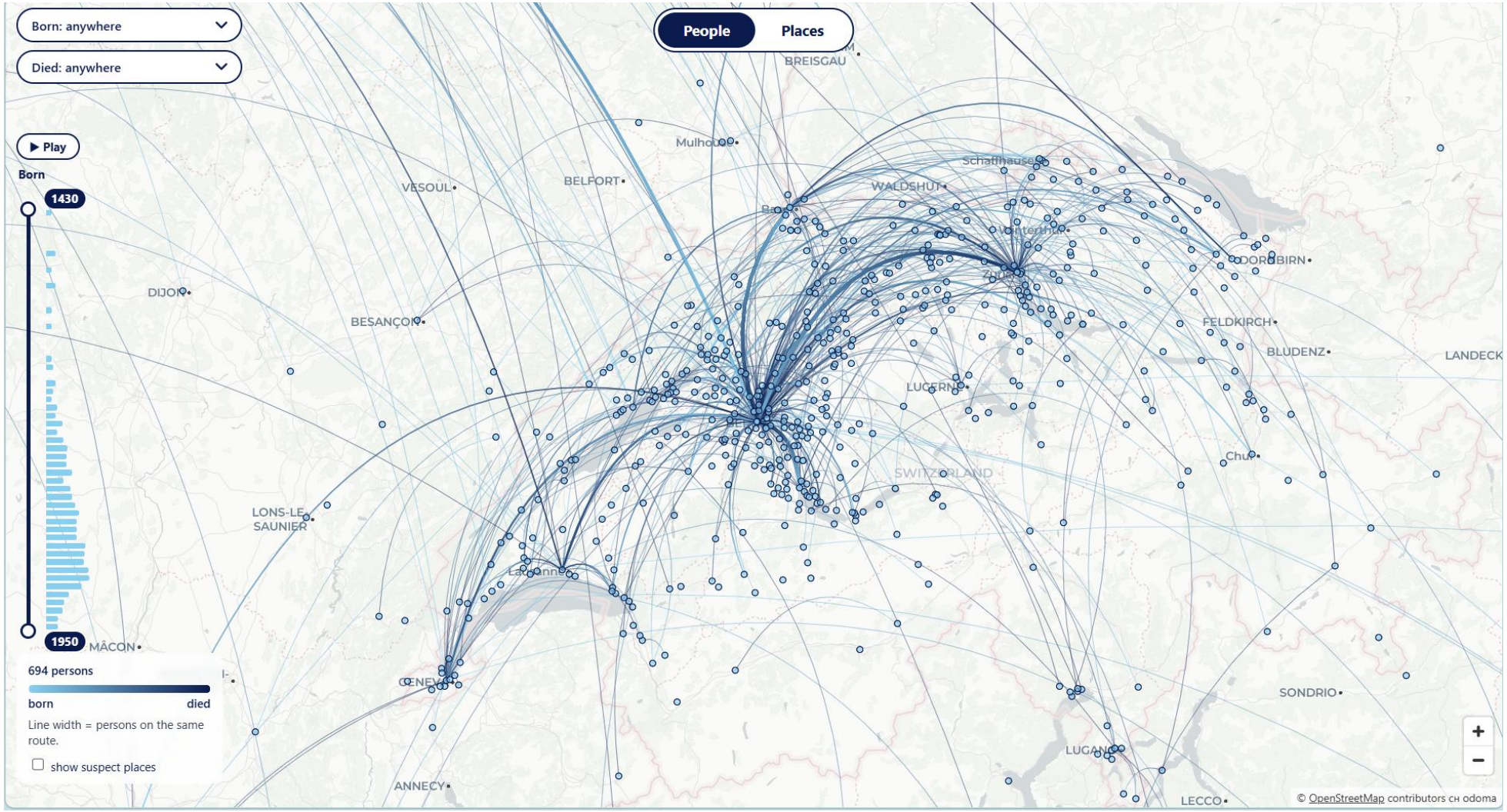


Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Born: 1712 in Geneva

Died: 1778 in Ermenonville near Paris

Demo: [Born here, died there – Burgerbibliothek Bern]



Future development

- Further improve our data by correcting and enriching it
- Visualize more photos on the map, developp an product that can be shared with other instiutions
- Extend these concepts to historical data



Thanks to our whole team
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Swisstopo Map

Burgerbibliothek Map