Whom are Streets Named after?
Connecting Street Names to Knowledge Graph Entities

Streets are often named after famous or distinguished individuals, who may or may not have a direct connection to the specific location. While datasets such as OpenStreetMap and GeoNames contain information about streets across the globe and knowledge bases such as Wikipedia and Wikidata contain information about famous individuals, these two worlds are often not connected. This makes it challenging to connect streets to whom they are named after.

For example, consider the inventor of the movable-type printing press, Johannes Gutenberg: OpenStreetMap returns more than 50 locations named after him, which are located in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and France (see Figure). A particular challenge is that of local importance: Many persons are only honoured in specific cities and are not represented in the input datasets (for example, former mayors of the city). Another challenge is multilinguality: among different countries, streets are named differently (e.g., "Via ..." vs "...-Straße").

The existence of such a dataset allows a range of interesting queries, for example:
- After which person were streets named in most countries?
- Which groups of persons (politicians, authors, ...) are honoured the most?
- Give me all streets named after French women in Munich.

Such dataset and queries would not only yield interesting cultural insights but could also serve as a means to enrich touristic applications.

In this thesis, you will first analyse the relevant input datasets (e.g., OpenStreetMap and Wikidata). Then, you will develop an approach for detecting relevant streets and linking them to persons covered in the person knowledge graph. The generated dataset will be presented in a queryable way, e.g. as a knowledge graph. Finally, you will demonstrate how the dataset can be used in practice: with an analysis, example queries, interactive query forms or even an interactive interface.

References:

**Relevant datasets:**
OpenStreetMap, Wikidata, Wikipedia, GeoNames, …

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