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**Intermediary Structures  
in Flanders 19th-20th Centuries**

# **The ODIS-DATABASE**

## **A Contextual Instrument on Flemish Civil Society**

**Peter Heyrman**

## **ODIS-DATABASE**

- Looking back
- Providing unique and direct access to hitherto shattered pieces of knowledge
- Combining knowledge and data collections of the four Flemish host institutions:
  - ADVN: Archives and Documentation Centre of Flemish Nationalism
  - Amsab – Institute of Social History
  - KADOC-K.U.Leuven
  - Liberal Archives

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## **ODIS-DATABASE**

- Free webdatabase
- Aimed at a scholarly public, yet open for everyone
- Relational database
- two interfaces : input and OPAC
- Oracle-based (8.1.7.)
- pl/sql-programs for the dynamic creation of HTML
- XML as exchange format

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# **ODIS-DATABASE**

- Frame and data in Dutch
- Five data collections:
  - **Organizations**, institutions (Intermediary Structures)
  - **Persons** actively engaged in IS
  - **Publications** of and concerning IS
  - **Archives** of and concerning IS
  - **Election results**
- Validation of content by authors & participating institutions
- Administration on a central level (users, key-words, lists of values, ...)
- helpdesk (info@odis.be)

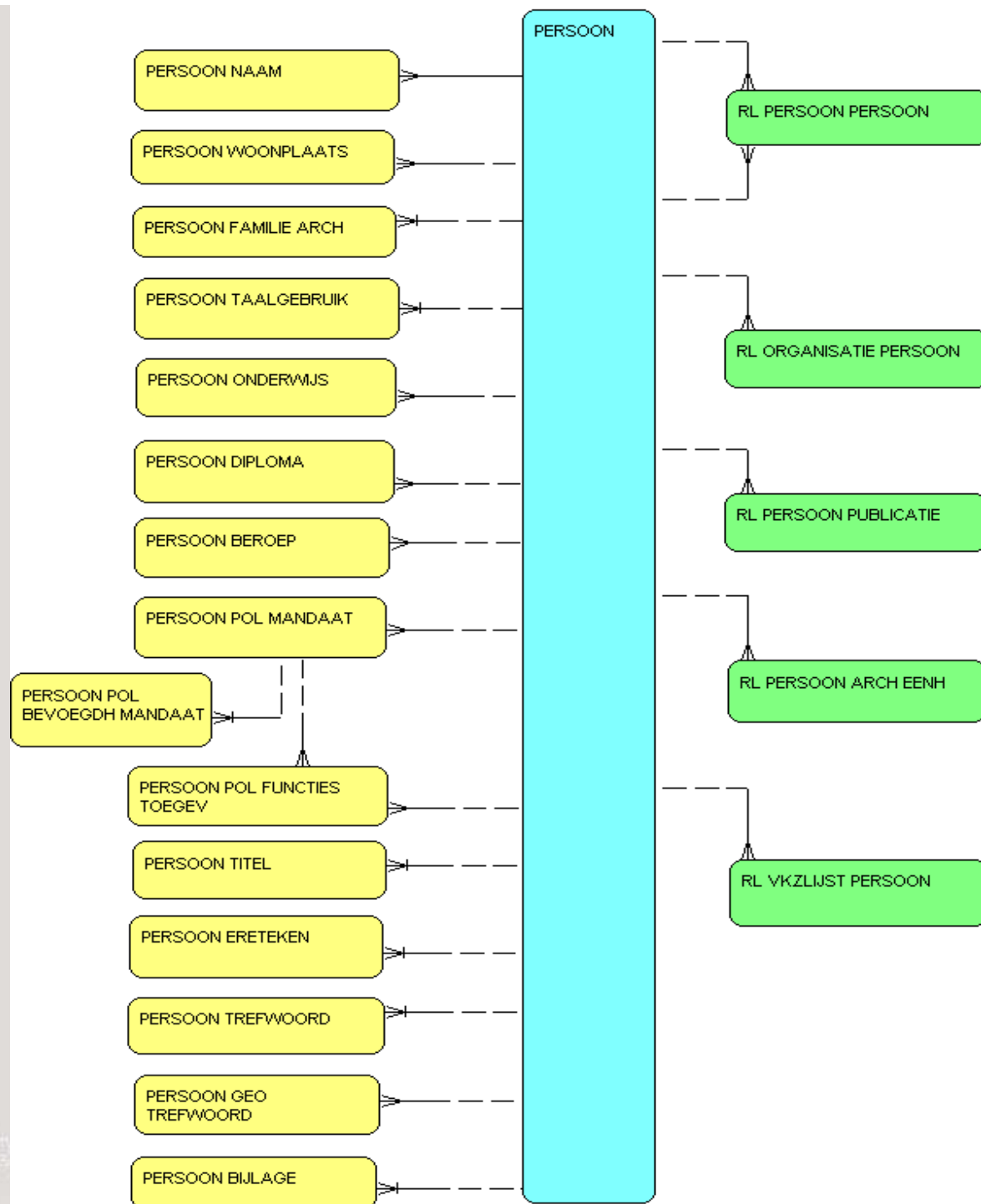


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## **ODIS-database**

- **Structured and guided data-input**
  - list of values / attributes
  - but in combination with free text fields
- **Repeatable field groups**
- **Keywords**
  - Post-coordinated and levelled
  - Content-related and geographical keywords



## ODIS-DATABASE

- Dynamic instrument ; persistent data-input and updating
- Different functionalities :
  - Encyclopedic source of information
  - repertory of sources (archives, periodicals, ...)
  - tool for analytic research
- Module electoral results
  - renewed framework
  - storage, search & retrieval
  - Belgian historical electoral data (1830-today)
- Demonstration of the input-interface.

# **ODIS-DATABASE**

- International standards
  - ISAAR(CPF): archival authority files
  - ISAD(G): archival descriptions
  - ISBD: descriptions of publications
  - ISCED: education levels
  - HISCO: historical occupations
  - ISO 6392: languages
  - ISO 3166: countries

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## **ODIS-DATABASE**

- Sequences of development
  - October 2001 : ODIS 1.0 (basic input-interface)
  - June 2002 : ODIS 1.2. (renewed input-interface)
  - June 2003 : ODIS 2.0 (electoral module)
  - September 2003 : ODIS 3.0 (OPAC v. 1)
  - November 2003 : ODIS 4.0 (OPAC v. 2)
- Data-input : October 2001-today

# ODIS-DATABASE

- Data-input : 8 clusters
  - Social organisations
  - Political movements and parties
  - Women's organisations
  - Youth organisations
  - Cultural and educational organisations
  - Firms and services
  - “New” social movements
  - Filosofical and religious organisations
- Data-input in 2002-2003
  - priority to cluster *Social organisations*
  - cluster *cultural and educational organisations*
  - cluster *youth organisations*

# ODIS-DATABASE

- Conversion of older data-collections
  - biographical repertory of KADOC
  - bio-biographical repertory of Liberal Archives
  - repertory of periodicals of KADOC
  - archival repertory of ADVN, Amsab-Institute for Social History and of KADOC-K.U.Leuven
- Data (25/11/2003)
  - Organizations 11123 records / 1137 available to the general public
  - Persons : 50.524 / 21.184
  - Publications : 13.648 / 10.663
  - Archival units : 2142 / 821

# ODIS-DATABASE

- OPAC (2002-2003)
  - user-friendly
  - easily accessible
  - performant
- 3 search modules
  - *quick search* (full-text)
  - *simple search* (specific indexes)
  - *advanced search* (using a combination of attributes)

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## **ODIS-DATABASE**

- Main features
  - using indexes and full-text
  - wildcards & expansion operators
  - boolean operators
  - user can consult a search-history
  - search results can be downloaded, printed and sent
  - result lists can be arranged dynamicly
  - elaborate help-pages

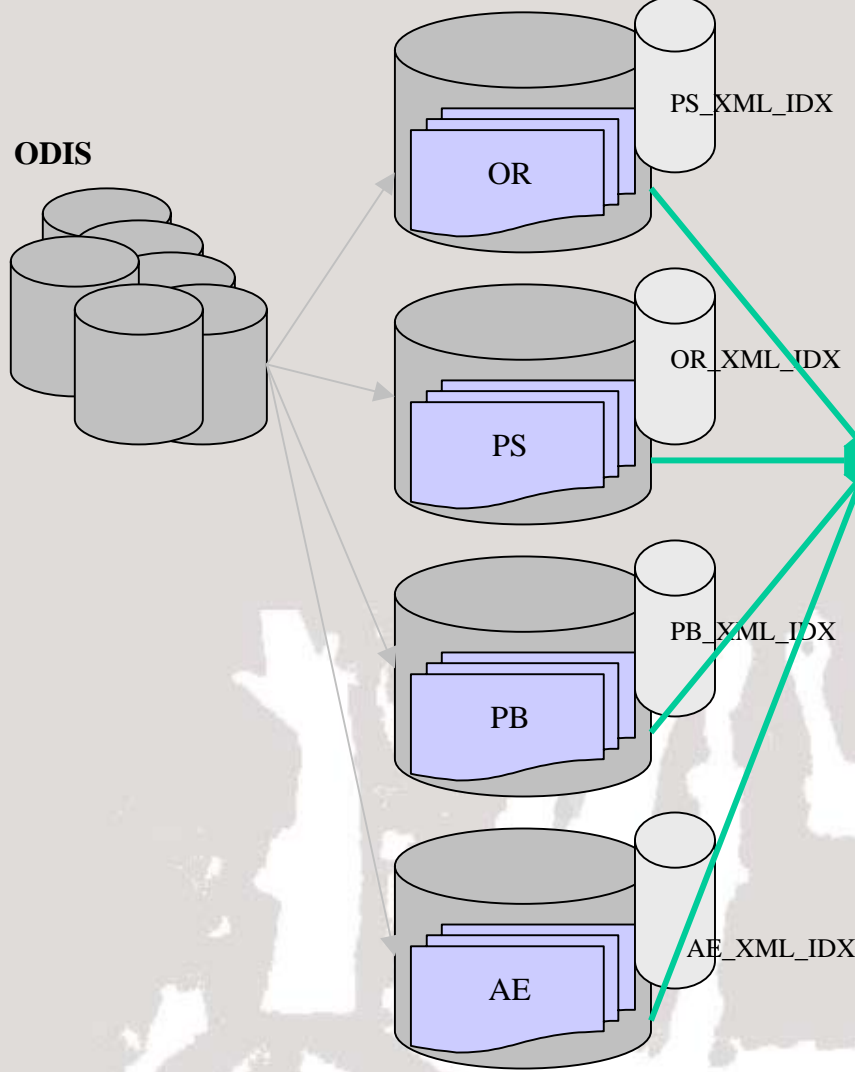
# Full odis

Configuration  
ODIS-OPAC

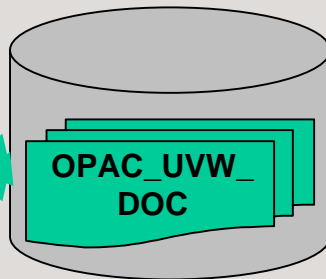
ODIS

XML-  
tabels

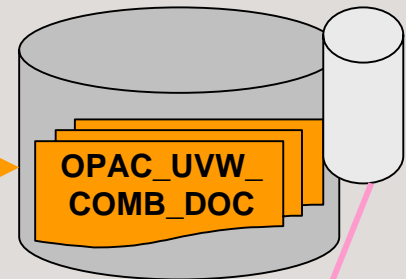
Full  
text  
indexes



Tables with unique  
records in the requested  
format, f.l. HTML



Tables with combined  
records in the requested  
format



*Combination of requested records in  
their export format*

Mark up  
index

*Mark-up*



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## **ODIS-DATABASE**

- demonstration of the [ODIS-OPAC](#)



## **ODIS-DATABASE**

- Future plans
  - ad infinitum
  - ODIS-consortium hosting and data-input
  - anchoring the consortium
  - links to catalogues and other public instruments (Archiefbank Vlaanderen)
  - new users and participating institutions
  - valorization of the electoral module
  - international frameworks