

## **A demonstration of a dialectal database**

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Our aim focuses on the presentation of a specific dialectal database created in order to gather the collected materials for Portuguese linguistic atlases, specifically for the ALEPG (Atlas Linguístico-Etnográfico de Portugal e da Galiza), ALEMPS (Atlas Linguístico-Etnográfico da Madeira e do Porto Santo) and ALEA (Atlas Linguístico-Etnográfico dos Aores). The main target is to study linguistic variation and linguistic varieties in the Portuguese territory. The preservation of an important amount of dialectal lexical items, as their meaning and geographical location, must also be pointed out as a goal to achieve. The applied questionnaire for these three atlases is mainly onomasiological, but it also contains some phonetic and morphophonological information. The concepts are organized in the database in a hierarchical relationship of 3 semantic fields' levels (supra semantic, semantic and sub semantic fields). This tool was built based on a Relational Data Model for enabling different queries and searching criteria. In this way, it is possible to generate the following reports: *concepts, informants, answers from a specific inquiry, related concepts, unanswered concepts, answers to one concept, selected answers*. This database also enables to recover linguistic information for other atlases, namely ALiR (Atlas Linguistique Roman). One of its major functionalities is the possibility of using the geographical location of the obtained answers to automatically build maps (cartography) which may be of two different types: one with symbols to pinpoint different answers and another one with the specific answers (phonetic transcription).

In order to demonstrate the potential of this tool, the dialectal database structure will be presented and a practical application of it will be shown considering data from ALEA which is already available online.