

<http://wals.info/>

WALS Online provides an interface to analyse combinations of two features. A combination of two features can again be displayed on a world map, or exported.

The Velar Nasal and Vowel Nasalization

		Vowel Nasalization	
		Contrast present (64)	Contrast absent (180)
The Velar Nasal	Initial velar nasal (146)	● 5	● 53
	No initial velar nasal (88)	● 4	● 14
	No velar nasal (235)	● 24	● 69

Click to reset icon selection to default values.

Choose the size of the icons on the map



Data Export

Feature data can be exported in various formats:

- in KML - now an open standard
- in a simple XML format
- as maplet, which can be imported by Google Maps users into their maps

Partners

The World Atlas of Language Structures, was published as a book with CD-ROM in 2005 by **Oxford University Press**.

In 2008, *WALS Online* was published as a separate publication in a joint project of the **Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology** and the **Max Planck Digital Library**:

Haspelmath, Martin & Dryer, Matthew S. & Gil, David & Comrie, Bernard (eds.), *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, 2008, <http://wals.info/>

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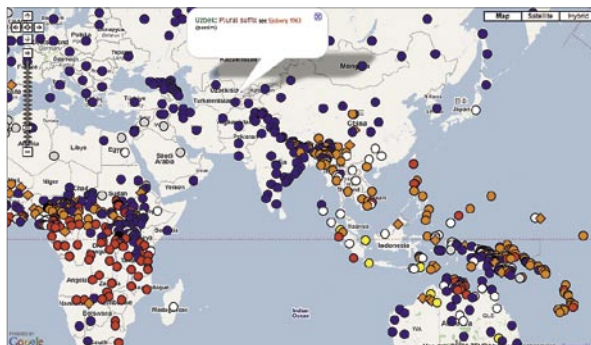
The World Atlas of Language Structures Online



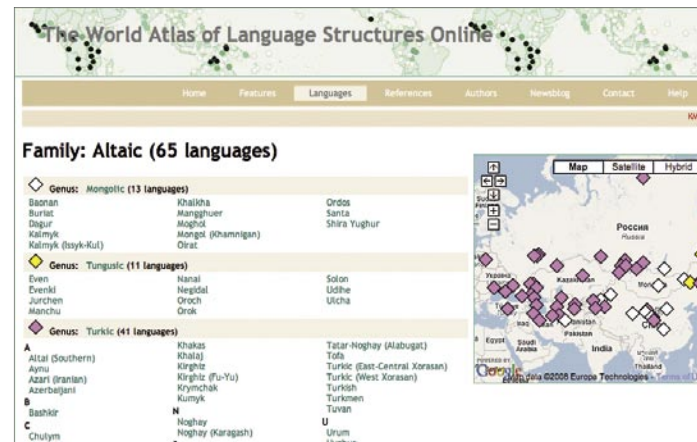
What is WALS?

The **World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS)** is a large database of structural (phonological, grammatical, lexical) properties of languages gathered from descriptive materials, such as reference grammars, by a team of more than 40 authors (many of them the leading authorities on the subject).

WALS consists of 141 maps with accompanying texts on diverse features (such as vowel inventory size, noun-genitive order, passive constructions, and „hand“/“arm“ polysemy). A single author or a team of authors is responsible of each chapter. The maps show between 120 and 1370 languages, every language being represented by a symbol, and different symbols showing different values of the feature. Altogether 2,650 languages are shown on the maps, and more than 58,000 datapoints give information on features in particular languages.



WALS thus makes information on the structural diversity of the world's languages available to a large audience, including interested nonlinguists as well as linguists who would not normally read grammars of exotic languages or specialized works by comparative linguists. Although endangered languages are not particularly emphasized, they are automatically foregrounded because of the large sample of languages represented on each map, where each language (independently of its number of speakers) is shown by a single symbol.



Covered Areas

- Phonology
- Morphology
- Nominal Categories
- Nominal Syntax
- Verbal Categories
- Word Order
- Simple Clauses
- Complex Sentences
- Lexicon
- Sign Languages

WALS Online

Through a joint effort of the *Max Planck Digital Library* and the Department of Linguistics of the *Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology*, all the data and analytical texts from the **World Atlas of Language Structures** are now freely available online („WALS Online“) at <http://wals.info/>. The materials are published under a Creative Commons License, guaranteeing open access for users and inviting scientists to use them for their work. WALS Online is by far the most important web site on the world's linguistic diversity.

The site shows data on over 2,500 languages, for which more than 6,500 references have been used. Searching and browsing is possible by structural feature, by language name or language family, by reference and by author. The analytical texts contain links to all the references and all the languages. The maps can be shown at any zoom level, and the map symbols can be displayed in various shapes and colours. A wide range of export options is available.

