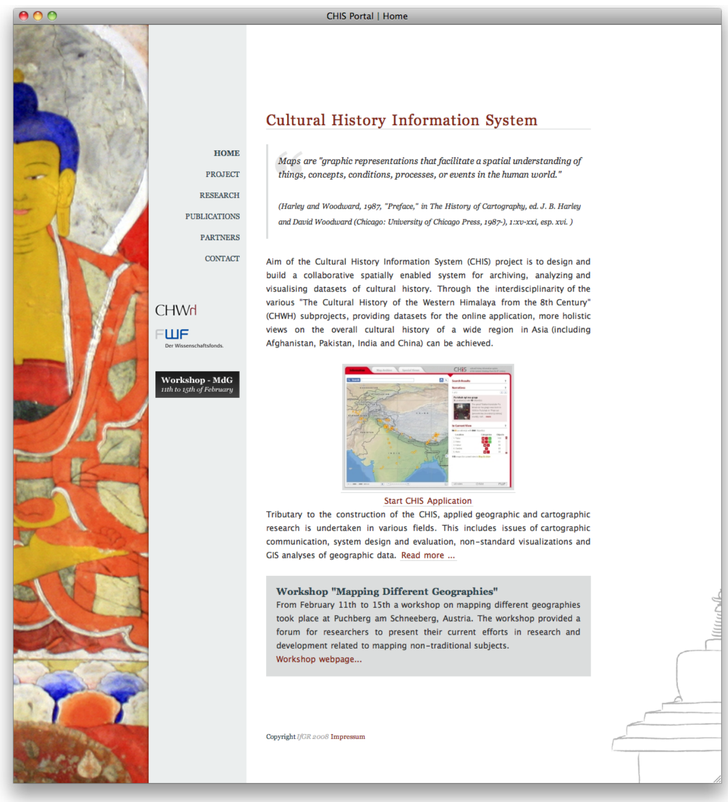
Subproject of the NRN „The Cultural History of the Western Himalaya from the 8th Century“

Cultural History Information System

General

The work carried out by the University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research in the scope of the NFN S98 Projects' subproject 08 (SP08) has its main objective in the scientific examination of the design and implementation of a 'Cultural History Information System' of the Western Himalaya from the 8th century.

Theoretical and applied research in the fields of cartography, geographic information science and mapping for the humanities as well as international cooperations with experts has led to a theory of information access in this special area. The work of SP08 is currently being promoted in a number of scientific articles and book publications. One of the most visible outcomes is the first version of the 'Cultural History Information System' that has been put online in April 2009.

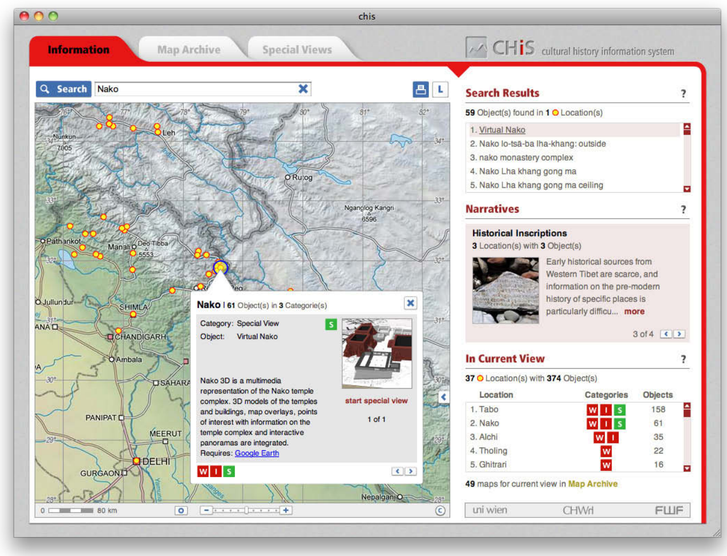


CHIS web-portal

Application

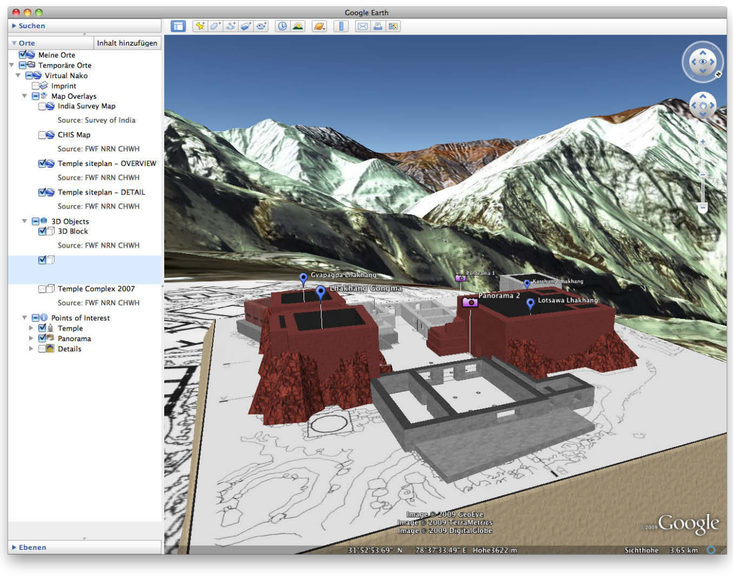
The *Cultural History Information System* (CHIS) is a web-based cartographic information system for the visualization and analysis of cultural historic objects in the Western Himalaya. It integrates materials from various sources and allows the users to derive a holistic understanding of the entire data within its regional, cultural and historical context. Additionally the system represents a portal to the research of all subprojects of the National Research Network (Art history, Tibetan manuscripts, Tibetan inscriptions, Philosophy, Pre-Islamic numismatic history and Geography).

Virtual Nako is a multimedia representation of the Nako temple complex in Google Earth. It contains 3D models of the temples and buildings, map overlays from different sources (Indian Survey, CHIS application, architectural plans (NRPP)), points of interest with various information about the temple complex and interactive panoramas.



Online-based Information System (CHIS)

Within the scope of the project a software package for collecting cultural–historical object information on-site with mobile devices ('*Geographic Data Acquisition Tool*' (GDAT)) was developed. This application is particularly adapted to needs of domain experts to facilitate an easy-to-use device-independent GPS client for data acquisition. GDAT is able to run on any GPS-enabled mobile device, such as mobile mapping devices and the newest generation of mobile phones.



Virtual Nako in Google Earth

Outcome

- Transdisciplinary research efforts and knowledge exchange in an international collaborative environment
- Scientific benefits in the fields of cartography, geographic information science and mapping for the humanities
- Distribution of results through publications (articles and books) as well as organization of and participation in workshops and conferences
- Dissemination of art-historical knowledge through the development of digital online applications
- The Cultural History Information System can be accessed via this URL: **http://www.univie.ac.at/chis**

GPS Geographic Data Acquistion Tool (GDAT)

Contact

University of Vienna
Department of Geography and Regional Research
Cartography and Geoinformation
Universitätsstraße 7 (NIG)
A-1010 Vienna, Austria

FWF/NFN chwh cultural history of the western himalaya
FWF Der Wissenschaftsfonds.
universität wien