

# The GALOES Grammar Authoring System

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This paper presents the GALOES grammar authoring system, a platform to create an expandable hyperlinked electronic grammar, which can be published on the web or on a DVD.

The last years have seen much development in web publishing tools (content management systems, blogs, wikis), and use of these techniques for ends of language documentation and description has been called for (Mosel 2006, Weber 2006), but was not implemented until recently (e.g. Thieberger 2006, this talk). The use of an electronic authoring system has a number of advantages as compared to a paper version, both for the author and the reader.

Grammar authors can use the multi-user capability to edit the grammar in collaboration even if in different countries, can view earlier versions of a section and revert to a former version if the latest changes were unfortunate, and can easily add cross-references to other sections. New insights can be incorporated as the research progresses and are available to the readership without the need for errata or a second edition of a book.

Editing can be done via a graphical user interface (optional) and does not require skills in any web technology. Consistency within the grammar is achieved by using templates and automatic alignment and numbering of linguistic examples. Another interesting feature is an automated backup procedure to prevent data loss.

The users of an online grammar will appreciate cross-references in form of hyperlinks, structuring of content according to different axes (formal, functional, typological, ...), automated index, full-text search, wide and narrow category search, embedded multimedia content, and links to source language texts from which examples are drawn, among other things.

The system draws on theoretical typological insights, such as Comrie & Smith (1977), Zaefferer (1998) and Comrie et al. (2005), but this presentation will focus on the practical hands-on aspects most relevant for teams working in the field.

## References

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