

ColTime: Collaborating on Time-based Resources  
*CLARIN-NL Call 4*

**Deliverable 1: Demonstration scenario**

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## **Introduction**

This brief document sketches three scenarios in which users create or exploit time-based annotations, and are in need for better ways to refer to data and to interact with other researchers about data. The annotations are in EAF format, and can be viewed in ELAN when on a local disk or in ANNEX when stored in an archive after annotation has been completed.

### **Scenario 1: Creating annotations in a team setting**

When working with a team of annotators and researchers on a large data set, there are often annotations that need further discussion or cross-checking, or errors that need to be corrected at a later date. Currently, people typically use an external bookkeeping system for this, or create separate annotation layers (tiers) to store comments about annotations. This enables searching and modification, but also pollutes the annotation documents. It would be useful to have a separate function for such meta-annotations, that contain observations about data or comments to collaborators.

### **Scenario 2: Discussion on existing annotations between collaborating researchers**

Researchers collaborating on a data set face the same situation as the annotation team in scenario 1. They annotate data sets in structured ways, but also want to add observations about annotated data, or even discuss data in such a manner that the data source can be directly observed, linking comments or questions to annotations. Here, too, this can be done by creating tiers in ELAN dedicated to such meta-discussions, but it would be better to separate data from meta-comments.

Another aspect to this facilitation of researchers' use of multimodal annotations is that they should be able to share comments in an easy way. As ELAN documents are stored locally, and archived files are not easy to modify, an integration of server-based messaging and local EAF storage should be available.

### **Scenario 3: Referring to data in publications**

In addition to creating comments that refer to specific annotations or segments of annotated media files, there is a need for referring in a specific manner to archived annotation documents. Citing examples in journal publications, for instance, should allow for hyperlinking to specific segments of annotated documents in such a way that readers are not presented with the full ANNEX viewer, but with a tailored browser display of just the relevant time segment and/or the relevant annotations. Such a scenario would increase both the quantity and the impact of the use that researchers can make of published data sets, and it would contribute to the transparency and quality of the research in question to have source data or examples directly available from journal publications.