



An open source approach to a historical earthquake catalogue for Bavaria/Germany

F. Barnikel

University of Munich, Dep. for Geo- and Environmental Sciences, Geography Section
(barnikel@geographie.uni-muenchen.de)

The history of earthquakes in Bavaria is comparatively well known and a simple list of dates, places and magnitudes has already been published by the Earthquake Service of the Bavarian Ministry of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection in cooperation with the Bavarian Geological Survey. In a new project at the Department of Geo- and Environmental Sciences of the University of Munich the main written sources for historical earthquake data will be analysed again.

The BASE project (Bavaria's Seismicity in Historical Documents) aims at a thorough analysis of the historical data to gather as much information as possible on the historical earthquakes. This analysis will enable the involved seismologists to reassess the validity of the magnitude, the location of the epicentre, the radius of the seismic zone etc. A next step will be the publication of all historical data available for the Bavarian earthquakes on the www. Since the amount of written data available in the numerous archives all over Bavaria (State Archives, municipal archives, private archives, to name but a few) is unfathomable, people interested in seismology and with access to local archives are requested to contribute to this future data base. They will be able to access the data base directly and add information to the list of earthquakes.

Our goal is, consequently, not only to improve the information on historical earthquakes, but also to include citizens in scientific work and, therefore, to contribute to natural hazard education nationwide.