

Reflection

Researching the use of big data in the built environment is not done very often. Therefore, the research subject BOLD cities is a new subject for the master track Management in the Built Environment. This research is thus an addition to previous research subjects available for our master track. This thesis fills up the research gap of the use of big data in project developments.

My personal interest in big data and project development are very broad. This resulted in the creation of a very broad main research question, which implemented many different topics regarding the use of big data in project developments. The main research question is changes many times since the start of my research process. The process of making the subject of my thesis more specific was very important during the entire AR3R010 course. This has been a time-consuming process, but the process helped me in creating a clear view on what I wanted to research and what I needed for this research. The downside of the lengthy process is that there was not much time left to focus on the case studies. In the remaining time I was almost completely focussed on conducting a thorough literature study, and thus less on the cases.

After the p2 I wanted to know more than only general things about transport in the surroundings of the cases. This would probably give a clear view on what kind of transport, and thus on what kind of data, I need to focus on. Performing the literature study seemed a steady process. Nonetheless, it is also a process that brings insecurities. Trying to search for useful literature sometimes seemed like searching for something that does not exist. It is furthermore a 'never-ending' process since a lot of literature is available. Some weeks, when reading many journal articles in a relatively short time, resulted in losing focus on what kind of literature I needed. There have been several moments before and after the P1 where it was difficult to continue the process because you tend to lose a clear structure during the process. Therefore, the many meetings with the graduation mentors within the theme 'BOLD cities', Alexander Koutamanis and Ellen van Bueren, were very helpful. After every meeting, I knew what my next steps would be in the process towards the P2. In the first period after the P2, and towards the P3, the methodology for this research has changed a few times. This was done through meetings with the graduation mentors and a lot of thinking, reading and searching for big data on the internet. This period is completely different from the end period toward the P2 where a lot of time is used for writing the thesis instead of thinking about the process. Thinking about the process (the research steps) was needed to create a new, and better, methodology. There were moments within this period where I had difficulties in visualising the end result of my thesis. This has led to a lot of "trial and error" since all the choices I made had to be tested to create the new methodology for this research, something that is needed in an explorative research. After the P3 presentation, I made the decision to postpone the P4 for three more months. The reason for this decision is time management and the nature of an explorative research. Besides writing this thesis, I work 4 days a week at a project development company. While I have learned a lot during these workdays about project development, my weeks tend to be very busy. While having less time for my thesis, I still want to create an in-depth analysis with a very good quality of the end result. The research is explorative, and thus not much information about the topics in this research are available. This research is new. Therefore, it is a very time-consuming process to analyse what kind of data is needed, where this data can be found and analyse all the usable data. This was only possible with the three additional months for writing my thesis. Toward the p4 I was very content with my decision to postpone the p4, since in these months it became very clear which direction I wanted to follow with my research and it became clear how I was able to create the desired end result.

This research helps project developers and municipalities to monitor (parts of) the city and to implement ambitions regarding transportation in the project brief. This research explores what data should be used in the transport analysis. It only uses open data to prevent privacy issues.