Landscapes, languages and data structures

Issues in building the Placenames Database of Ireland

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Fiontar, Dublin City University

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☑ *Include street names*

Type a placename in Irish or English
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BROWSE BY COUNTY

Aontroim/Antrim »

Welcome

Placenames Database of Ireland, developed by Fiontar (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht).

Placename of the day « 14/07/2012

Baile Chláir
gin. Bhaile Chláir
validated name

Claregalway

town
County: *Galway*

Archival records

scanned records available (2)

More information...

Announcement

Opportunities for Irish language graduates: deadline 16 July

There are 6 places available on a fulltime internship programme (Clár Aimhirgín) for Irish language graduates.

More information »

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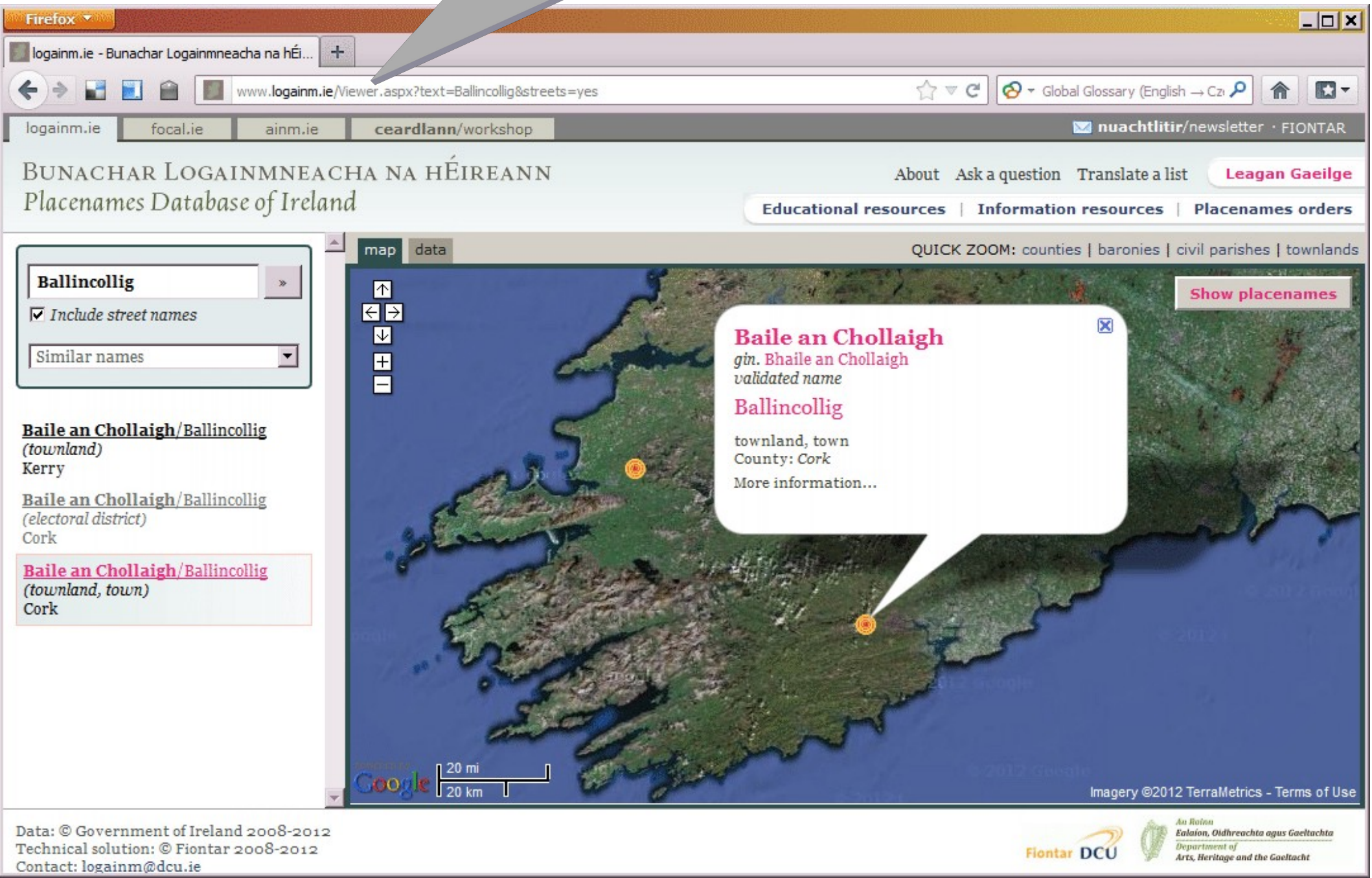

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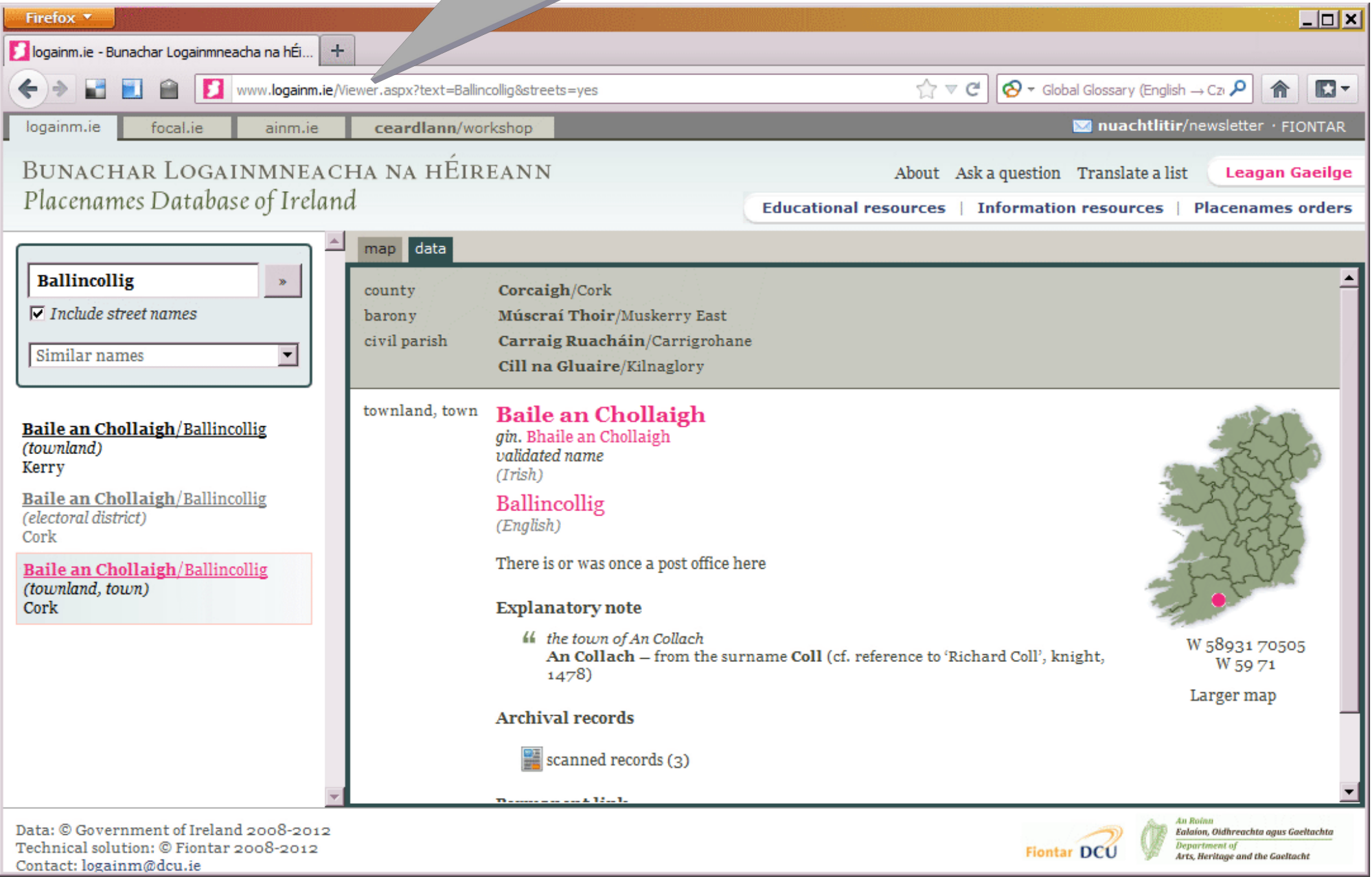


Agenda

1. Linguistic properties of placenames
2. Cross-linguistic issues
3. Administrative hierarchies
4. ‘Space’ versus ‘place’

1. Linguistic properties of placenames

- Internal structure
- Combinatorial properties
- Lexical relations

1. Linguistic properties of placenames

- Combinatorial properties
  - Number
  - Gender
  - Locative prepositions
  - Categorizers

Locative prepositions

Gaillimh *Galway*	→	i nGaillimh *in Galway*
An Cheathrú Rua *Carrarow*	→	ar an gCeathrú Rua *'on' Carrarow*

Categorizers

Donegal Town

Limerick City

County Donegal

County Limerick

1. Linguistic properties of placenames

- Internal structure
  - Constituent structure
  - “Initialisms” (eg. definite articles)
  - Composite names
  - Disambiguators

“Initialisms”

The Rise

The Burren

The Five Roads

The Square

An Baile Mór

An Bhó Dhearg

An Cheathrú Rua

An tArd

Na hArda

Definite articles

Éire → muintir na hÉireann
Ireland *people of 'the' Ireland*

Gaillimh → sráideanna na Gaillimhe
Galway *streets of 'the' Galway*

sa Ghaillimh
in 'the' Galway

but also
i nGaillimh
in Galway

Composite names

Terenure-Cherryfield

Lios Mór *agus* Magh Cholpa

Lismore *and* Mocollop

Ballaghgowla *and* Froghan

Phibblestown *or* Hansfield

Baile Fiobail *nó* Páirc Hans

Disambiguators

Loch an Dúigh Theas; Black Lough (South)

Balbriggan Rural, Baile Brigín (Tuath)

Ashtown A; Ashtown B

Tullyglush (Nevin); Tullyglush (Kane)

1. Linguistic Properties of Placenames

- Lexical relations
  - Words that frequently occur in placenames
  - Demonyms
  - “Placename recycling”

Demonyms

Galway	→	Galwegian
Tír Chonaill	→	Conallach

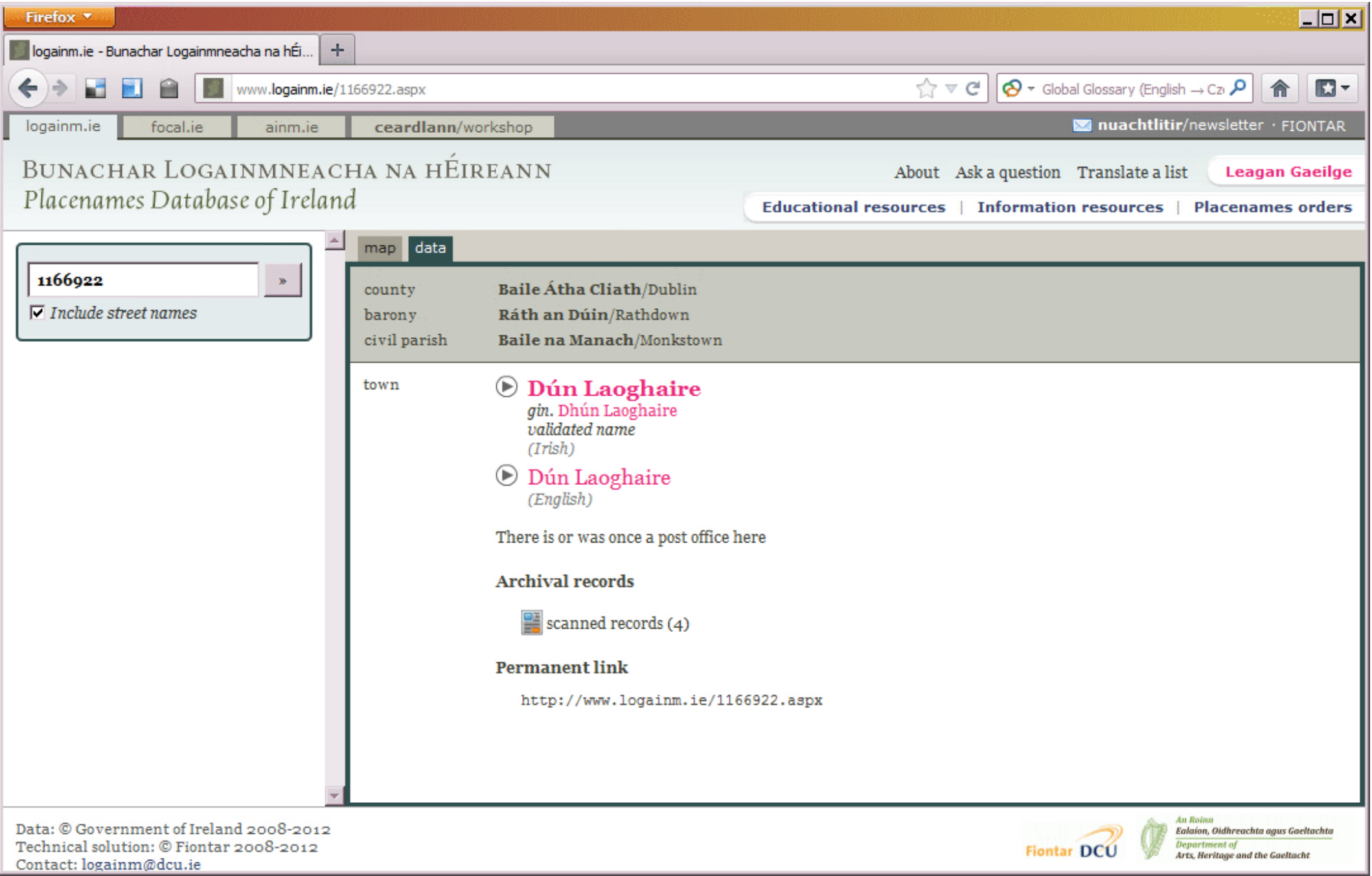
“Placename recycling”

Lismore *County Waterford*	→	Lismore Park *Waterford City*
Ballymore *County ???*	→	Ballymore Bridge *County Kildare*

2. Cross-linguistic issues

- Borrowing
- Gaps
- Anglicisation
- Translation
- Re-interpretation

Borrowing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map
data
county Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin
barony Ráth an Dúin/Rathdown
civil parish Baile na Manach/Monkstown
town
Dún Laoghaire
gin. Dhún Laoghaire
validated name
(Irish)
Dún Laoghaire
(English)
There is or was once a post office here
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scanned records (4)
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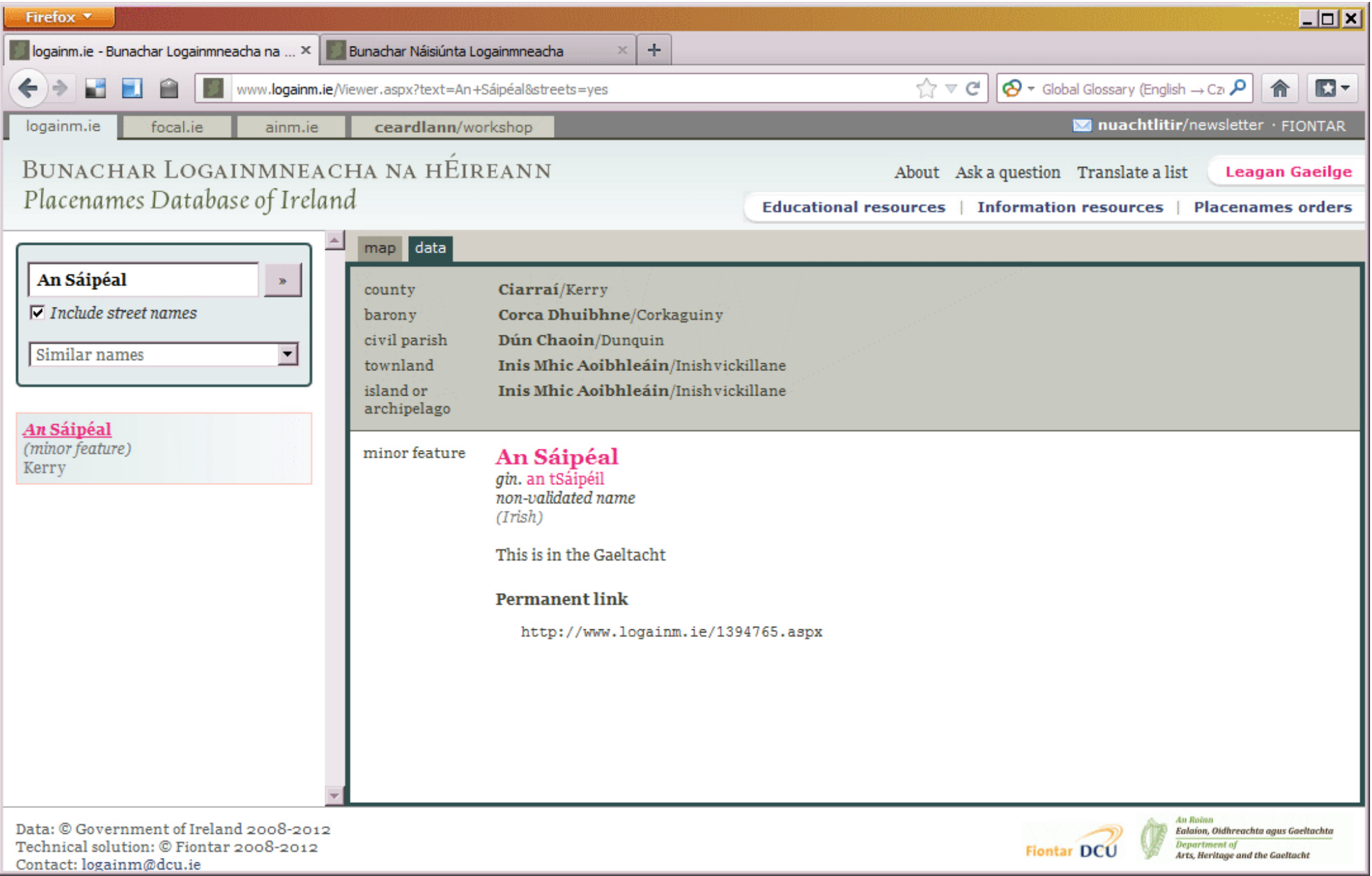
Gaps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Similar names
An Sáipéal
(minor feature)
Kerry
map
data
county Ciarraí/Kerry
barony Corca Dhuibhne/Corkaguiny
civil parish Dún Chaoin/Dunquin
townland Inis Mhic Aoibhleáin/Inishvickillane
island or archipelago Inis Mhic Aoibhleáin/Inishvickillane
minor feature
An Sáipéal
gin. an tSáipéil
non-validated name
(Irish)
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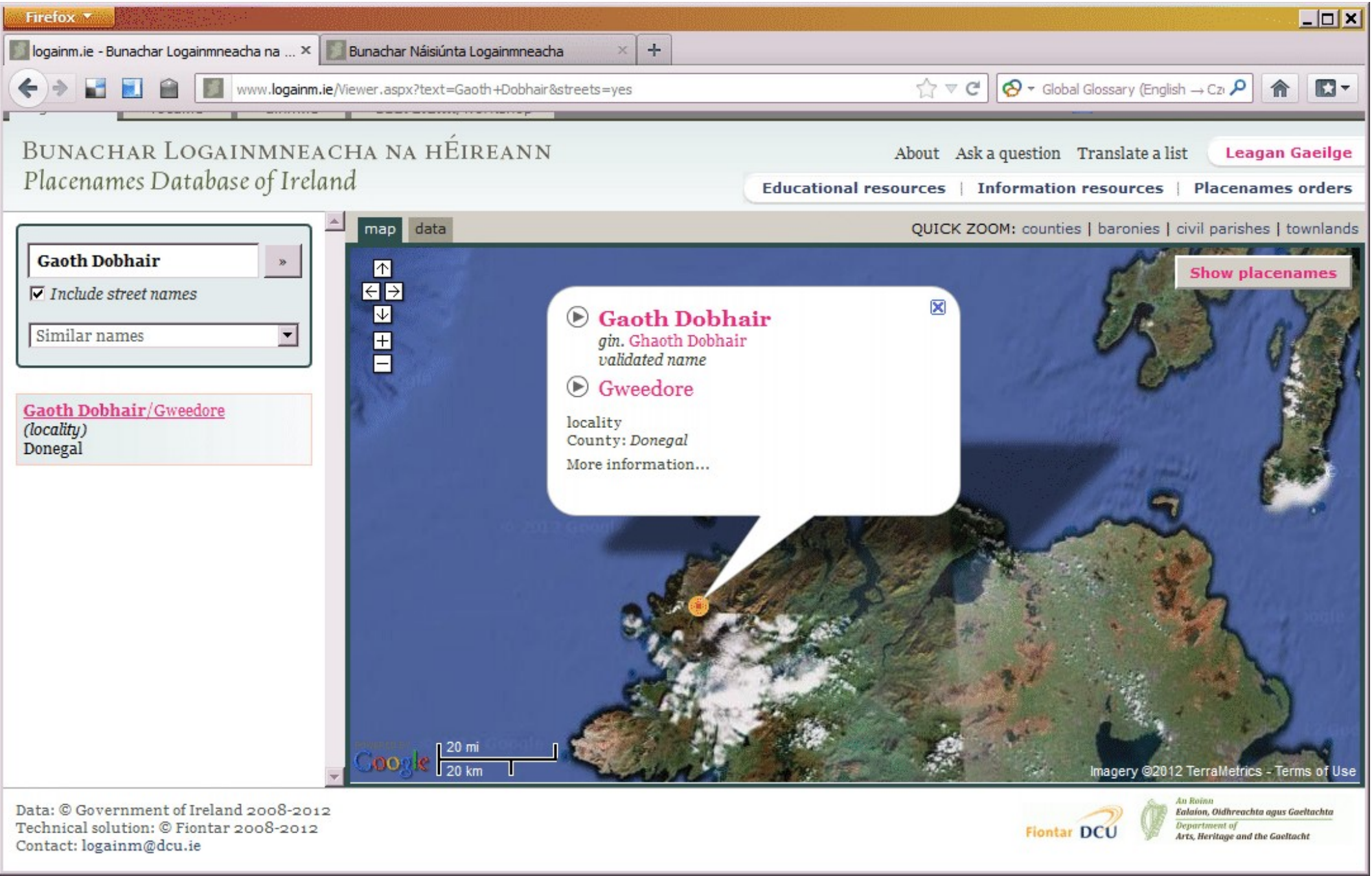
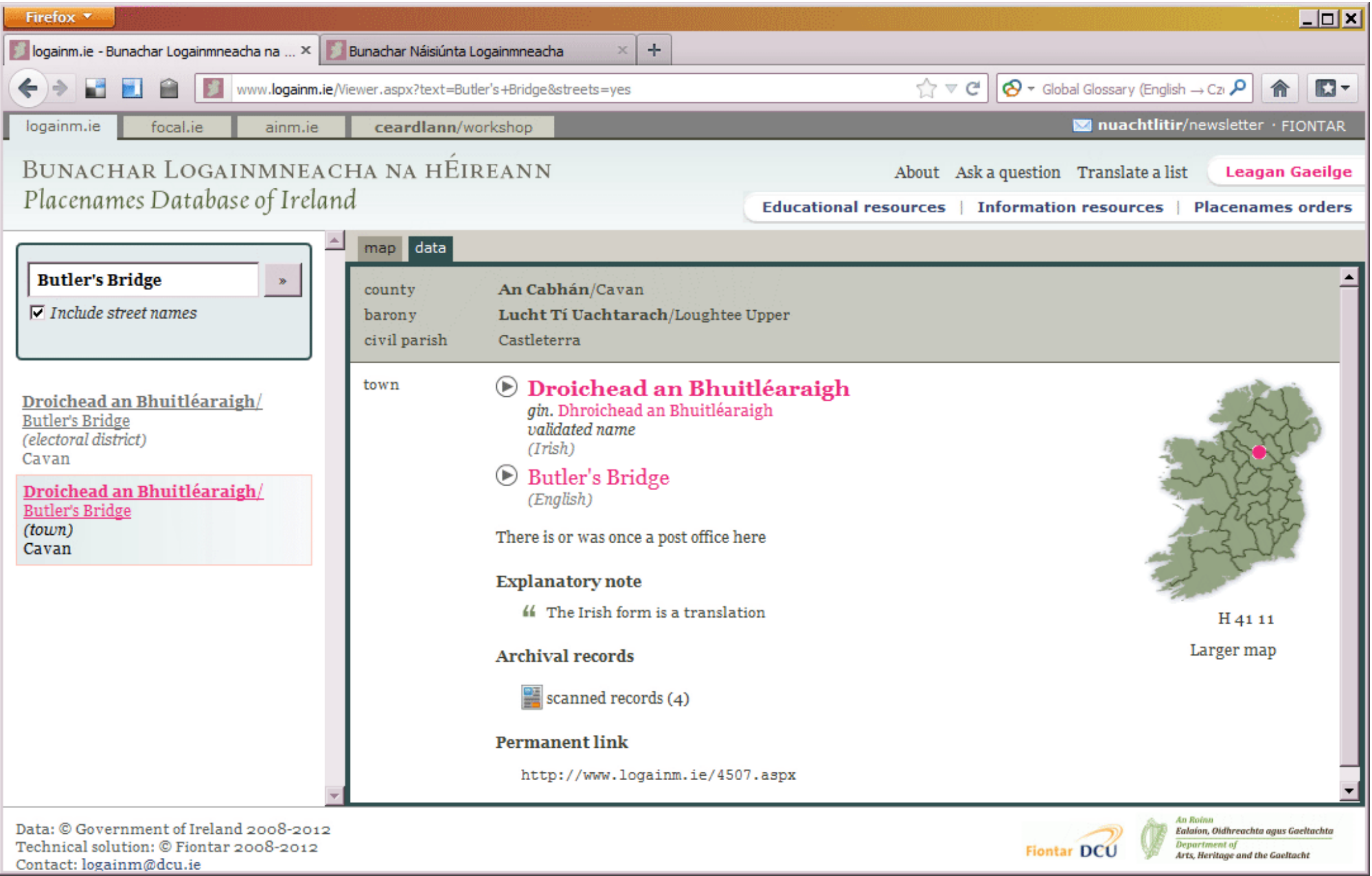
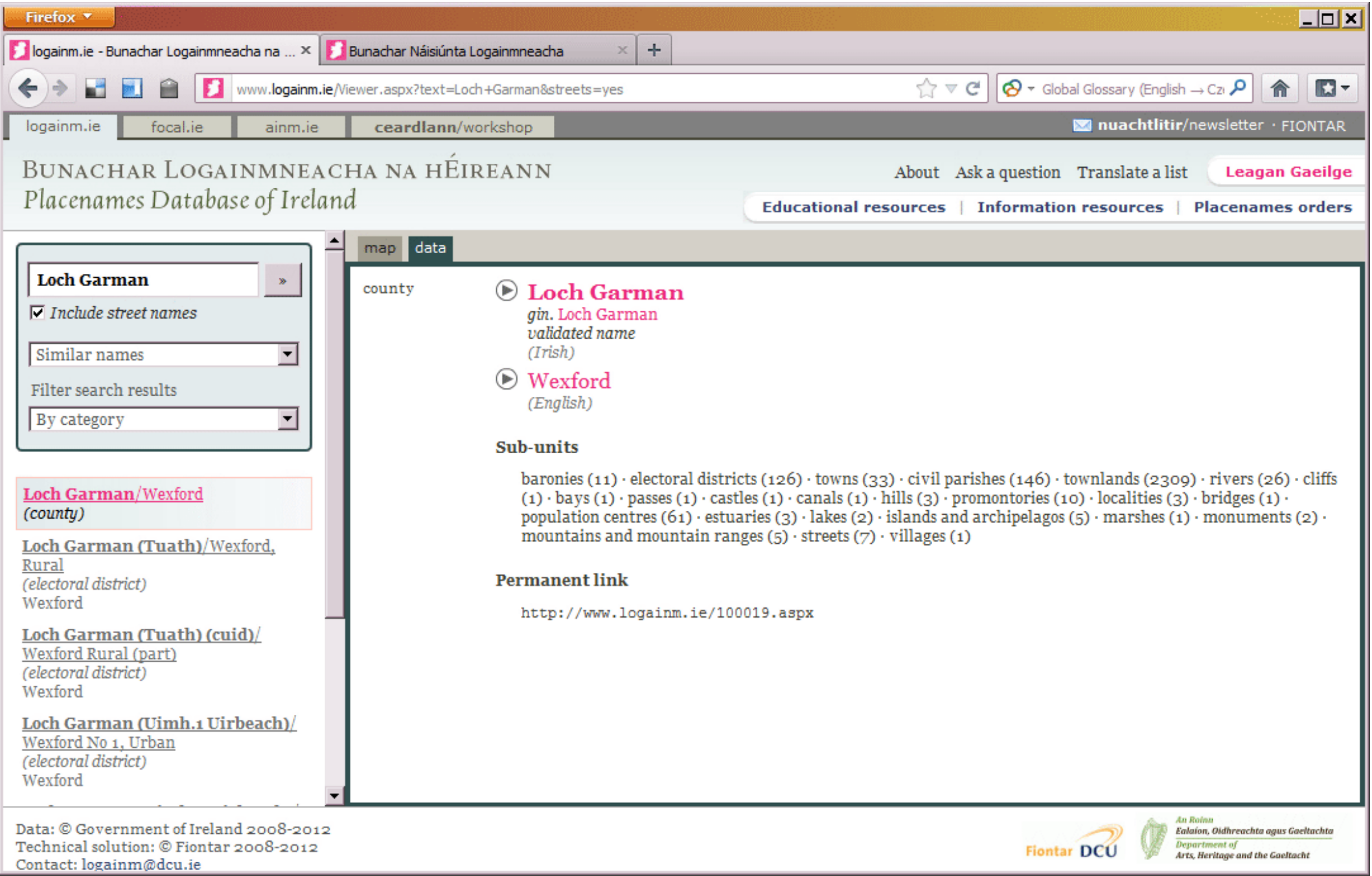
Anglicisation



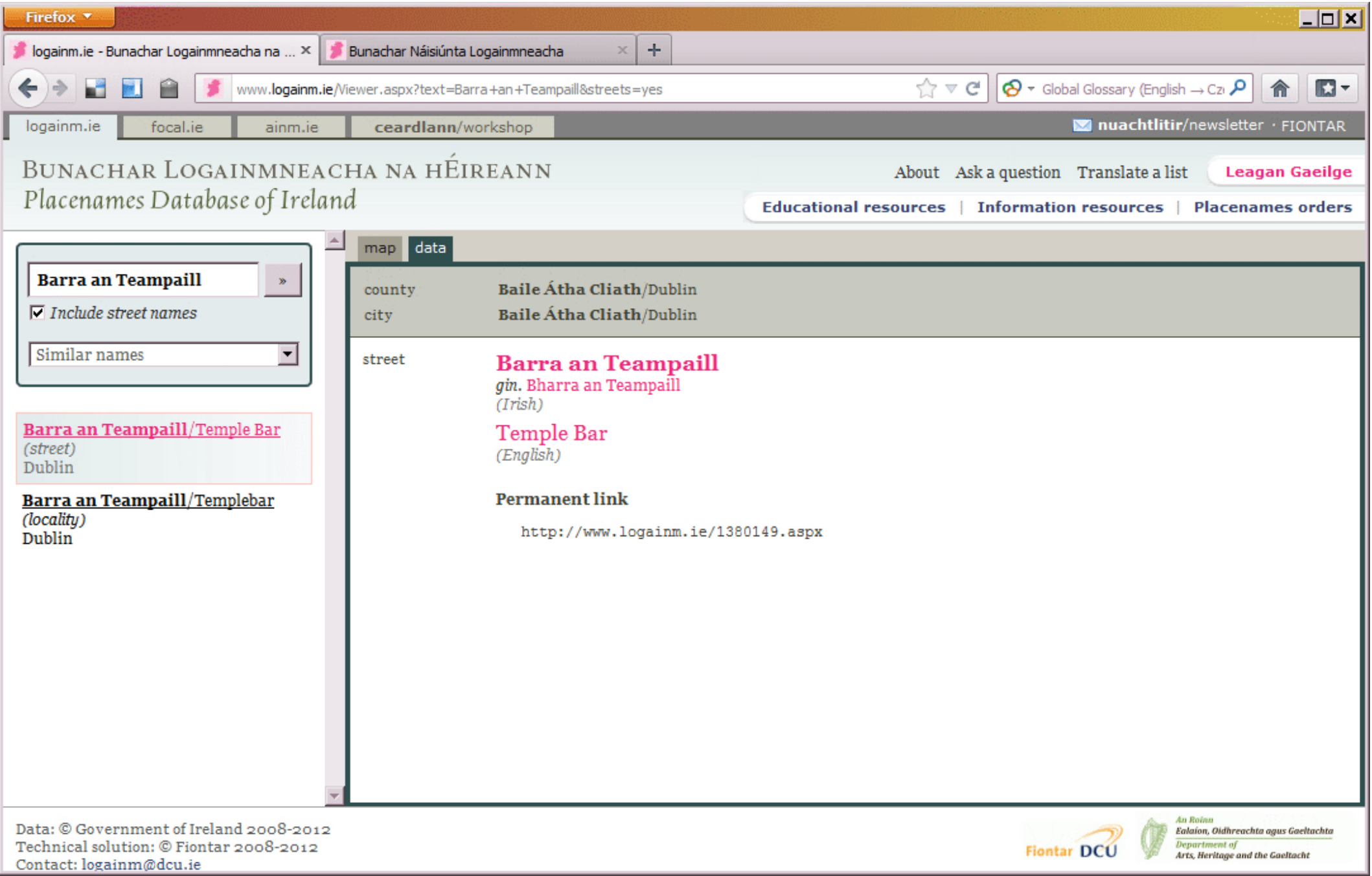
Translation



Independent etymologies



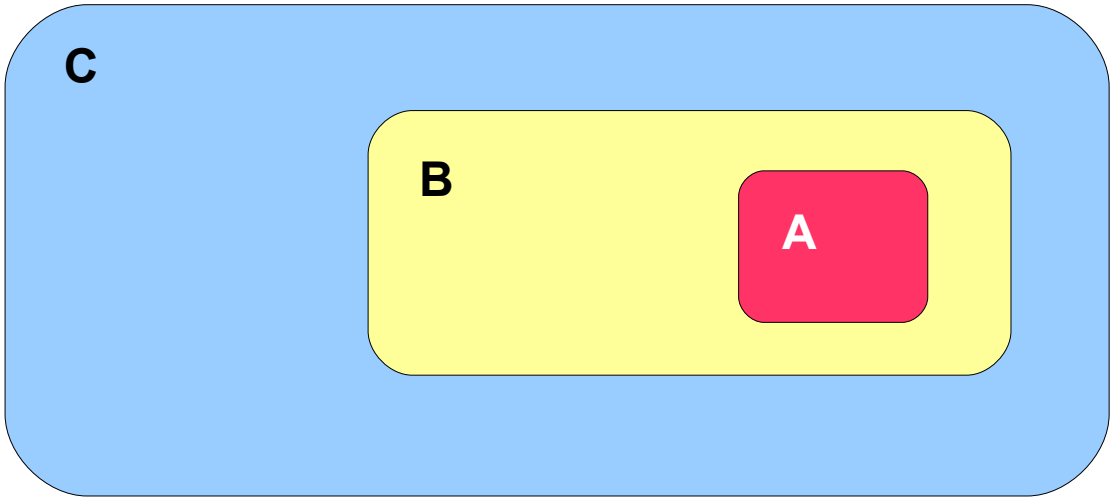
Reinterpretation



3. Administrative hierarchies

- Nested hierarchies
- Overlapping hierarchies

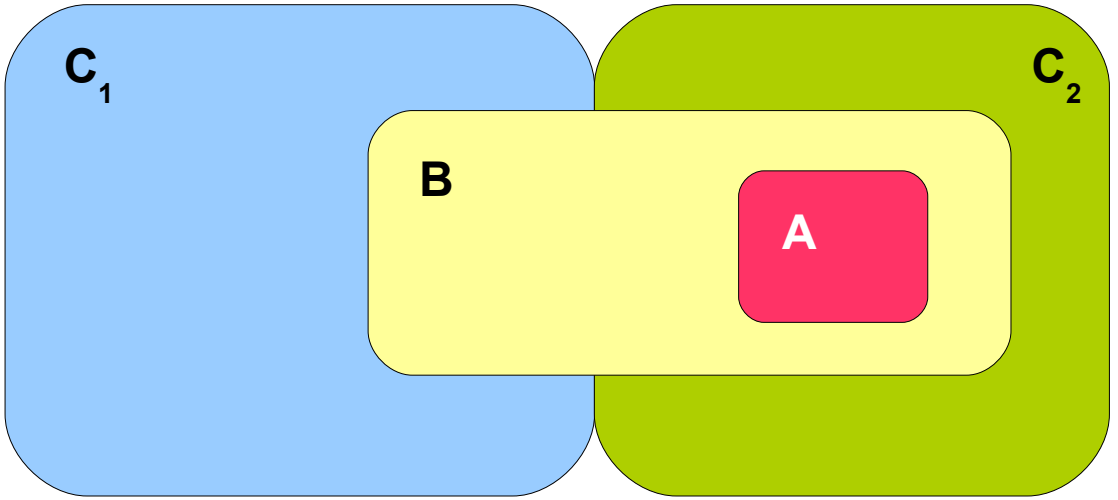
Nested hierarchy



A is in B
B is in C

A is in C

Overlapping hierarchy

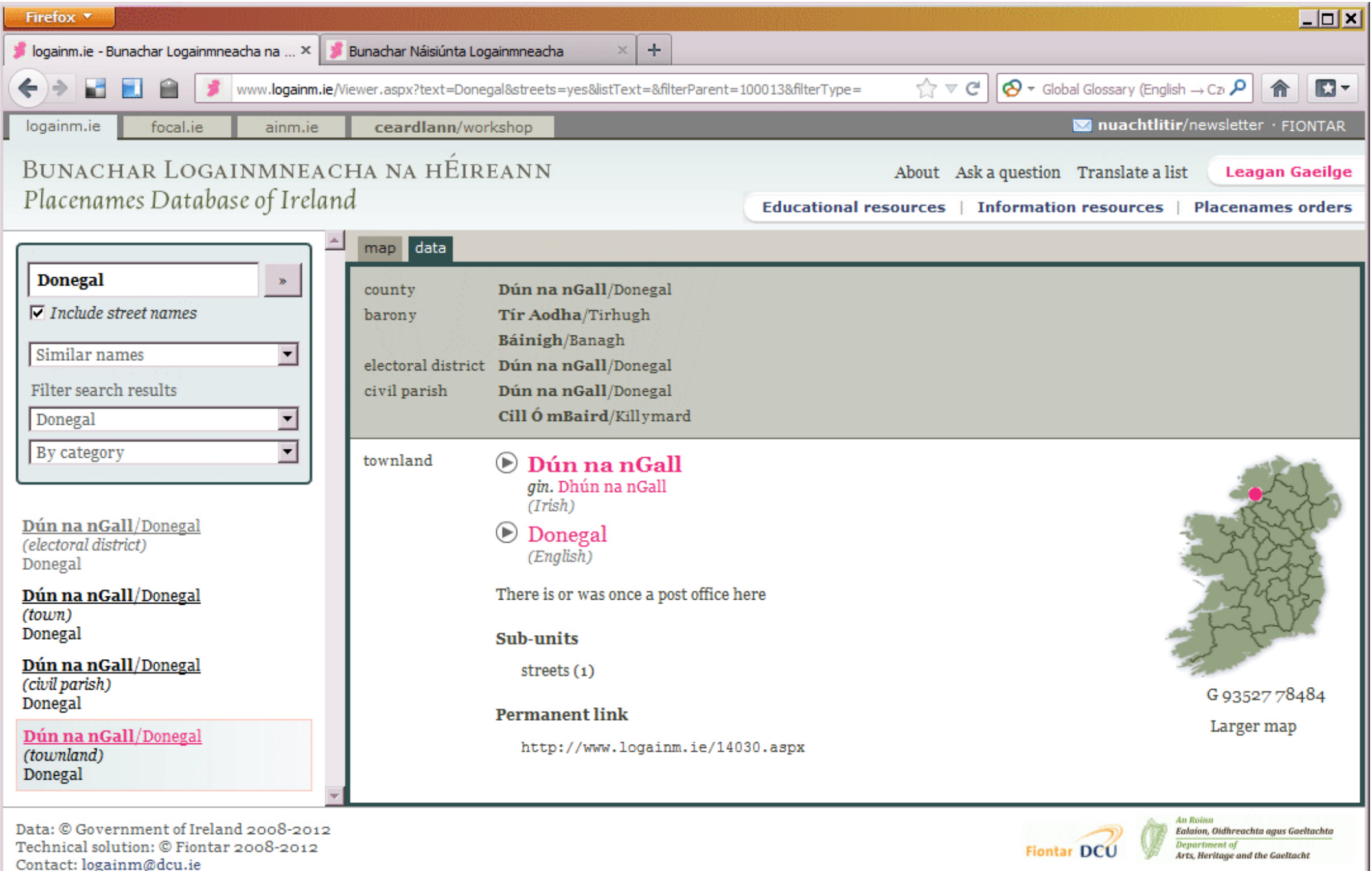


A is in B
B is in C_1
B is in C_2

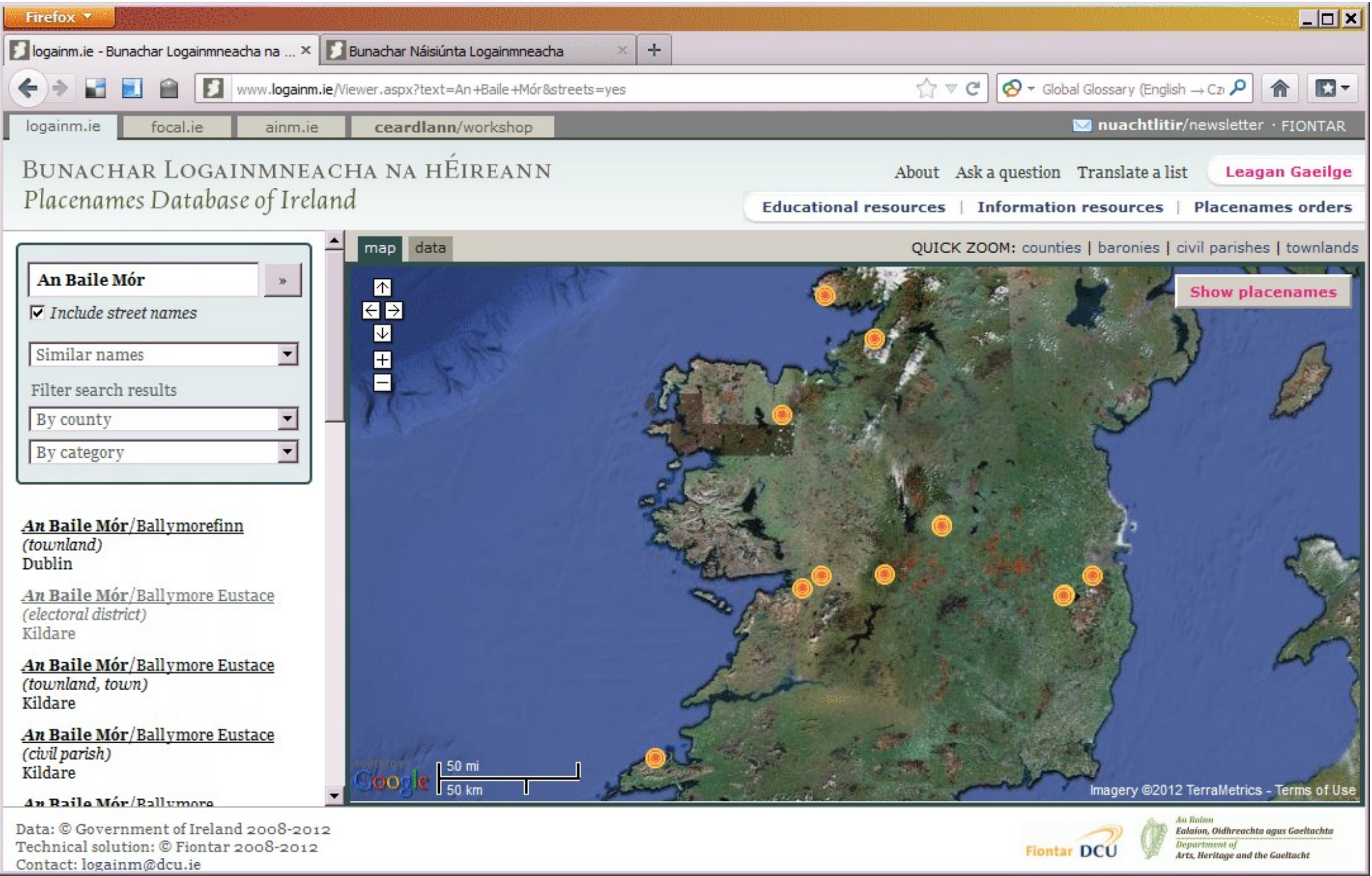
A is in ???

4. ‘Space’ versus ‘place’

How many ‘Donegals’ are there?



‘An Baile Mór’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Dublin
An Baile Mór/Ballymore Eustace
(electoral district)
Kildare
An Baile Mór/Ballymore Eustace
(townland, town)
Kildare
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(civil parish)
Kildare
map
data
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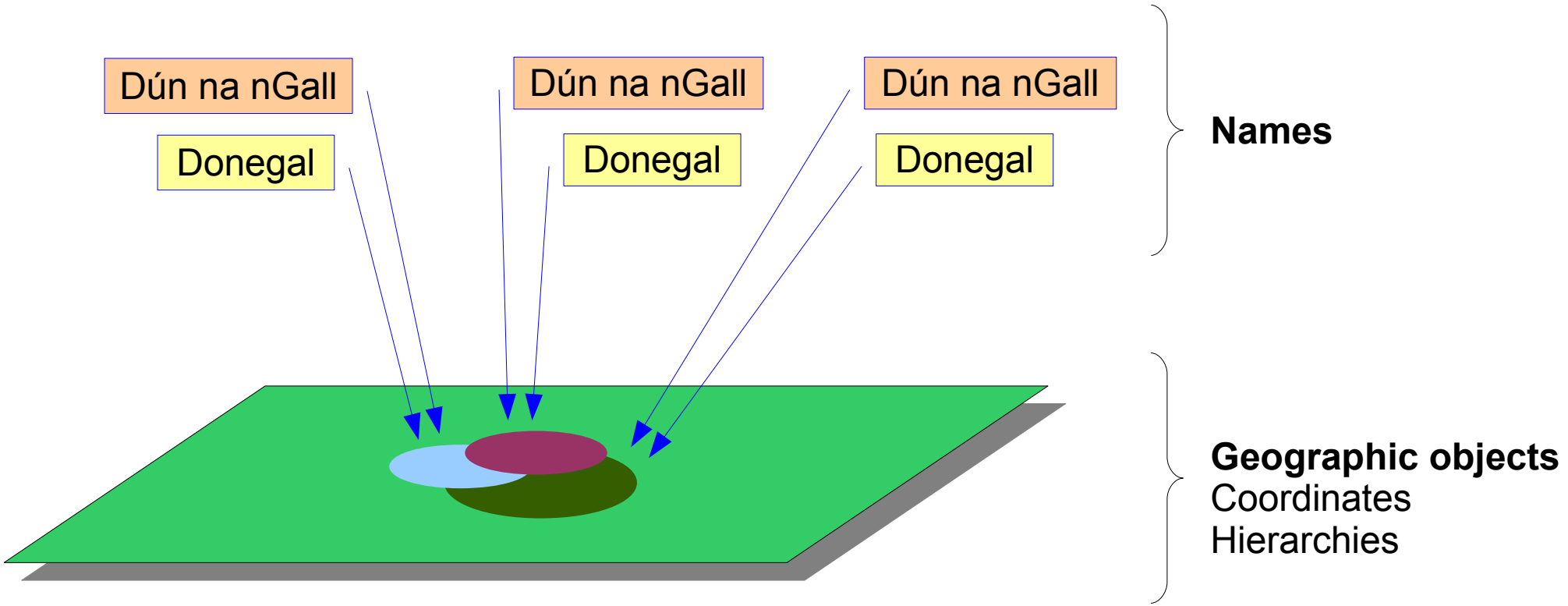
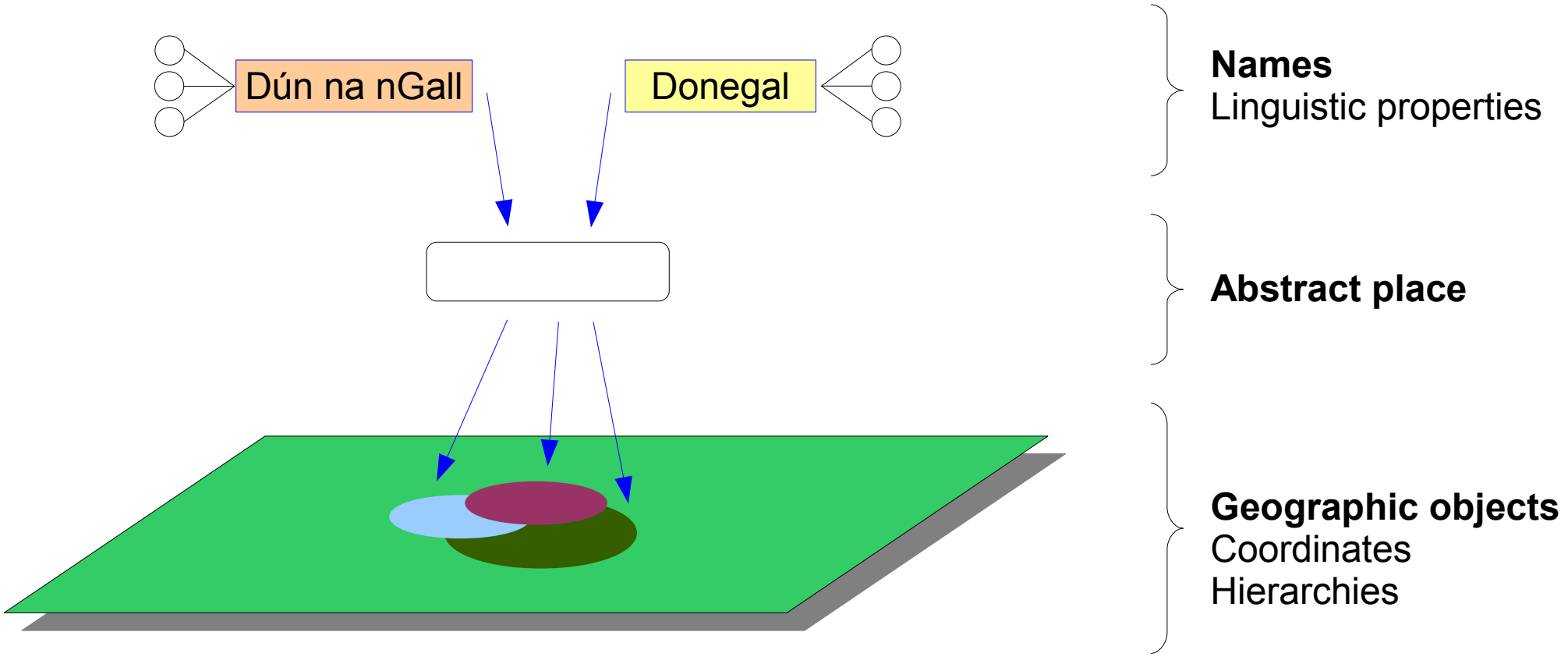

Dún na nGall
Donegal
Dún na nGall
Donegal
Dún na nGall
Donegal
Names
Geographic objects
Coordinates
Hierarchies


Dún na nGall
Donegal
Names
Linguistic properties
Abstract place
Geographic objects
Coordinates
Hierarchies

THANK YOU.

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