

Buildings and lecture rooms in Google Maps

Memo Lijst Calimero, 3 May 2017

Introduction

Looking up an address, planning a city trip, or searching a destination for your exchange semester. With only a few clicks you can be anywhere in the world, digital maps make it possible. Locally it often isn't that easy. Finding the right room or building at the University of Groningen (UG) can be quite a challenge. But we can change that. In this memo, Lijst Calimero proposes to make existing maps digitally available via Google Maps, so that students and staff can find their way around the building of the UG more easily.

Problem

The UG uses many different indicators to label its rooms and buildings. Sometimes buildings are labeled with a single letter, other buildings have a code. Additionally, it is difficult to find those labels on the website of the UG. For most buildings there is no map available on the UG-website. That makes it difficult for students to figure out where their courses take place or where they can find one of their teachers, even though students would appreciate the option.

Solution

With the help of the [Indoor Maps function](#) existing maps can be added to Google Maps, even including room indications. The [University of Twente](#) already uses this function and some of its buildings and rooms can be found on Google Maps. The *Indoor Maps* functions now allows students and staff to find rooms on the several floors, so that they can find their way around the university buildings.

The UG already made the first step and added a map of the [Harmony building to Google Maps](#). Unfortunately without room indications. Lijst Calimero pleads for the adoption of all UG-buildings including room indications to Google Maps. Maps of all the building will then not only be available on Google Maps, but could also be included on the UG-website so that complete information will be available.

Conclusion

Having the maps of UG-buildings available on Google Maps will make it easier for students and staff to find their way. They will not have to struggle with unclear indications anymore and can find a room with only one attempt.

Lijst Calimero considers that a valuable improvement for the information provision of the UG as it solves a problem that students are confronted with frequently. Our proposal will help to make the University a place where students and staff can study and work with great pleasure.