

## Exercise 13: Database backend for a WebGIS

### Festival selection

While the company *Vudstork Entertainment Ltd* is specialized on festivals for medium sized cities, they got a request from the city of Munich to create a mobile app for the Oktoberfest, as they were amazed by other similar applications done by the company. I got the task to build the spatial database around the app.

### Data preparation

To get started, I first look for already existing data. As there is no official spatial data for the Oktoberfest to download, I downloaded the area of the *Theresienwiese* from OSM. A lot of tents and streets are already mapped and have to be only cleaned and converted to the correct geometry type.

Next to already existing I manually mapped everything else in QGIS, with the help of a map from the Oktoberfest that can be seen in figure 1 on the left. The right map is the manually mapped area in QGIS.

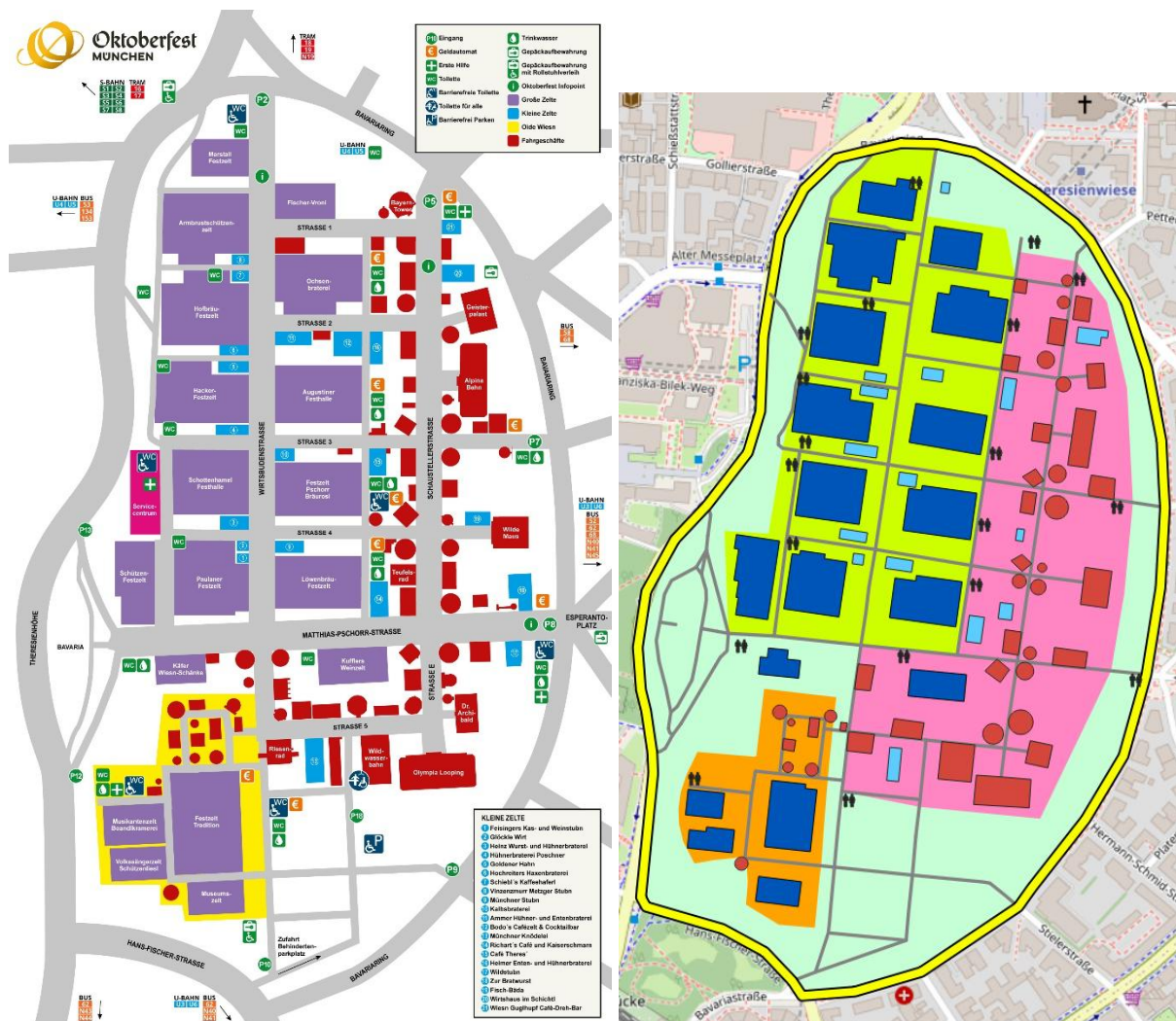


Figure 1.: Map of the Oktoberfest, downloaded from Oktoberfest.de (left), manually mapped illustration in QGIS (right)

## List of entities

There are several entities on the Oktoberfest, some of them have a physical location e.g. a tent, whilst other are something that happens at a location (e.g. events). In the following table 1 is a list of all entities that exist in my database.

| Entities        | Relationship (if existing)                      |
|-----------------|---|
| Tents           | Is part of locations                            |
| Small tents     | Is part of locations                            |
| Rides           | Is part of locations                            |
| Toilets         | Is part of locations                            |
| ATMs            | Is part of locations                            |
| Areas           | Contain physical entities- not observable       |
| Events          | Take place in/at tents/rides or other locations |
| Visitor         | Has certain location at a specific time         |
| Entrances/Exits | Is part of locations                            |
| Locations       | List of all locations                           |

All entities with geometries and spatial information are uploaded to the new database with the methods learned in one of the first exercises using the Database Manager in QGIS. All other entities are created as tables directly using SQL in pgAdmin.

The “locations” table contains all locations on the festival. Although no tents, rides etc. exist more than once at the same location, this would make that possible. Its also easier to search for events.

## Graphical overview of database

In the following figure 2 (also attached in the zip file), the physical data model of the database can be seen. This graphical overview has been created with the ERD tool in pgAdmin.

The database is quite simple as except for the location table there aren't any obvious relations. The columns and their datatypes are set in a way that they allow specific spatial and temporal queries from the visitors perspective. There are multiple visitors in the "visitor" table, allowing queries from varying positions and daytimes. This makes showcasing the database a little bit easier.

As can be seen in the graphical overview; tents, small tents and rides have columns that give information on the opening times. As it is assumed that they open every day to the same hours during the festival, they have open- and closing times with the datatype "time without time zone". Events that take place have open and closing time with the datatype "timestamp without time zone" as they only last a few hours.

Visitors also have a column called timestamp with the datatype "timestamp without time zone", to simulate a visit during a specific time.

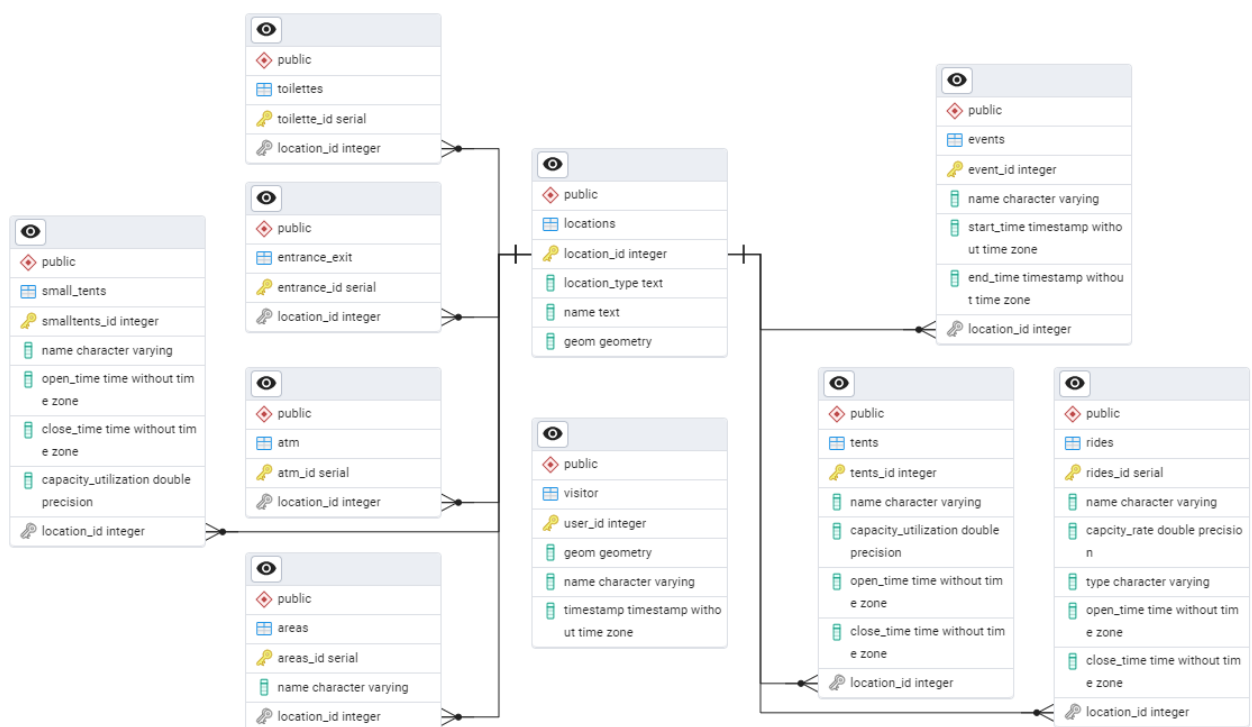


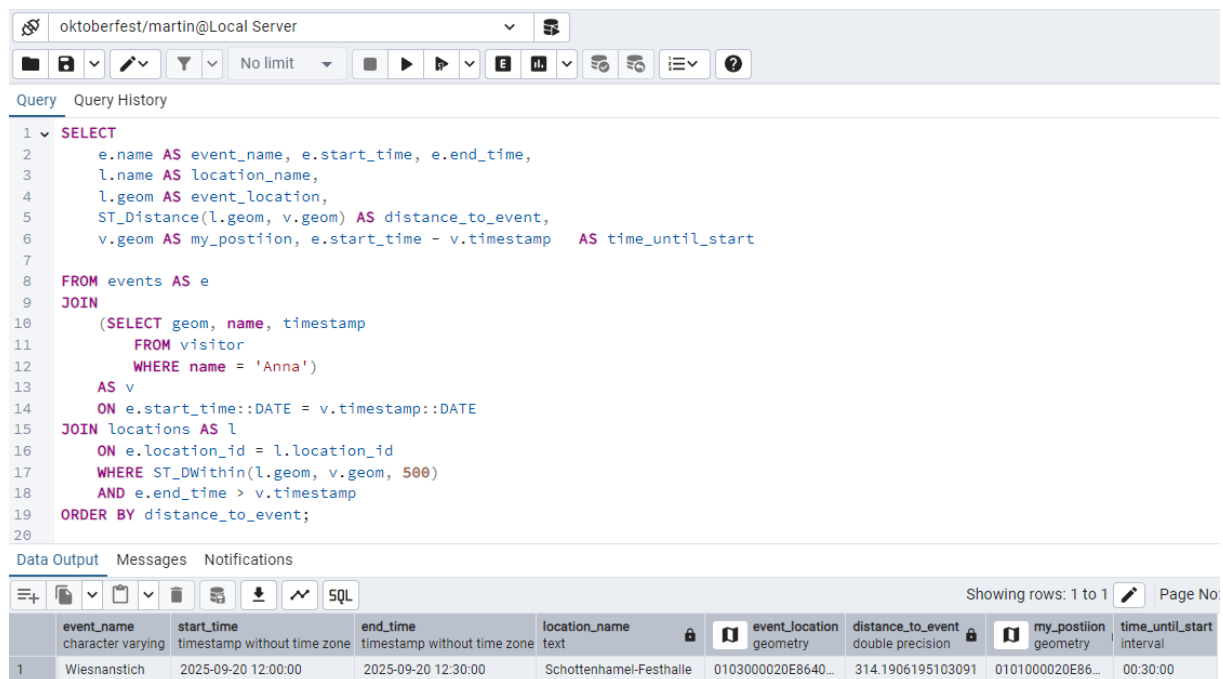
Figure 2.: Physical data model of the database

## Example queries

All queries are also stored as SQL files and contained in the ZIP file. Following are some scenarios of visitors needing specific information and the query that retrieves the information.

### Scenario 1:

Anna likes to see the festive start of the Oktoberfest and is wondering in which tent it takes place, however she does not want to walk more than 500m from her current position. Also has she forgotten when exactly the event starts. The following query (figure 3) lists all events near her, that take place on the same day as her current time and that have not ended yet.



```
1 SELECT
2     e.name AS event_name, e.start_time, e.end_time,
3     l.name AS location_name,
4     l.geom AS event_location,
5     ST_Distance(l.geom, v.geom) AS distance_to_event,
6     v.geom AS my_position, e.start_time - v.timestamp AS time_until_start
7
8 FROM events AS e
9 JOIN
10     (SELECT geom, name, timestamp
11      FROM visitor
12       WHERE name = 'Anna')
13     AS v
14     ON e.start_time::DATE = v.timestamp::DATE
15 JOIN locations AS l
16     ON e.location_id = l.location_id
17     WHERE ST_DWithin(l.geom, v.geom, 500)
18     AND e.end_time > v.timestamp
19 ORDER BY distance_to_event;
```

| event_name        | start_time                  | end_time                    | location_name           | event_location     | distance_to_event | my_position      | time_until_start |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| character varying | timestamp without time zone | timestamp without time zone | text                    | geometry           | double precision  | geometry         | interval         |
| Wiesnastich       | 2025-09-20 12:00:00         | 2025-09-20 12:30:00         | Schottenhamel-Festhalle | 0103000020E8640... | 314.1906195103091 | 0101000020E86... | 00:30:00         |

Figure 3.: Query to find events within 500m

The query result is tailored towards the person needing the information.

### Scenario 2:

Maria wants to enjoy some beers in of the tents at the Oktoberfest. She likes it crowded, but not so crowded that finding a place is impossible (hence the capacity utilization between 65 and 91). She does not mind walking a little bit, however its always nice to know if nearby options are meeting her criteria. Figure 4 shows the query as well as the output table.

In an actual application, this result should also be available as a map based output, where the event location and the visitors location is highlighted, while all other info should be visible as well. An example how that should look like, can be seen in figure 5: a styled map, created with QGIS after loading the query result as a new layer. Tents are styled differently, depending of the distance towards the visitor.

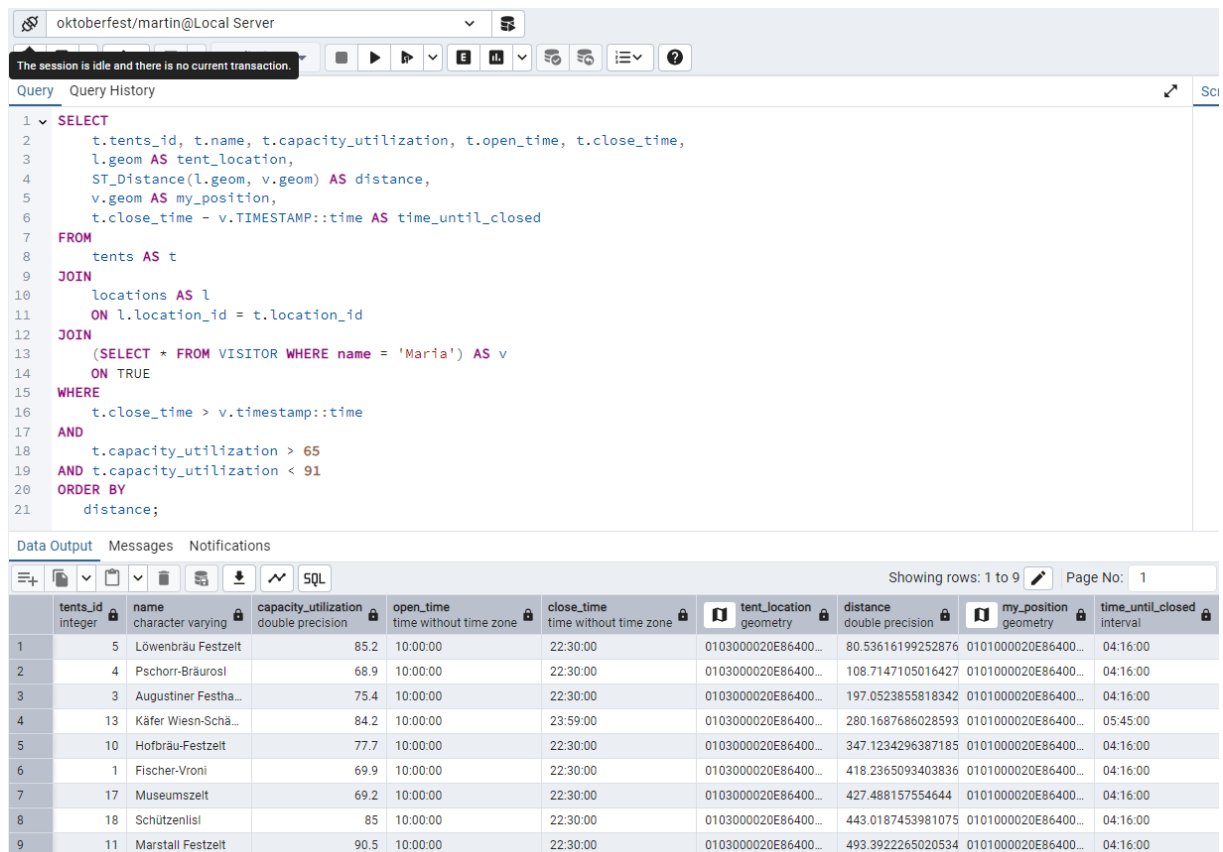


Figure 4.: Query to find tents with a capacity utilization between 65 and 91

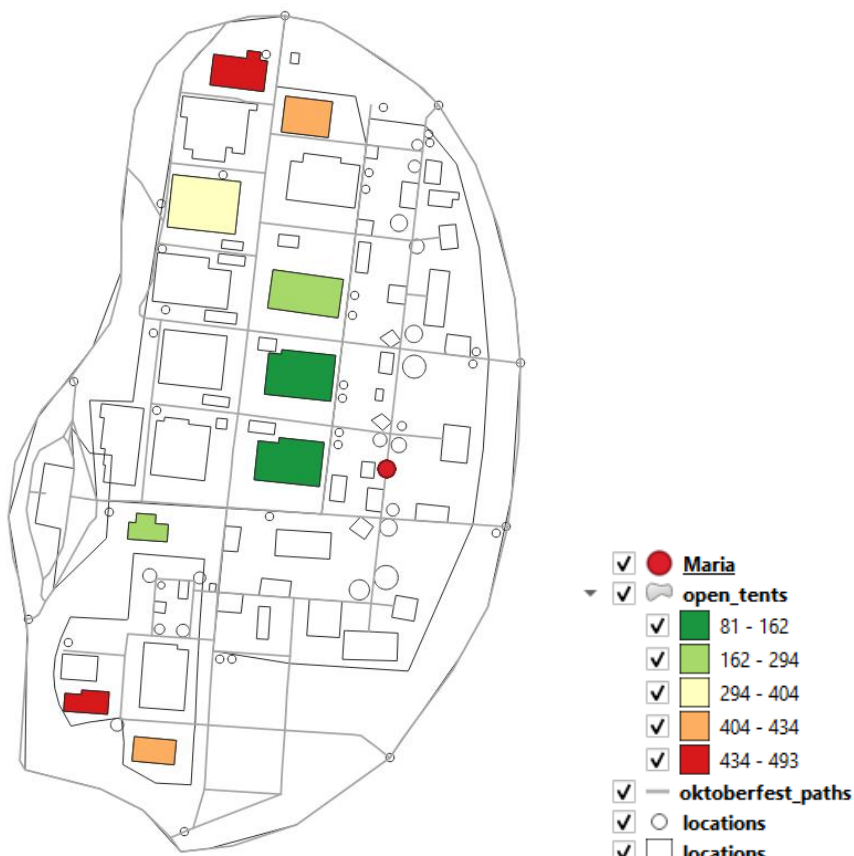


Figure 5.: Example map created in QGIS. Showing Marias postion and highlighted tents

### Scenario 3:

Josef wants to get information on where to go with his grandkids before going to the Oktoberfest so he is well prepared. He likes the sound of the “Oide Wiesn”, the more traditional part of the Oktoberfest. He wants to know which family friendly rides (ride type: “Familiengaudi”) are available in this area of the festival.

Figure 6 shows the query which gives Josef the results he wants.

The screenshot shows a SQL query editor interface. The top bar indicates the user is 'oktoberfest/martin@Local Server'. Below the toolbar, the 'Query' tab is active, displaying the following SQL query:

```
1 SELECT DISTINCT
2     r.name, r.type, r.open_time, r.close_time, r.capacity_rate,
3     l.geom AS ride_location,
4     a.name AS area_name
5 FROM
6     rides AS r
7
8 JOIN
9     locations AS l
10    ON l.location_id = r.location_id
11 JOIN
12     locations AS a
13    ON a.location_id IN (SELECT location_id FROM areas WHERE name = 'Oide Wiesn')
14 WHERE
15     r.type = 'Familiengaudi'
16 AND ST_Intersects(l.geom, a.geom);
17
```

Below the query editor, the 'Data Output' tab is active, showing a table with 5 rows of results. The table has 8 columns: name, type, open\_time, close\_time, capacity\_rate, ride\_location, and area\_name. The data is as follows:

|   | name            | type          | open_time | close_time | capacity_rate | ride_location       | area_name  |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | Ballonfahrt     | Familiengaudi | 09:00:00  | 20:00:00   | 0.9           | 0103000020E86400... | Oide Wiesn |
| 2 | Dschungelcamp   | Familiengaudi | 09:00:00  | 20:00:00   | 32.3          | 0103000020E86400... | Oide Wiesn |
| 3 | Fahrt zur Hölle | Familiengaudi | 09:00:00  | 20:00:00   | 74.8          | 0103000020E86400... | Oide Wiesn |
| 4 | Kettenkarusell  | Familiengaudi | 09:00:00  | 20:00:00   | 71            | 0103000020E86400... | Oide Wiesn |
| 5 | Parkour         | Familiengaudi | 09:00:00  | 20:00:00   | 14.7          | 0103000020E86400... | Oide Wiesn |

Figure 6.: Retrieving specific rides in specific area

## Other possible queries:

Figure 7 and 8 show further possible queries that could be useful for visitors. Of course a lot of different queries can be executed, the possibilities are endless. These queries are just a selection of things that might be useful for gathering information about the festival.

All queries can be altered dynamically towards other visitors or locations to retrieve the desired output.

The screenshot shows a database query interface with a query editor and a results table. The query is as follows:

```
1 SELECT
2     l.*,
3     ST_DISTANCE(l.geom,v.geom) as DISTANCE
4 FROM
5     locations as l
6 JOIN
7     (SELECT * FROM visitor WHERE name = 'Herbert') as v
8     ON TRUE
9 WHERE st_distance (l.geom,v.geom) < 100
10 AND NOT l.location_type = 'areas'
11 ORDER by DISTANCE;
```

The results table has the following columns: location\_id [PK] integer, location\_type text, name text, geom geometry, and distance double precision. The results are as follows:

|    | location_id [PK] integer | location_type text | name text            | geom geometry     | distance double precision |
|----|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1  | 105                      | toilettes          | [null]               | 0101000020E864... | 24.66270626915486         |
| 2  | 68                       | rides              | Hangover - The Tower | 0103000020E864... | 29.66482071178158         |
| 3  | 14                       | tents              | Fischer-Vroni        | 0103000020E864... | 48.04792960404956         |
| 4  | 15                       | tents              | Ochsenbraterei       | 0103000020E864... | 56.28462682895253         |
| 5  | 75                       | rides              | Bayern Tower         | 0103000020E864... | 60.0051645035312          |
| 6  | 112                      | atm                | [null]               | 0101000020E864... | 64.07852875323925         |
| 7  | 64                       | rides              | Flohziirkus          | 0103000020E864... | 72.04658466557359         |
| 8  | 113                      | atm                | [null]               | 0101000020E864... | 76.12209371521847         |
| 9  | 107                      | toilettes          | [null]               | 0101000020E864... | 79.87311722258224         |
| 10 | 106                      | toilettes          | [null]               | 0101000020E864... | 85.16077172037225         |
| 11 | 67                       | rides              | Breakdancer          | 0103000020E864... | 85.48057846049545         |
| 12 | 71                       | rides              | Big Pictures 2.0     | 0103000020E864... | 85.67782552644063         |
| 13 | 6                        | entrance_exit      | [null]               | 0101000020E864... | 88.64814027069541         |

Figure 7.:Query to find all physical locations within certain distance of another location (in this case a visitor)

The screenshot shows a database query interface with a query editor and a results table. The query is as follows:

```
1 SELECT
2     l.geom as location,l.location_type,
3     t.geom as tent_location,
4     ST_DISTANCE(l.geom,t.geom) as dist_from_tent
5 FROM
6     locations as l
7 JOIN
8     locations as t
9     ON t.location_id IN (SELECT location_id FROM tents WHERE name = 'Ochsenbraterei')
10 WHERE st_distance (l.geom,t.geom) < 50
11 AND l.location_type IN ('toilettes','atm')
12 ORDER by dist_from_tent;
```

The results table has the following columns: location geometry, location\_type text, tent\_location geometry, and dist\_from\_tent double precision. The results are as follows:

|   | location geometry | location_type text | tent_location geometry | dist_from_tent double precision |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 0101000020E864... | toilettes          | 0103000020E86400...    | 10.58613437527116               |
| 2 | 0101000020E864... | atm                | 0103000020E86400...    | 11.49172582121331               |

Figure 8.: Query to find all physical locations within certain distance of another location (in this case a visitor)