QGIS User Group CH

Mini-Workshop "QGIS Locator" - 2021-05-12

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What is QGIS Locator?

QGIS Locator is the core search tool inside QGIS found in the bottom left of the status bar.

Quick access via CTRL+K (CMD+K on mac)

Click on magnifier glass icon for quick access to search categories and configuration

Result List

Type here for your search

Click on delete icon to reset search

Double click entry you want to display

Result-List automatically unfolds when Locator Search Field is activated

Locator search categories

QGIS Locator (by default) can search for the following categories:

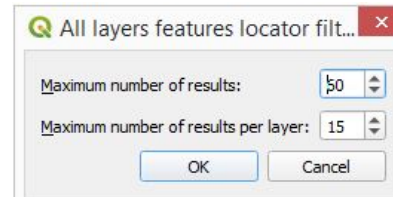| .	→	actions
=	→	calculator (any math formulas)
a	→	processing Algorithms
af	→	features (objects) in all Layers (search only display field)
b	→	spatial Bookmarks
ef	→	edit selected features
f	→	active layer features (objects) (search in all fields)
go	→	go to coordinate
l	→	project layers
pl	→	project layouts
set	→	settings

Locator configuration

Menu "Settings" → "Options" → "Locator":
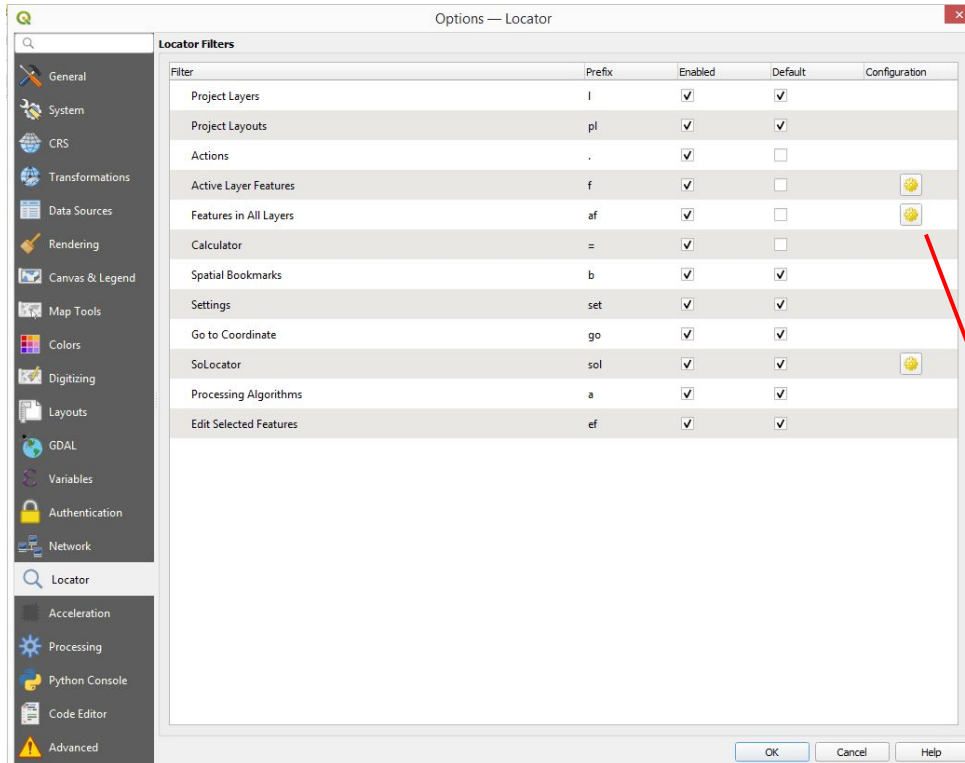
Column "Enabled" enables/disables a certain search category

Column "Default" tells Locator that this category is enabled even if the prefix is not used

Column "Configuration" has additional configuration buttons (cog-wheel-icon) for certain categories

Locator prefixes (for search restrictions)

QGIS Locator search can be restricted with search prefix to a certain category:

List of available search prefixes

Example: search for "Wasser" restricted with prefix "l" to project layers only

Locator "Things to know"

af searches only in "display field" of all layers
(not all attributes)

Attribute fields can be set to "Not searchable"
("Layer properties" → "Manage Fields")

Layers can be set to "Not searchable"
("Project" → "Properties" → "Data Sources")

Locator searches run "threaded" and don't
block the UI. Results of multiple locator
plugins may appear at different times/order.

Let's play (1/2)

1. Open the "Peaks 4000+" layout (prefix: pl)

2. Find the layer "Districts" (prefix: l)

3. Open the action "GoogleImage" in layer "Peaks 4000+" (prefix: .)

   → after selecting the action, pick a peak feature on the map

4. Select the layer "Peaks 4000+" and find the "Dufourspitze" (prefix: f)

5. Search for peaks with "gipfel" in their "name", but not in "peak_type" (prefix: f @attribute)

Let's play (2/2)

6. Find a feature with name "aletsch" in any layer (prefix: af), right click on the result to open form

7. Calculate "9^3" (prefix: =)

8. Go to the bookmark "Solothurn (Gemeinde)" (prefix: b)

9. Find the settings for "Digitizing" (prefix: set)

10. What is at coordinates "2600000 1200000" (prefix: go)

11. Find the processing algorithm "buffer" (prefix: a)

Locator Plugins

QGIS Locator can be extended with plugins that allow to integrate online gazeteers or integrate with existing online data sources or GDIs.

Examples (see https://plugins.qgis.org/search/?q=Locator):

- Swiss Locator (CH)
- French Locator Filter (F)
- PDOK Locatieserer Locator Filter (NL)
- Geoportal LU (LU)
- Nominatim Locator Filter (International)
- OSM place search (International)
- Google Maps Geocoder (International, requires Google Maps API key)
- TomTom Locator Filter (International, requires TomTom API key)
- Geomapfish Locator (integrate with your Geomapfish search service)
- Cantons: SoLocator, ShLocator

Swiss Locator

- 3 filters bundled in the plugin:
  - Locations
  - Layers (Swisstopo + opendata.swiss)
  - Features

- Language shall be set in the settings

Swiss Geoportal locations	chl	☑	☑	⚙
Swiss Geoportal / opendata.swiss WMS layers	chw	☑	☑	⚙
Swiss Geoportal features	chf	☑	☑	⚙

Swiss Locator

- Search for a city or a canton (prefix: chl)
- Search for the "forest reserves" layer in your own language (prefix: chw)

Known issues:

- Crash when enabling "show map tip"
- Now that geo data has been made publicly available, we should use WMTS layers

SoLocator

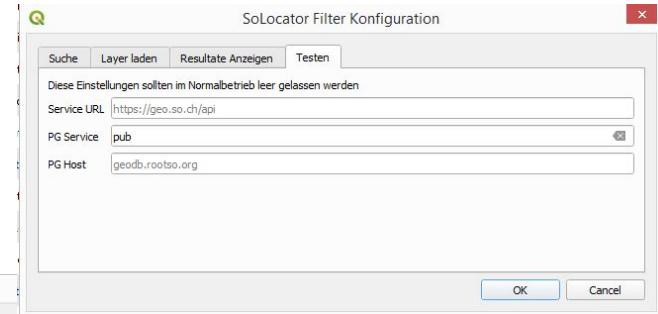Uses "search" service and "dataproduct" service of GDI Canton Solothurn
https://github.com/opengisch/solocator/
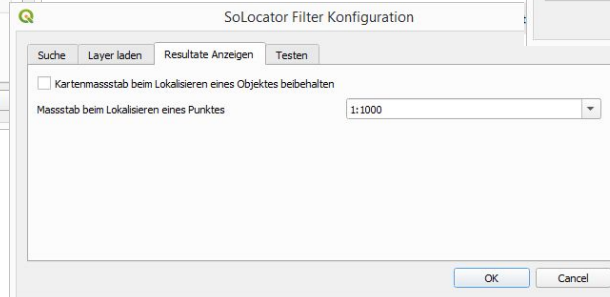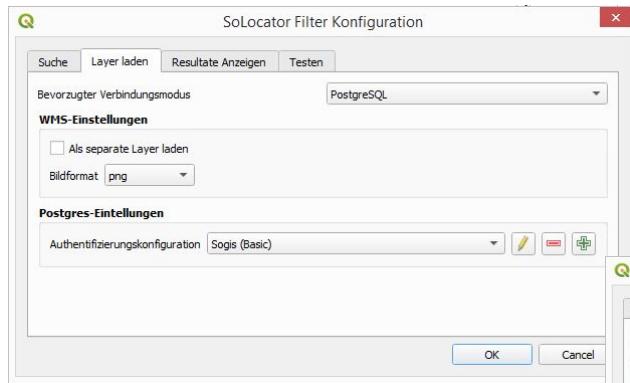
Allows to search for

- Maps (Karten (data sets)) - Foreground
  (placed above active layer, or inside active group)
- Base Maps (Hintergrundkarten) - Background
  (placed on bottom)
- Municipalities (Gemeinden)
- Addresses (Adressen)
- Buildings (Gebäude (EGID))
- Parcels projected (Grundstücke projektiert)
- Parcels existing (Grundstücke rechtskräftig)
- Field Names (Flurnamen)
- Topo Names (Geländenamen)

SoLocator
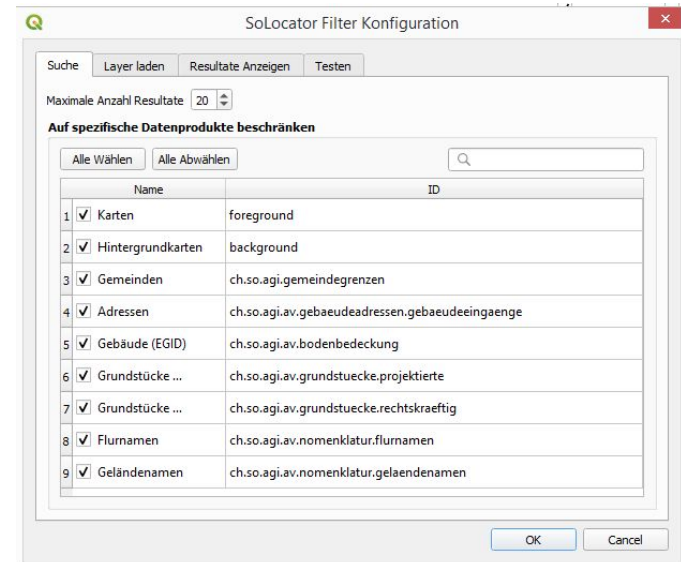
Maps (foreground) are loaded as PostgreSQL layers (fully styled, SVG files embedded) or alternatively (Shift double click) as WMS layer.

Can be switched to "test" and "integration" environment

Debugging Network Requests

Menu "View" → "Panels" → "Debugging/Development Tools"

Press "Record" button to start recording requests

Use "context menu" on each request to copy request

Thanks for your attention !