



Editing the Classics

London Rare Books School, Institute of Historical Research
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University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

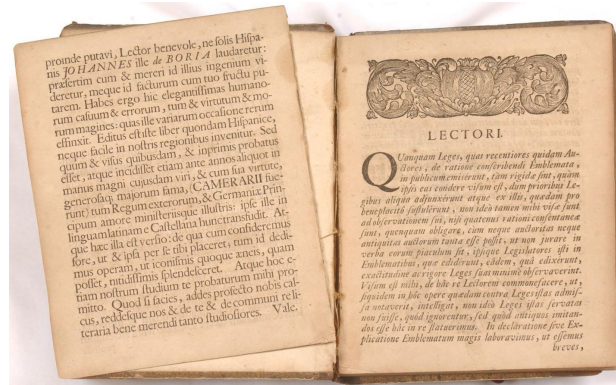
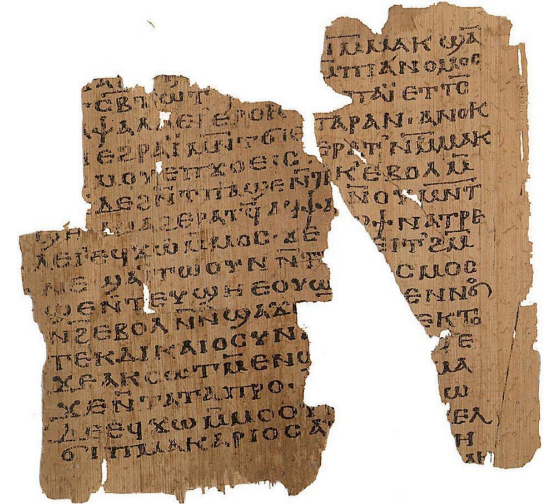
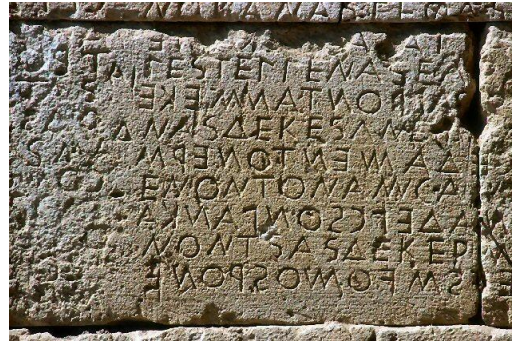
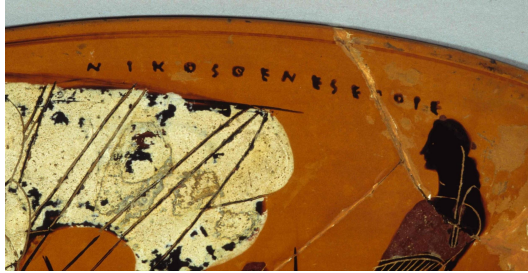


Outline




1. Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics
 - a. TEI & EpiDoc
 - b. Literary vs epigraphic editing
 - c. Mapping an epigraphic edition to TEI/EpiDoc
 - d. Standards and customisation
2. Practical editing session
 - a. EpiDoc template file & guidelines
 - b. msDesc & text
 - c. Verse
3. Reuse, repurposing and sustainability
 - a. Working with digitised material
 - b. Data reuse
 - c. Best practice & sustainability

Primary sources



MS 2752
Bible: Jesus saying, Egypt, ca. 550-650

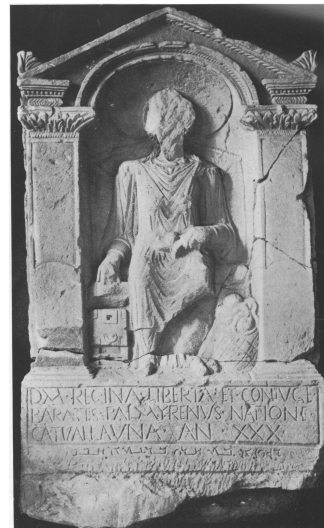
Text Encoding Initiative & EpiDoc

- 
- Website: <http://www.tei-c.org/index.xml>
 - Creates and maintains standards for encoding texts digitally
 - Publishes the *TEI Guidelines for Electronic Text Encoding and Interchange*
 - International, interdisciplinary standards
 - Used by many different types of institutions: universities, libraries, museums etc. for publishing texts digitally
 - Website: <https://sourceforge.net/p/epidoc/wiki/Home/>
 - Subset of TEI for epigraphic documents
 - Publishes the *EpiDoc Guidelines: Ancient documents in TEI XML*
 - Used by various ancient epigraphies, not constrained to Ancient Greek and Latin
 - Provides consistency across projects that publish inscriptions and papyri

Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics

Literary vs epigraphic methodology

- Compiling a text from multiple copies
 - Homer - Iliad, papyri spanning the entire 1000 years of papyrology
- Editing a single instance of a text
 - Funerary inscription for Regina, RIB 1065



Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics



Apparatus criticus

- TEI apparatus - Lachmannian
 - Multiple witnesses
 - Comparison of witnesses
 - Readings and corrections
- Epigraphic apparatus
 - General comment on text
 - Comment on specific line / section
 - Variant readings, alternative restorations
 - acknowledging earlier scholarship (~"Lachmannian")
 - Complexities of text (generating app from textual corrections)

Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics

An epigraphic edition

- Supporting information
 - Physical description
 - Dimensions
 - Material
 - Decoration
 - Letterforms
 - Language(s)
 - Scripts
 - Repository
 - Provenance
 - Locations
 - History of finding
 - Dating information
 - Bibliography

+ drawing,
sketch,
picture(s)

- Text
 - Edition
 - Diplomatic
 - Editorial transcription
 - Apparatus criticus
 - Lachmannian (multiple witnesses)
 - Epigraphic
 - Comments on letterforms
 - Supplements, readings
 - Previous editors
 - Translation
 - Commentary

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    <idno>inventory number</idno>
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    <objectDesc>
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          and <objectType/> information, <dimensions/>, etc.)</support>
      </supportDesc>
      <layoutDesc>
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      </layoutDesc>
    </objectDesc>
    <handDesc>
      <handNote>description of letters, possibly including <height>letter-heights</height>
    </handNote>
    </handDesc>
  </physDesc>
  <history>
    <origin>
      <origPlace>Place of origin</origPlace>
      <origDate>Date of origin</origDate>
    </origin>
    <provenance type="found"> Findspot and circumstances/context
    </provenance>
    <provenance type="observed"> modern location(s) (if different from repository, above)
    </provenance>
  </history>
</msDesc>
```


Leiden conventions and EpiDoc



| | |
|---------|--|
| ... | Illegible letters, not restored by editor. |
| ᶶᶫ | Letters ambiguous without their context. |
| [...] | Letters missing, not restored by editor. |
| [abc] | Letters missing, restored by editor. |
| <...> | Letters erroneously omitted, not restored. |
| <abc> | Letters erroneously omitted, restored by editor. |
| a(bc) | Abbreviation expanded by editor. |
| {abc} | Letters considered superfluous by editor. |
| [[abc]] | Deletion which can be restored. |

| | |
|---------|---|
| ... | <code><gap reason="illegible" extent="unknown" /></code> |
| ᶶᶫ | <code><unclear>ab</unclear></code> |
| [...] | <code><gap reason="lost" extent="unknown" /></code> |
| [abc] | <code><supplied reason="lost">abc</supplied></code> |
| <...> | <code><gap reason="omitted" extent="unknown" /></code> |
| <abc> | <code><supplied reason="omitted">abc</supplied></code> |
| a(bc) | <code><expand><abbr>a</abbr><ex>be</ex></expand></code> |
| {abc} | <code><surplus>abc</surplus></code> |
| [[abc]] | <code>abc</code> |

Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics



[---]
[---].O.[---]
[--- Σ]αράπ[ιδι, Ἴσιδι, Ἄνου-]
[βιδι] θεοῖς σ[υννάοις]
[Δημ]ήτριος [(τοῦ δαίνοσ)]
[---]

IOSPE, I.18
Tyras, Dedication to Egyptian
Gods, II-I century BCE

Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics

```
<lb n="0"/><gap reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="line"/>
<lb n="1"/><gap reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="character"/><gap reason="illegible"
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  unit="character"/><gap reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="character"/>
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  <persName type="divine" key="isis"><name><supplied reason="lost">Ἰσιδι,</supplied></name></persName>
  <persName type="divine" key="anubis"><name><supplied reason="lost">Ἄνου</supplied>
<lb n="3" break="no"/><supplied reason="lost">βιδι</supplied></name></persName> <w>θεοῖς</w>
  <w><unclear>σ</unclear><supplied reason="lost">υρνάοις</supplied></w>
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  <supplied reason="lost"><note>τοῦ δεινός</note></supplied></persName>
<lb n="4a"/><gap reason="lost" extent="unknown" unit="line"/>
```

Scholarly editing and textual criticism in the Classics



Standards and customisation

Benefits

- Modelling and computability
- Consistency
- Interoperability
- Support and guidance
- Best practice
- Accessibility
- Sharing
- Community development
- Collaboration easier
- Teaching materials

Limitations

- Materials vary in copyright and quality
- Technology may not be accessible
- Skills needed/cost of acquiring them
- Interdisciplinarity - different research agendas and publication practices
- Possibilities have to be assessed, evaluated and narrowed-down - the 'digital' becomes part of the research, not merely a tool

Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



What do we do with our encoded files?

- Publish an edition
- Publish data
- Best practice: data dump for download

Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



The Archimedes Palimpsest,
private collection

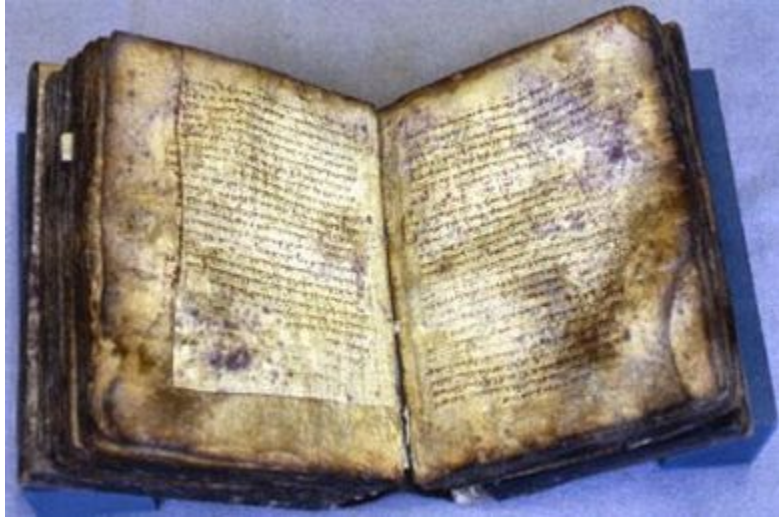
<http://archimedespalimpsest.org>

-1229 Byzantine prayer book, Jerusalem

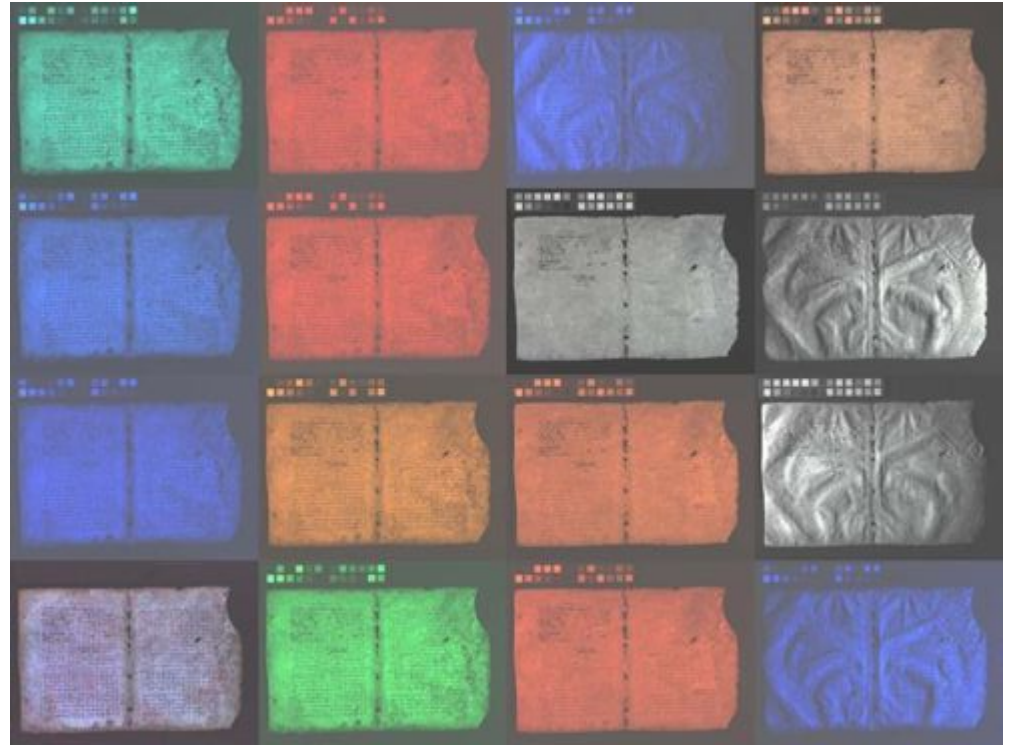
-Treatises by Archimedes, 3 century AD,
Constantinople:

- *The Equilibrium of Planes*
- *Spiral Lines*
- *The Measurement of the Circle*
- *Sphere and Cylinder*
- *On Floating Bodies*
- *The Method of Mechanical Theorems*
Stomachion
- Hyperides, Attic orator
- Commentary on Aristotle's Categories, 3
century AD
- Other books, some unidentified

Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



The Archimedes Palimpsest,
private collection
<http://archimedespalimpsest.org>



EPIGRAPHIC DATABASE HEIDELBERG



Project

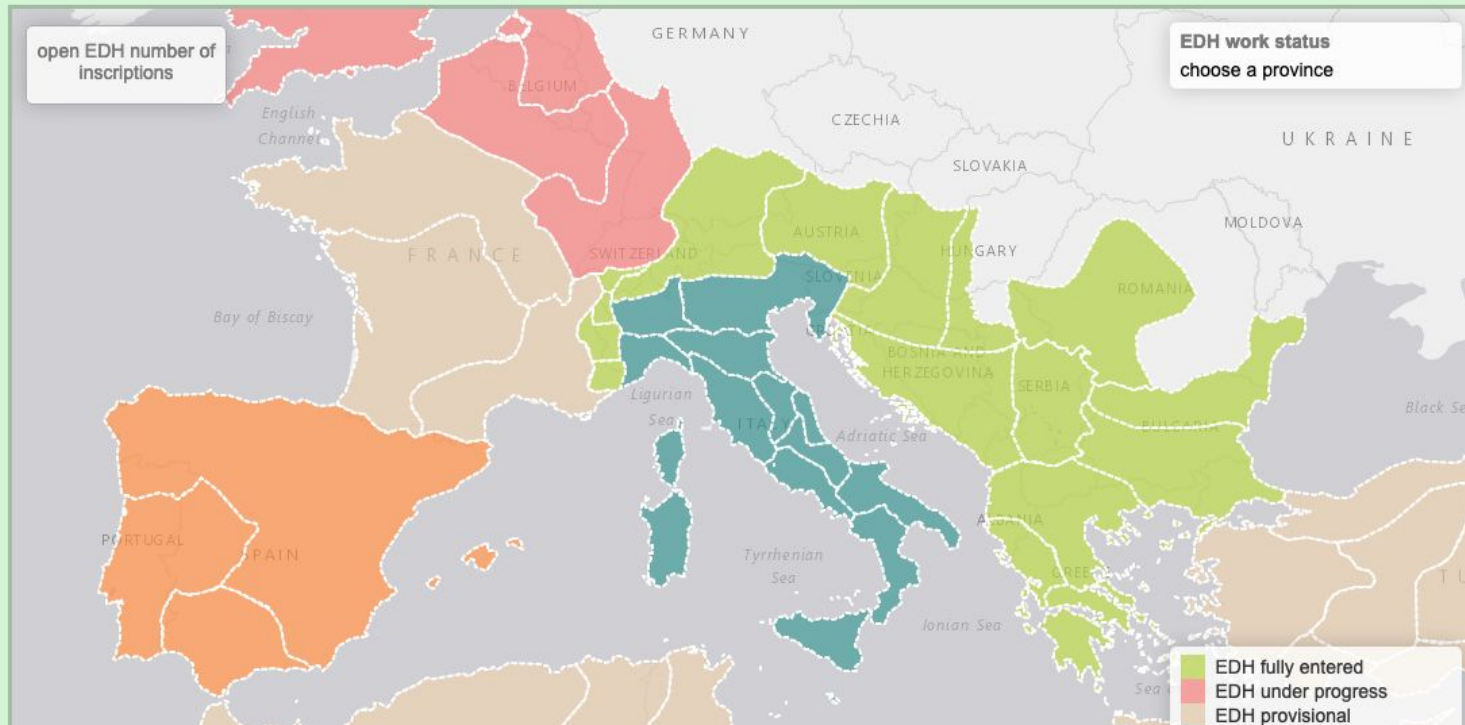
Inscriptions

Photos

Bibliography

Data

Links



Reuse, repurposing and sustainability

Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg

- Latin and bilingual (i.e. Latin-Greek) inscriptions of the Roman Empire
- [Epigraphic Text Database](#)
- [Photographic Database](#)
- [Bibliographic Database](#)
- [Geographic Database](#)
- German Academy stopped funding in 2017

Open Data Repository



All data of the Open Data Repository by the Epigraphic Database Heidelberg can be reused under the [CC BY-SA 4.0 licence](#).

Basically there are three options: *Download* of static, periodically updated files (data dumps) or dynamic queries via a public *API* or query the *SPARQL endpoint*.

Download Data Dumps

All data of the Epigraphic Database Heidelberg can be downloaded in various formats:

- EpiDoc XML (inscriptions and metadata)
- CIDOC CRM XML (photo metadata)
- BibTeX (bibliography)
- RDF (inscriptions including prosopography)
- GeoJSON (geography)

For a complete detailed list of all files and links open the [Download page](#).

Public API

Via the EDH API you have live access to data from the Epigraphic Database Heidelberg, it returns responses in JSON format. You can find a tutorial and description of all parameters [here](#).

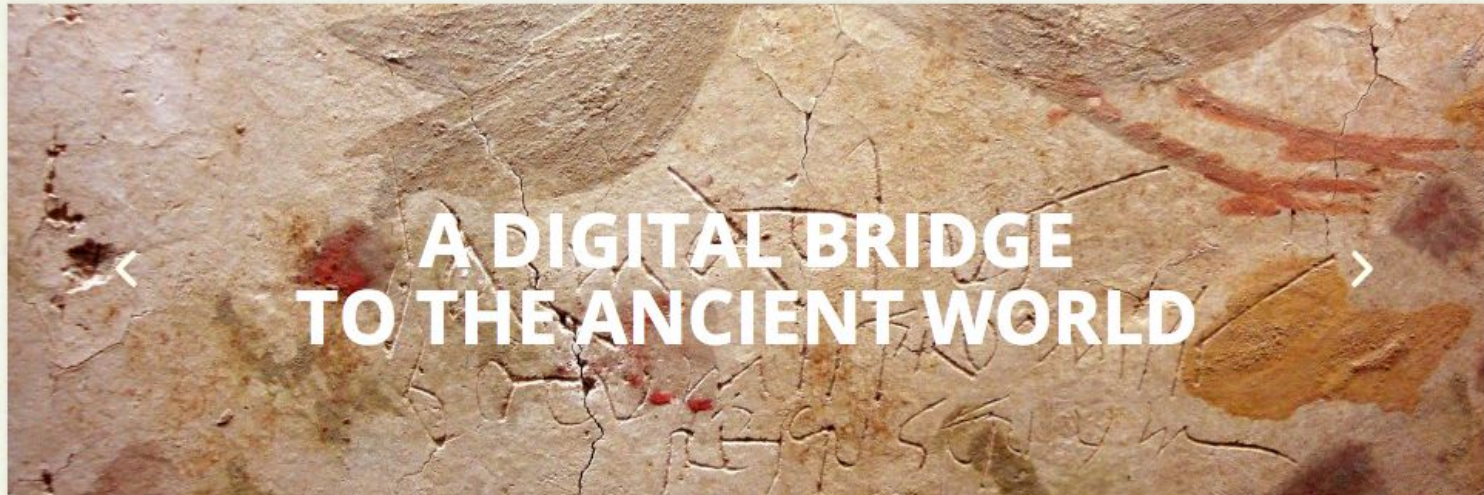
SPARQL Endpoint

EDH data is available in RDF format as well; you can find the SPARQL endpoint [here](#).



europaena
eagle project

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SEARCH THE INSCRIPTIONS DATABASE

SEARCH THE WEB SITE

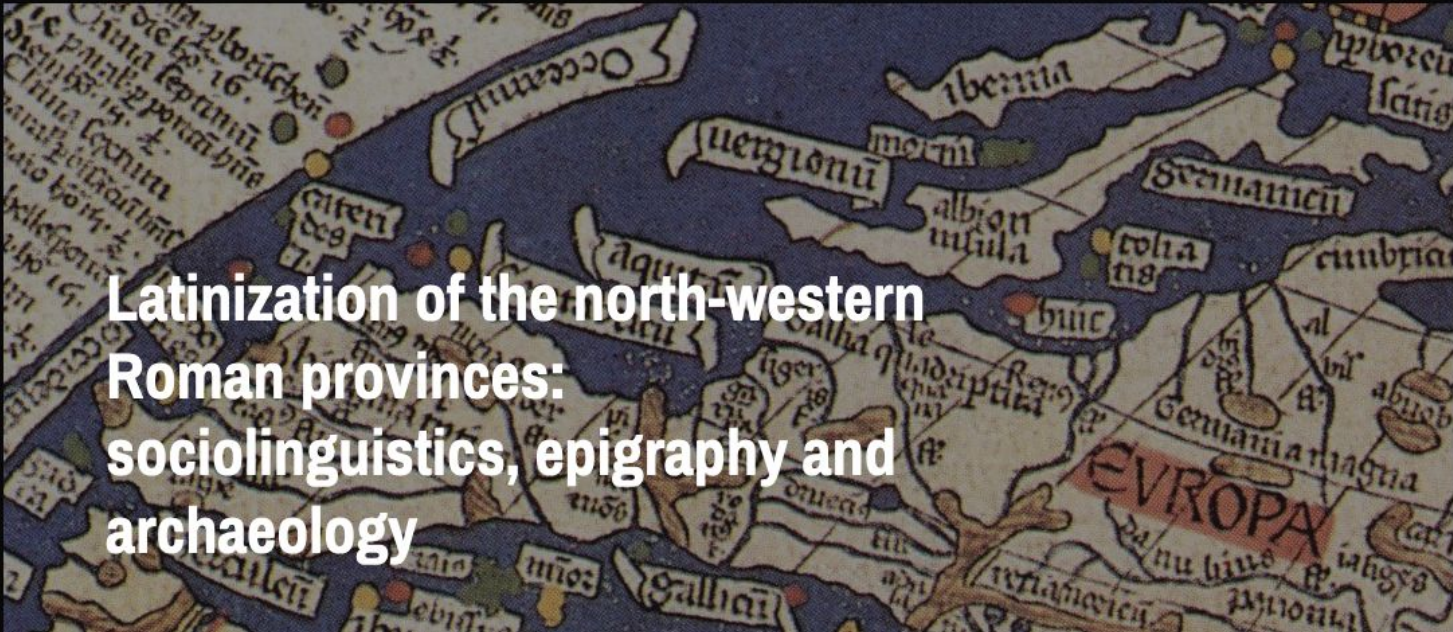


Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



EAGLE - Europeana Network

- Migrate more epigraphic datasets
- Bi-directional conversion
- Community involvement
- Wikimedia/Wikidata
 - Translations
 - Image identification
 - Community outreach/contribution
- Vocabularies — linked open data



**Latinization of the north-western
Roman provinces:
sociolinguistics, epigraphy and
archaeology**

Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



LatinNOW

- Subset of data from EAGLE-Europeana (~ 180 000 inscriptions)
- Not preparing an edition - specific information from files for further research
- Through EAGLE we get:
 - Coverage
 - Querying
 - Normalisation to EpiDoc
- Differences in encoding come from project-specific needs, national practices, date of publication
- Extract data useful for us, add results of our new research, provide the data back to the original projects (and to the world at large)

Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



Best practices & possibilities

- Drive for consistency
- Shared terminology/vocabularies of terms
- Transparency of decision-making process
 - Provide raw data - images/files/scripts
 - Record image manipulation/transcription principles
 - Documentation and user guide

Reuse, repurposing and sustainability



- Image + text linking – multifaceted representations of document (Cuneiform texts [cdli](#))
 - Interdisciplinary framework (new ways of communicate in the multiface community)
 - Publication platforms for mixed media - more than 'just a website'; recognition still problematic
-
- Open publishing enables lots of copies
 - Interest in material guarantees reuse
 - XML's commercial applications provide tools for preservation
 - Repositories and sustainability (libraries/institutional repositories)