

***TheDeMa (Thesaurus Defixionum Magdeburgensis)* – A digital companion to ancient curse tablets**

Curse tablets are among the most widely attested sources of applied magic across the whole of Graeco-Roman antiquity - both in space and time. Unfortunately, their modern editions are likewise scattered across many publications. Hence the need for a digital database collecting for the first time all published ancient curse tablets. The task to collect and analyze the different elements of *defixiones* is currently being undertaken in order to launch the new research tool in late fall 2015. Then the database will be made available as open source, while kept constantly updated.

The *TheDeMa* project is funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) and, along with the realization of the first digital collection of curse tablets, it plans also a comprehensive cross-study of the phenomenon of cursing from the perspective of the display of subjectivity and intimate feelings in antiquity.

Curse tablets are relevant sources for scholars of different fields of antiquities, like ancient magic and religion, as well as socio-linguistics and onomastics. For this reason, the *TheDeMa* database enables various types of searches by cataloguing each tablet according to a great amount of features. A look at some sample records can illustrate both structure and layout of the database, which runs on the MySQL software in PHP script. The recorded data of each tablet are arranged in content-based and material-based fields of information. The content-based section encompasses the textual features of the tablet, i.e. the original text and its translation in at least one modern European language (primarily German and English), as well as several details like all proper names occurring in the curse and formal elements like the types of formulas and the scope of the curse (sport, business, love, etc.).

The second section of the record contains all archaeological information on the find, ranging from shape, dimension and material of the support, up to its place of discovery and the kinds of manipulation the tablet has been subject to (nailed, rolled, etc.). Where available, images of the finds are also uploaded.

Each entry is linked to a specific bibliographic source or to the name of the editor of the tablet in the database. All such references are then collected and listed in a further page of the record. In the end the *TheDeMa* will offer a full bibliography and concordances for all known curse tablets.

As mentioned above, the classification of each find under manifold features allows a great variety of searches through the corpus of curse tablets. The poster is built around an exemplary demonstration of the possibilities offered by the search tool of the database.