

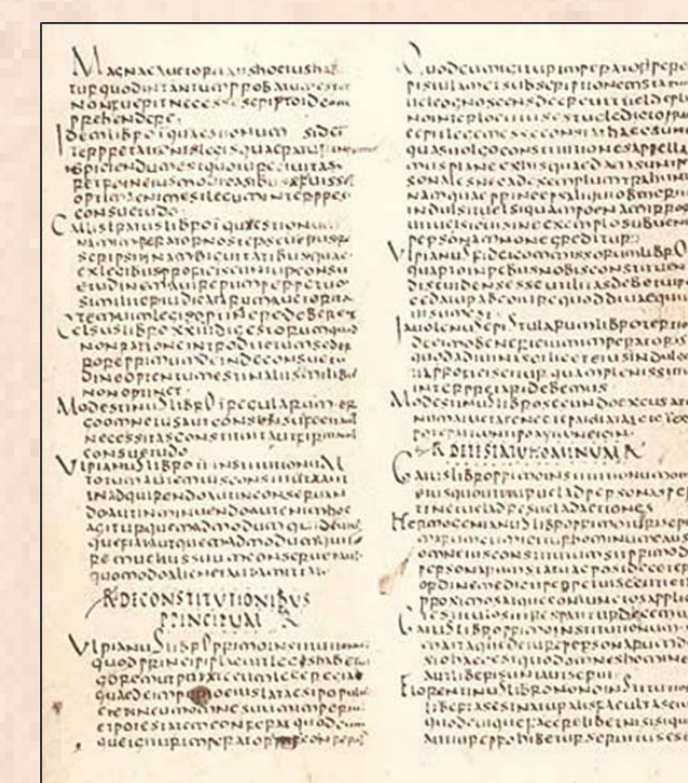
INTRODUCTION

Studies on inscriptions on commercial items have focused almost exclusively on single objects but not relating it to other items nor with the legal context surrounding the trade operations. This poster shows a method to achieve a better understanding of the inscriptions through exploring their inter-relationships with the procedures reflected in legal sources, together with the possibility of giving readers from outside the specialised discipline both insights to the source material. To achieve these goals, inscriptions concerning trade in the Mediterranean (*scripta commercii*) and Roman legal sources (juridical) have been organised in two linked databases, connected to other databases (as geographical, iconography, etc) developed in the PortusLimen Project. This allows to get a broader vision of Roman Mediterranean ports.

DATA COLLECTION JURIDICAL SOURCES



Roman
Customs Law
of Asia, 45-
47= § 18
(Ephesus)

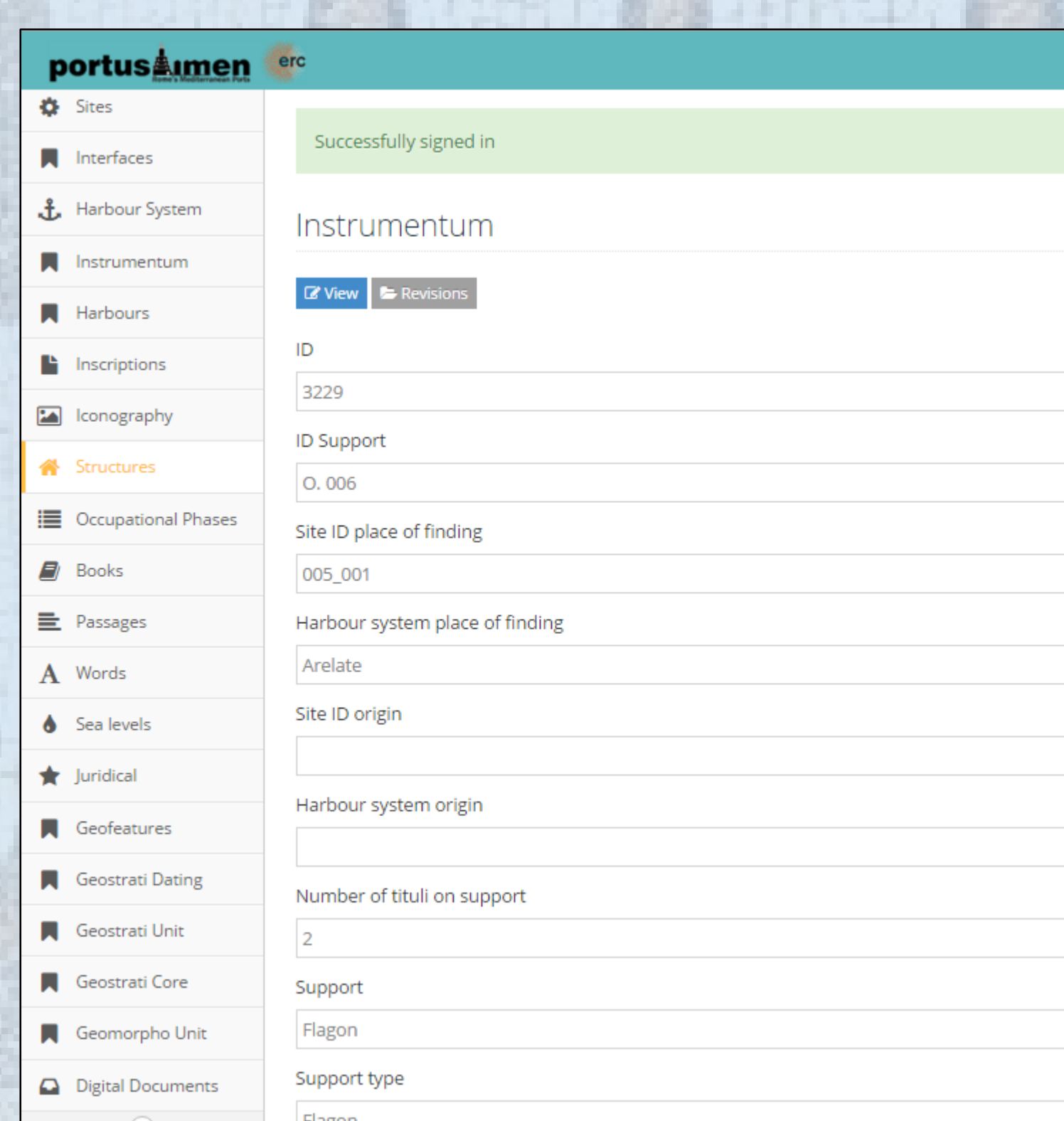


Littera
Florentina.
Copy of
Justinian's
Digest (VI
cent. AD)

Data on Roman law can be drawn from various sources, like the compilation of Justinian (*Corpus Juris Civilis*), other codes and compilations of late empire (*Theodosianus Codex*, *Pauli Sententiae*, etc), and both papyrologic or epigraphic sources. Employing an exegetic methods is essential for these sources, what means to know and understand it and its historical development, as well as critically evaluate its authenticity (in case that they are found in compilations) and possible spread through other sources.

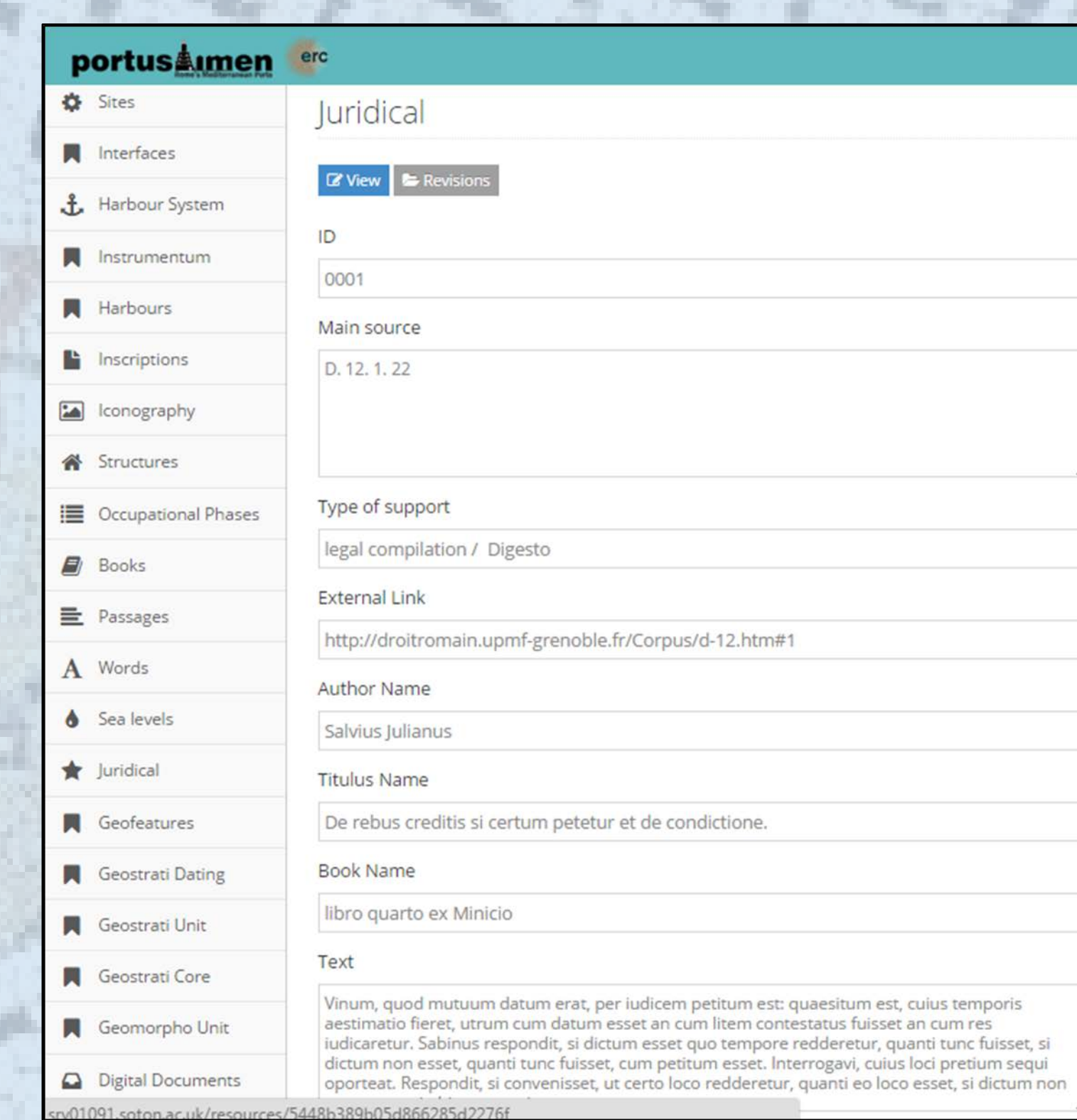
DATA CLASSIFICATION EDITION AND LINKING

RECORD OF THE INSTRUMENTUM DATABASE



One inventory number is assigned to each inscription and each legal source. When a connection can be made between a legal text and an inscription, the inventory numbers are linked. These connections will show us how the different procedures can be appreciated in the material record and in the legal sources in force at that time. The connections will show the complexities of Roman trading procedures performed along the whole Mediterranean.

RECORD OF THE JURIDICAL DATABASE



TRACING ROMAN COMMERCIAL PROCEEDINGS

DATA COLLECTION SCRIPTA COMMERCII



Fos (France)
amphora.
Liou (1987)



Amphora cork,
Berni millet &
Gorostidi, 2013

Scripta commercii refers to the inscriptions from products related within Roman commerce. Concretely, these were written between the moment an item was bought by a merchant and when it arrived at its destination. All of the material necessary for this research has been published. The aim of this database is to relate objects amongst them to detect if there are traces of systematization in the process of inscribing, or if they were standardized. A critical edition of the epigraphic record of these sources is referred on each entry of the database.

All the objects are recorded taking into account their archaeological context, that sometimes will help to understand the epigraphic particularities

Roman law is based in fertile principles that allowed the jurists to adapt it to the particular situations. For this reason, sometimes they can be related to all the commercial proceedings.

BRIDGING
THE GAP

LINKING
COMMERCIAL
EPICRAPHY AND
ROMAN LAW