

Sunoikisis Digital Classics, Summer 2021

Session 2. Teaching epigraphy in a pandemic

April 22, 2021

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What is epigraphy? EpiDoc? Teaching?

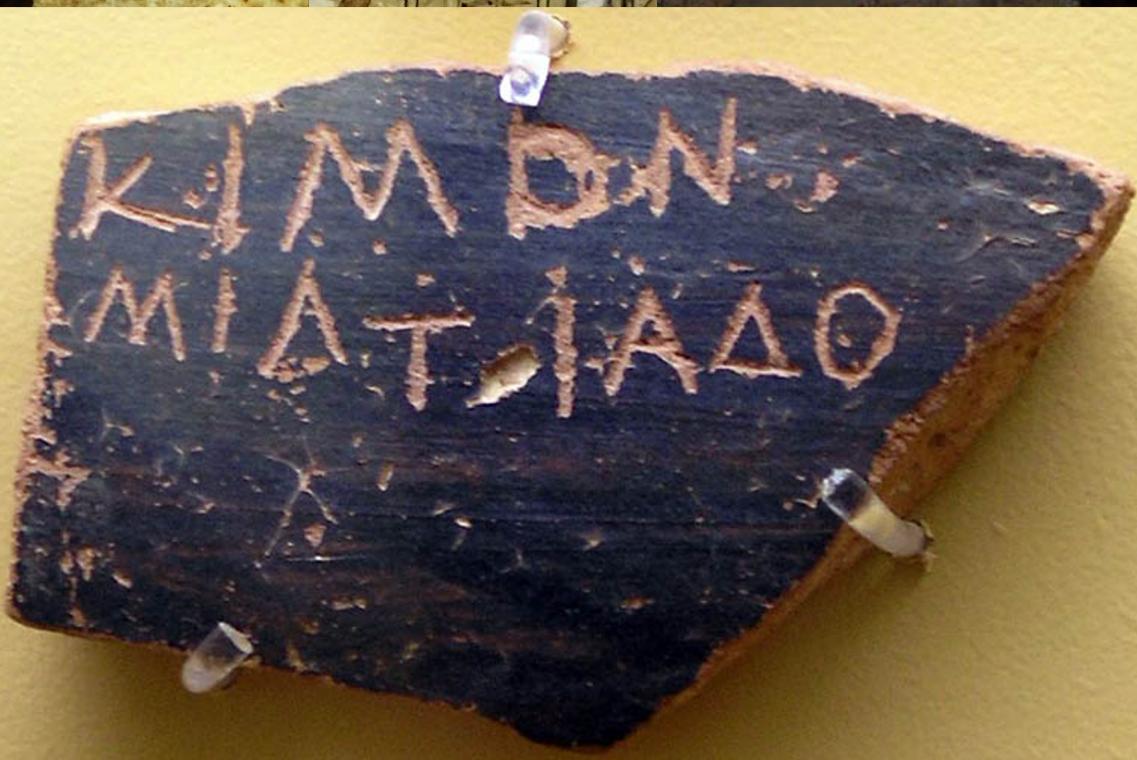
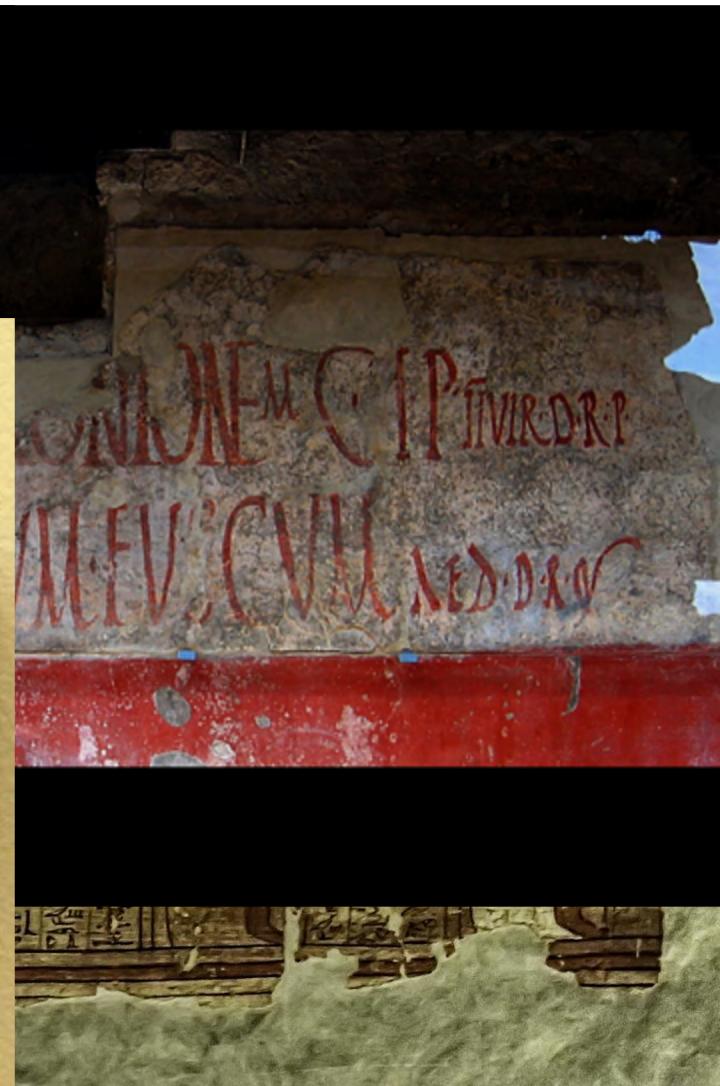
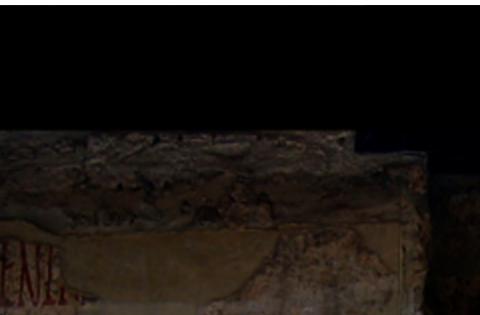
Gabriel Bodard
(University of London)

What is epigraphy?

ΖΗΝΟΔΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
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ΕΥΣΑΒΒΑΘΥΣ ΣΛΑΒΑ ΑΝΤΥΣΤΟΣ







- ... Illegible letters, not restored by editor.
- ab** 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.

What is EpiDoc?



EpiDoc is an international, collaborative effort that provides guidelines and tools for encoding scholarly and educational editions of ancient documents. It uses a subset of the [Text Encoding Initiative](#)'s standard for the representation of texts in digital form and was developed initially for the publication of digital editions of ancient inscriptions (e.g. [Inscriptions of Aphrodisias](#), [Vindolanda Tablets](#)). Its domain has expanded to include the publication of papyri and manuscripts (e.g. [Papyri.info](#)). It addresses not only the transcription and editorial treatment of texts themselves, but also the history and materiality of the objects on which the texts appear (i.e., manuscripts, monuments, tablets, papyri, and other text-bearing objects).

[Latest Release of all EpiDoc code: 9.2](#) (October 2020)

Core EpiDoc Components

- [EpiDoc Guidelines](#): recommendations for markup of transcription, descriptive features, etc. ([About](#))
- [EpiDoc Schema](#): the TEI-derived schema against which EpiDoc XML should be validated
- [EpiDoc Reference Stylesheets](#): for transforming EpiDoc XML to HTML, text or ODF
- [EFES](#): a low-barrier EpiDoc publication platform

EpiDoc: Prior Art

- EpiDoc recommended use of TEI
 - SGML/XML for literary/linguistic corpora since 1988
- Based on Leiden distinctions (1931)
 - EAGLE / Krummrey-Panciera 1980/Panciera 1991
- EAGLE fields
 - EDR / EDH / PETRAE etc.
- Expanded for neighbouring disciplines
 - Papyrology
 - Other ancient inscribed objects (seals, coins...)
 - Other scripts (Mycenaean, Cuneiform, Mayan...)

EpiDoc Tools

- Guidelines
- Reference Stylesheets
- Schema
- EFES
- Third party tools
 - Papyrological Navigator/editor
 - Perseids
 - EAGLE vocabularies and Wikis

Teaching EpiDoc

Types of EpiDoc training

1. Week-long workshop
 - a. ca. 25 participants
 - b. encoding + processing
 - c. publication & project workflow
2. Within a Classics/History module
 - a. single class on digital resources
 - b. principles & indexing exercise
3. Sunoikisis Digital Classics
 - a. online tutorial
 - b. practical seminar/lab

EpiDoc Workshops

EpiDoc Workshops have been run on several occasions over the past few years, with the intention of disseminating skills and experience and encouraging discussion on the topic of TEI markup for the encoding of epigraphic, papyrological, and other ancient texts.

Contents [\[show\]](#)

Training programme [\[edit\]](#)

The training programme for the September 2019 workshop in Berlin, can be found [here](#)↗

If you want to run an EpiDoc workshop [\[edit\]](#)

Requirements [\[edit\]](#)

If you would like to run or host an EpiDoc training workshop at some point, please in the first instance contact the [Markup list](#) to canvass the possible trainers for their availability.

EpiDoc workshops may take a number of forms, for example:

- Week-long, focussing entirely on EpiDoc and/or EFES, either introductory or advanced
- Combined EpiDoc and other digital classics topics (e.g digital geography, 3D imaging, treebanking)
- Shorter intensive workshops/editathons
- Short introductory EpiDoc workshop

Teaching EpiDoc	Teaching epigraphy
Assume epigraphic/classical knowledge	Assume Greek and Latin
Introduce technology	Introduce epigraphic practice
Give reference materials (Guidelines) and customized summary of reference (cheatsheet)	Give reference materials (handbooks) and customized summary of reference (Leiden conventions)
Give lots of exercises and practice	Give lots of exercises and practice



Teaching epigraphy in a pandemic

Alice Bencivenni, Irene Vagionakis
Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA CULTURE CIVILTÀ



ENCODE

BRIDGING THE <GAP> IN ANCIENT WRITING CULTURES
ENHANCE COMPETENCES IN THE DIGITAL ERA

IT EN

HOME

PROJECT PARTNERS

PROJECT ▾

OUTPUTS

TRAINING AND EVENTS

CONTACTS

AGENDA



PROJECT PARTNERS



Bridging the <gap> in Ancient Writing Cultures: ENhance COmpetences in the Digital Era (ENCODE)

WHAT

Erasmus+ Strategic partnership
for higher education

WHY

In order to bridge the existing gap
in the teaching/learning domain
of ancient writing cultures
between the peculiar humanistic
training and the now essential
digital competences required for
study, research and employment.

WHEN

1.9.2020 – 31.8.2023

WHO

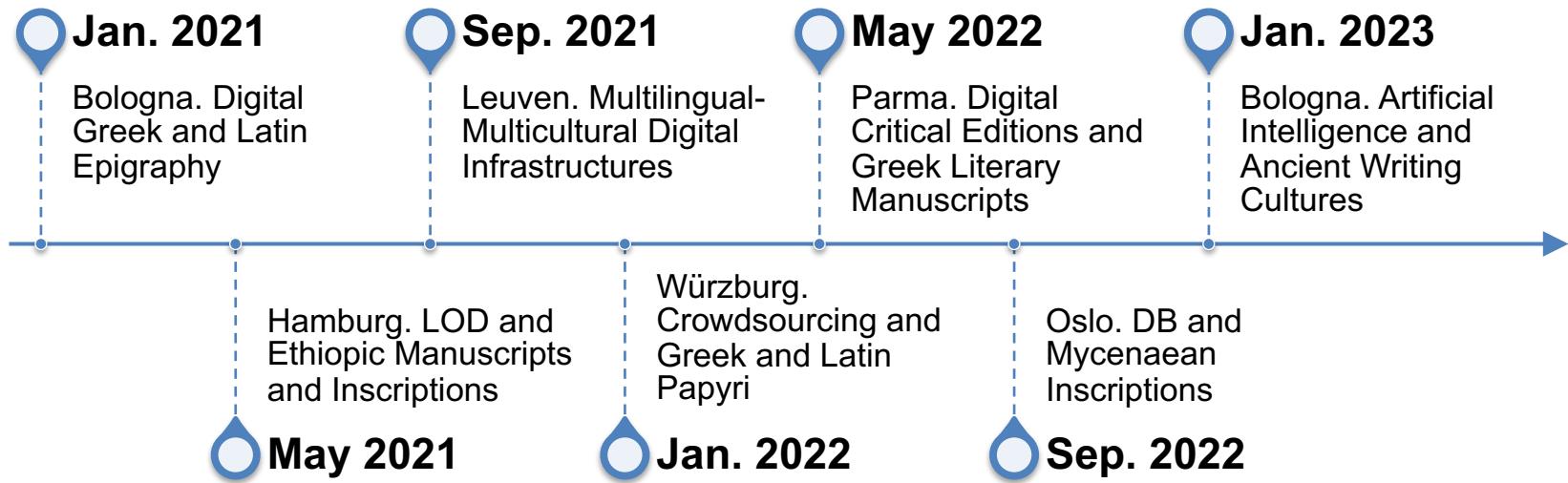
- Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
- Julius Maximilian Universität Würzburg
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- Università degli studi di Parma
- Universität Hamburg
- Universitetet i Oslo

ENhance COmpetences in the Digital Era - ENCODE

The project **EXPECTED RESULTS**:

- a **shared definition of needed digital competences** of graduate students in the programmes focusing on written cultural heritage in old European, Asian and African languages and the implementation of a specific **platform for employers and employable graduates**
- design and test of innovative and customizable **teaching modules**, basic and advanced, improving participatory and intercultural approaches to heritage
- a **full guide to the teaching modules**, including a **MOOC**, that will enhance the importance of innovative digital training and digital applications, including AI, in the academic and professional environment

ENCODE Planned Events - Conferences and Workshops



ENCODE aims

- at promoting **collaborative**, participatory and intercultural digital **approaches to ancient written heritage** through new professional profiles and focused training of skilled graduates;
- at strengthening the crucial **cooperation between higher education and cultural heritage institutions** supplying materials for teaching and self-training to academics and providing stakeholders with support services;
- at meeting **learning needs of graduates** in the field of highly specialized digital skills applied to the study of ancient writing media in old European, Asian and African languages through innovative teaching modules.

Greek Epigraphy – University of Bologna

- From 1972/73: Greek Epigraphy; from 1973/74: Roman Epigraphy
- From 2011: EpiDoc and Leiden+ workshops
- Greek Epigraphy Master course: editing inscriptions
 - Part I – editing an inscription written in one of the local scripts of archaic Greece (source: digital image or facsimile)
 - Part II – editing an inscription kept in the Archaeological Museum of Bologna (source: inscriptions)
- Greek Epigraphy Master course in the pandemic
 - Part II – EpiDoc digital edition

Greek Epigraphy Master course – Part II (October 2020)

Structure of the 6 hours slot:

- a general introduction to EpiDoc: history, examples of encoded inscriptions, advantages of digital editions (2 hours);
- basic xml rules and encoding bibliography; EpiDoc Guidelines for text transcription and how to use Oxygen editor (2 hours);
- EpiDoc Guidelines for indexing; exercises (2 hours).

Teaching material:

- EpiDoc Guidelines;
- Slides available under CC license at the [EpiDoc Workshops](#) DC Wiki page;
- EpiDoc Startpack.

NUMBERS

During the course:

- 20 students attended part I
- 18 students produced a digital edition after part II
- 7/18 students produced a more advanced digital edition

After the course:

- 2/11 students produced a digital edition for the final exam

Anonymous feedback form on part II of Greek Epigraphy course

10/18 answers

- 90% expressed the opinion that digital training has plenty to do with the Humanities;
- 80% expressed the opinion that digital epigraphy is essential for research activity in the field of ancient written sources;
- 100% firmly believe that digital skills may make a difference for their future career (research, teaching, job).

Anonymous UNIBO questionnaire of evaluation on Greek Epigraphy course

- A compressed experience:

Segnala eventuali difficoltà o problemi riscontrati durante il corso seguito.

Servirebbe dedicare più tempo sulla parte di epigrafia digitale, essendo la parte più impegnativa e sconosciuta.

- But not definetely dismissible!

Segnala gli aspetti positivi del corso seguito.

Apprendimento pratico della materia grazie a esercizi consegnati alla docente e da lei corretti, inoltre mi è piaciuta molto la parte sull'epigrafia digitale, molto interessante, che "svecchia" la materia

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop

(Bologna, January 26-29, 2021)

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop

(January 26-29, 2021)



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DIGITAL GREEK AND LATIN EPIGRAPHY WORKSHOP*

January 26-29, 2021
(10-13, 14-17 CET)



Zoom Platform

Trainers: Alice Bencivenni, Beatrice Casella, Marta Fogagnolo, Giuditta Mirizio, Manuela Mongardi, Silvia Orlandi, Daniela Rigato, Valentina Uglietti, Irene Vagionakis

Guest Speakers: Claudia Antonetti, Marta Fogagnolo, Giuditta Mirizio, Silvia Orlandi, Eloisa Paganoni, Luca Rigobianco

- First workshop organised in the framework of the ENCODE project
- First (?) in-depth EpiDoc workshop since the COVID-19 outbreak
- Attempt to reproduce as closely as possible an in-person workshop

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Teaching choices

Attempt to reproduce as closely as possible an in-person workshop:

- Same amount of workshop hours
- Synchronous teaching (Zoom)
- Synchronous training sessions (Zoom breakout rooms)
- Based on Central European Time Zone
- Limited number of participants (25 out of 77 applicants)
- 4-5 trainers

Innovation:

- Division in groups for the training sessions (Zoom breakout rooms)

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop:

Workshop structure

- **4 days** (Tuesday to Friday)
 - preceded by ENCODE Project Conference on Monday (15-18 CET)
- **3 hours** in the morning + **3 hours** in the afternoon (10-13, 14-17 CET)

Comparison with some previous Bologna EpiDoc Workshops:

- May 27-31, 2019 (10-13, 14-17 CEST): 4 ½ days, 6 hours each
- September 12-14, 2016 (9-13, 14-18 CEST): 3 days, 8 hours each
- May 25-27, 2015 (9-12.30, 13.30-17 CEST): 3 days, 7 hours each
- May 26-29, 2014 (9-12, 14-18 CEST): 4 days, 7 hours each

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Workshop structure

Day 1 Epigraphic Database Roma, EAGLE

Day 2 Introduction to Semantic Markup, EpiDoc, TEI, XML, XML Editor
EpiDoc Guidelines: Descriptive and Historical Data, Text Transcription

Day 3 EpiDoc Guidelines: Vocabularies and Indexing Terms
Transforming XML files with Oxygen
Venice Squeeze Project open conference (1h)

Day 4 *Lingue e Culture dell'Italia Antica Project* open conference (1h)
Online XML Publishing Tools, EFES
Papyri.info, Leiden +

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Teaching material

Same types of teaching materials as in the previous in-person workshops:

- EpiDoc Guidelines
- Slides available under CC license at the [EpiDoc Workshops](#) DC Wiki page
- Shared folder on Google Drive (with programme, links, ‘EpiDoc StartPack’)
- ‘EpiDoc StartPack’ zipped folder, including:
 - EpiDoc Schema, Stylesheets, Template, Oxygen .xpr project
 - some PDFs: Quick Reference files, guide to Oxygen XSLT Transformations
 - XML files for the exercises (arranged for each session)

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Trainees' feedback

Two questionnaires (Google Forms):

- **Anonymous Feedback questionnaire** (24 out of 25)
- **Competence questionnaire** (23 out of 25)
 - Humanistic Competences: based on [CALOHEE](#) Framework for the Humanities and History
 - Digital Competences: based on [DigiComp2.1](#) Framework

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Trainees' feedback

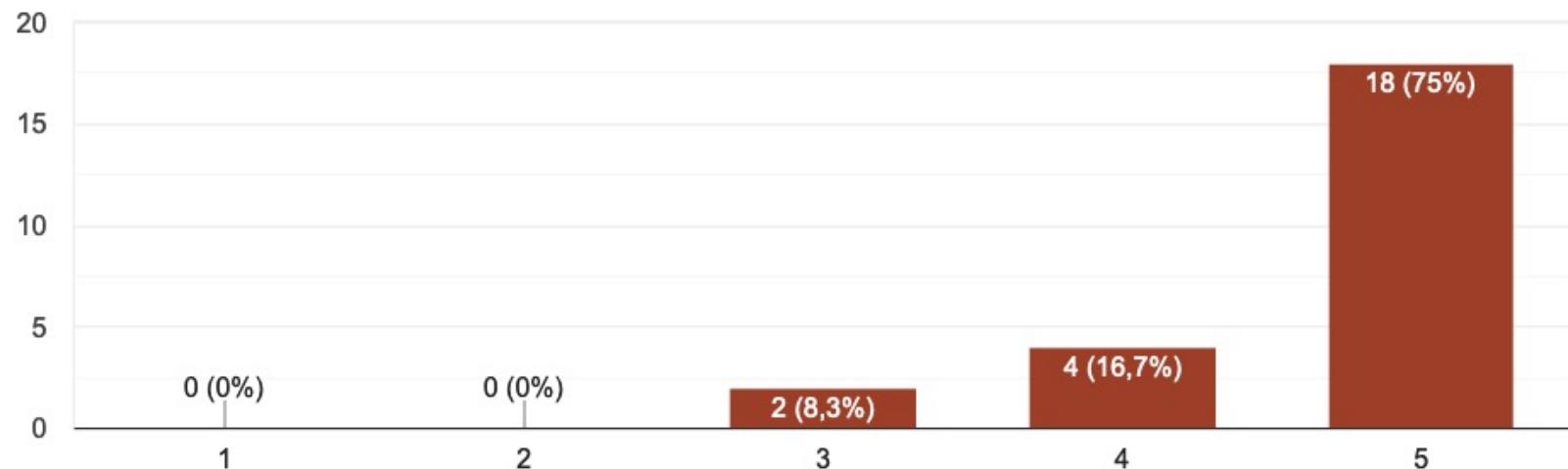
3) DIGITAL CONTENT CREATION- 3.1 DEVELOPING DIGITAL CONTENT: To create and edit digital content in different formats, to express oneself through digital means (e.g. apply ways to create and edit a digital edition through XML language).



ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Trainees' feedback

10) Were you overall satisfied ?

24 risposte



ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Trainees' feedback

Suggestions from the feedback questionnaire

- Less intense daily programme, possibly to be spread over 2 weeks
- More breaks
- Even more time on practice/exercises
- Providing some preparatory materials in advance
- Introduction on the DH/IT basic concepts and terminology
- Smaller groups for the supervised practical training
- Doing some complete exercises all together (but not too many)

Open conferences

- **pros:** insight into existing projects, different view on DH, helpful break
- **cons:** time that could be used to do more practical training

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop:

Pros and cons of a remote approach

Pros

- no need to travel: more applicants from abroad and from other cities
- easier to organise: no insurances, credentials, reimbursements, coffee breaks

Cons

- no socialising/networking/chatting moments
- too many screen hours

ENCODE Digital Greek and Latin Epigraphy Workshop: Pros and cons of a synchronous approach

Pros

- continuously supervised practical training: most appreciated part
- sense of closeness (compared to an asynchronous approach)

Cons

- too many **consecutive** screen hours
- too intense programme: quite exhausting, both for trainees and trainers
- not fitting all time zones, mainly for Europe

London - Bologna EpiDoc Workshop

(April 12-16, 2021)

London - Bologna EpiDoc Workshop (April 12-16, 2021): Trainees' feedback

Videos (and slideshows):

- very appreciated
- can be watched at any time, with breaks
- can be watched more than once
- choice between watching them all or part of them: different learning levels

Exercises:

- mostly unproblematic
- also walkthrough live exercises in addition to walkthrough videos
- better to recommend exercises with appropriate level of complexity

London - Bologna EpiDoc Workshop (April 12-16, 2021): Trainees' feedback

Forums:

- unfamiliar interface
- quick demo of forums on first day would have been useful

Live Q&A sessions:

- good to have small groups (even smaller)
- at least one per day would have been better

Synchronous vs asynchronous:

- being together would have been nicer
- providential for trainees from different time zones

London - Bologna EpiDoc Workshop (April 12-16, 2021):

Pros and cons of asynchronous approach

Pros

- more flexible:
 - fitting almost all time zones
 - fitting everyone's learning needs and timing
 - less consecutive screen hours
 - less intense programme
 - compatible also with other simultaneous commitments
- more empowering, encouraging self-reliance

Cons

- minor sense of closeness (compared to a synchronous approach)
- less supervised practical training



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Thank you!

Stay tuned on:

<https://site.unibo.it/encode>