

A Short History of Digital Classics (c.1951 – 2004)

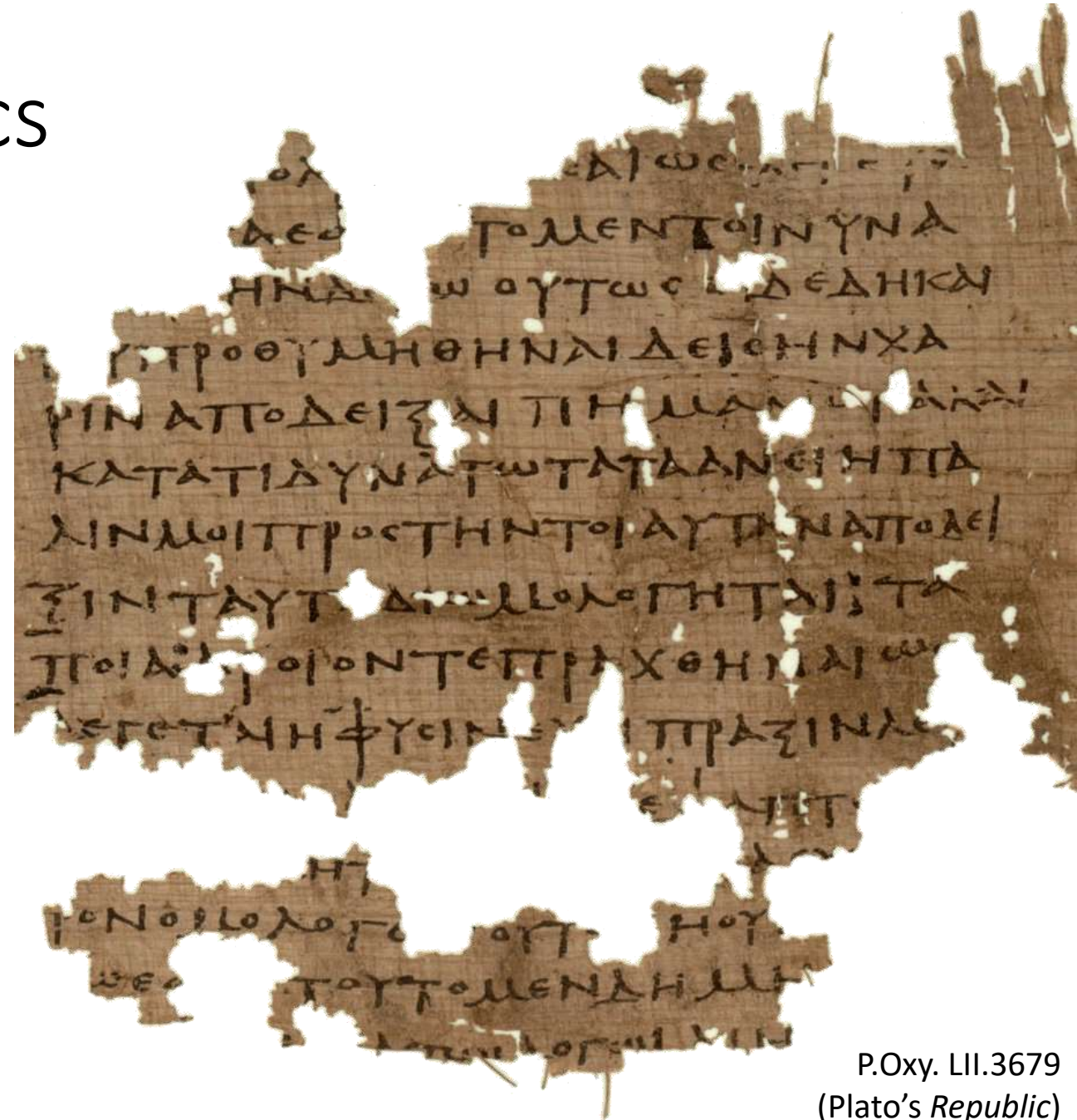
SunoikisisDC Digital Approaches to Cultural Heritage

Session 1: What is Digital Classics/Cultural Heritage?

15 January 2026

What I mean by Classics

- The study of ancient Greek and Latin languages and literature
- The study of ancient Mediterranean cultures and cultural productions
 - And the cultures they colonized
- The study of later reception of Greco-Roman antiquity



P.Oxy. LII.3679
(Plato's *Republic*)

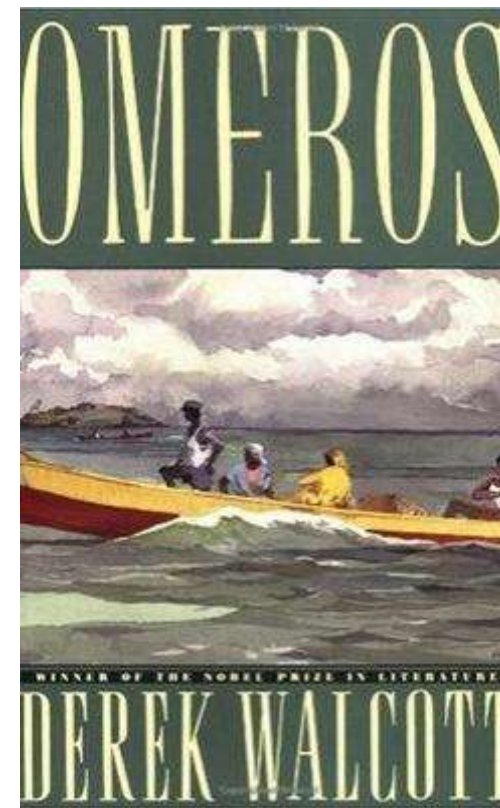
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PHAROS

DOING JUSTICE TO THE CLASSICS

**Temple University
Lecture: “Hateful
Classicism: Greco-
Roman Antiquity in the
White Ethnonationalist
Imagination”**



RECENT POSTS

The Biggest Name in White Nationalist Classics

How Classics Made its Way into the “Freedom Convoy”

An All-White Dating Service and the Ancient World

The Fourth Year of Pharos: What is the Emotional Toll?

Lepage Center Roundtable: “White Supremacy and Classical Athens: A Turning Point?”

What I mean by Digital Humanities

- Any intersection of the digital and the humanistic
- For example:
 - Turning things like text and image into analyzable data
 - Studying how humans interact with the digital
 - Creating digital tools to work in novel ways with the traditional subjects of humanistic study—or using existing digital tools to do the same
 - Modelling born-digital representations of material cultural heritage

What Is Digital Humanities?

New quote

A field of study that looks at the application of digital technology to the research areas of the humanities. It is not necessarily undertaking that humanities research, but examining the methodology and provision of possibilities for enabling that research or new conceptions of related research. The majority of work in this area, however, gets characterised by those outside the field as IT professionals just doing a bit of programming work for them while uselessly banging on about long-term preservation formats, open data, and not really doing real research. [James Cummings](#)

NB: Click the New quote button between 2009-2014. As of January 2015 loaded. If you want to do so!

Made by [Jason Heppner](#). Problems? [Query](#)

What Is Digital Humanities?

New quote

The use of computational techniques in the humanities that would allow research that is otherwise impossible. [Melissa Terras](#)

NB: Click the New quote button to display a new random quote. Quotes were pulled from participants from the [Day of DH](#) between 2009-2014. As of January 2015, the database contains 817 rows and randomly selects a quote each time the page is loaded. If you want to do something cool with the data, I am providing the code and data [here](#).

Made by [Jason Heppner](#). Problems? [Query](#)

What Is Digital Humanities?

New quote

Digital Humanities is the integration of sophisticated, empirical techniques utilizing tools and technologies typically associated with practical sciences into the study of traditional humanities questions. It represents a more exploratory and less quantitative approach than social sciences in the use of such tools but it also represents ambitious attempts to model nuanced human wisdom in ways that, like early flying machines, are beautiful, quite impractical and often fail. [Elijah Meeks](#)

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Made by [Jason Heppner](#). Problems? [Query](#) [@jheppner](#) on Twitter.

*Screenshots of randomly-displayed quotations from
whatisdigitalhumanities.com*

A Short History of Digital Classics

c. 1951 – 2004

ARCHIVUM PHILOSOPHICUM ALOISIANUM
A CURA DELLA FACOLTA DI FILOSOFIA DELL'ISTITUTO ALOISIANUM S. J.
Serie II - N. 7

ROBERTO BUSA S. J.

SANCTI THOMAE AQUINATIS
HYMNORUM RITUALIUM
VARIA SPECIMINA
CONCORDANTIARUM

PRIMO SAGGIO DI INDICI DI PAROLE
AUTOMATICAMENTE COMPOSTI E STAMPATI
DA MACCHINE IBM A SCHEDE PERFORATE

A FIRST EXAMPLE OF WORD INDEX
AUTOMATICALLY COMPILED AND PRINTED
BY IBM PUNCHED CARD MACHINES



FRATELLI BOCCA - EDITORI - MILANO

In the Beginning ...

First recognized
Digital Humanities
project

Indexing complete
vocabulary of four
Latin poems of St.
Thomas Aquinas

- Classics
- Theology
- Philosophy

The earliest known computer-generated
book (1951)

DH/worldwide major
events and milestones

Roberto Busa's first DH publication
1951

Digital Classics major
projects and milestones

In the Beginning...

Busa's *Index Thomisticus*



DH/worldwide major
events and milestones

Roberto Busa's first DH publication

Digital Classics major
projects and milestones

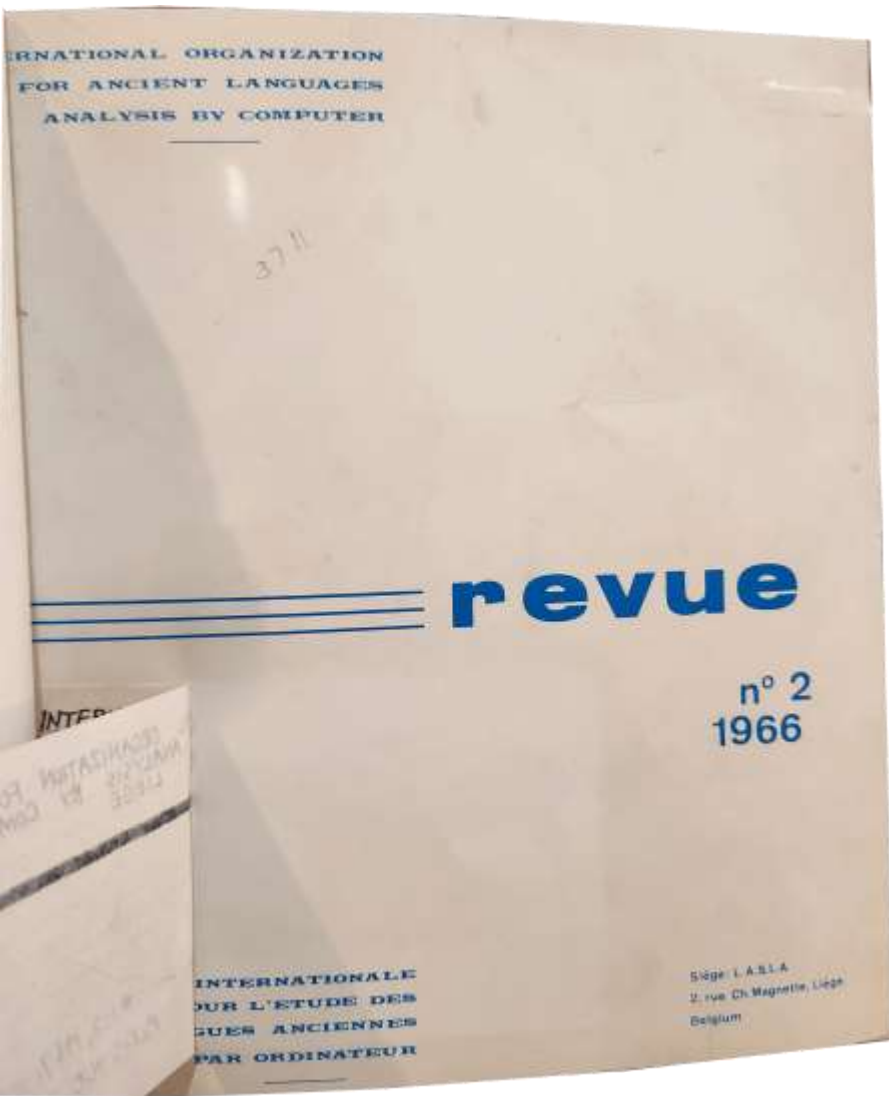
1951

First issue of *Computers and the Humanities*

1966

1965

First issue of *Revue: International Organization for
Ancient Languages Analysis by Computer*



1951

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1966

1965

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Classics, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755, U. S. A. From it we quote: John Reich and Richard Morgan are compiling a list of all known Minoan seals in a standardized form suitable for treatment on the IBM 360 model 65 computer at the University of Manitoba. Their information includes the individual symbols on each side of the seal; the seal's color, material, and provenience; and miscellaneous notes. As a first step towards possible decipherment of the seals, Reich and Morgan are intending to produce a frequency list of the symbols, a listing by groups of symbols appearing on the same side and on different sides of a seal, and various other combinations of the data. The finished product will in many respects be like Fowler and

CORPUS DER MINOISCHEN UND MYKENISCHEN SIEGEL

The CMS
Archive
CMS Series
Databases
Projects
History
Contact
Sitemap
About & Copyright

Aegean Seals/Sealings
About
Examples
Glossary of Aegean Glyptic
Bibliography
Useful Links

Faculties of History & Archaeology > ZAW > CMS > Metal



Cushion, steeple dressed with gold sheet, MM 1816 M 1 (CMS VI no. 182)



Four-sided prism, gold, MM II (CMS II no. 234 a)



Signet ring, gold, LB III (CMS V Suppl. 1B no. 113)



Signet ring, gold/bronze, LB IIIA1 (CMS I no. 209)

SEAL OF THE MONTH



Read more...

NEW FINDS/SEALS NOT IN THE CMS

The Seals from the Minoan Site of Chrysi Island...

1951

First issue of *Computers and the Humanities*

1966

1965

First issue of *Revue: International Organization for
Ancient Languages Analysis by Computer*

1971

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) starts

- Theodore (Ted) Brunner
 - Marianne McDonald (funding)
- David W. Packard
 - Hewlett-Packard
 - Ibycus system



David Packard's "Ibycus" mini-computer (a modified HP), mid-1970s

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 E)FHMOSU/NH| *PELI/AO €XRU/SEION META\ KW=AS E)U/ZUGON H)/LASAN *)ARGW/. €@*TOI/HN GA\R *PELI/HS FA/TIN E)/KLUEN, W(/S MIN O)PI/SSW €MOI=RA ME/NEI STUGERH/,
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 E)GW\ GENEH/N TE KAI\ OU)/NOMA MUQHS AI/MHN €H(RW/WN, DOLIXH=S TE PO/ROUS A(LO/S, O(/SSA T' E)/RECAN €PLAZO/MENOI: *MOU=SAI D' U(POFH/TORES EI)=EN A)OIDH=S.
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 MOLPH=S €A)KTH=| *QRHIKI/H| *ZW/NHS E)/PI THLEQO/WSAI €E(CEI/HS STIXO/WSIN E)PH/TRIMOI, A(\S O(/G' E)PIPRO/ €QELGOME/NAS FO/RMIGGI KATH/GAGE *PIERI/HQEN.
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 ME\N *)APIDANO/S TE ME/GAS KAI\ DI=OS *)ENIPEU/S €A)/MFW SUMFORE/ONTAI, A)PO/PROQEN EI)S E(\N I)O/NTES. €@*LA/RISAN D' E)PI\ TOI=SI LIPW\N *POLU/FHMOS I
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 *TELE/ONTOS, E)UMMELI/HS TE *FA/LHROS: €*)/ALKWN MIN PROE/HKE PATH\R E(O/S: OU) ME\N E)/T' A)/LLOUS €GH/RAOS UI(=AS E)/XEN BIO/TOIO/ TE KHDEMONH=AS, €A)LLA/
 E(THLU/GETO/N PER O(MW=S KAI\ MOU=NON E)O/NTA €PE/MPEN, I(/NA QRASE/ESSI METAPRE/POI H(RW/ESSI. €*QHSE/A D', O(\S PERI\ PA/NTAS *)EREXQEI/+DAS E)KE/KASTO,
 €*TAINARI/HN A)I/DHLOS U(PO\ XOO/NA DESMO\S E)/RUKE. €*PEIRI/OW| E(SPO/MENON KOINH\N O(DO/N: H)= TE/ KEN A)/MFW €R(HI/TERON KAMA/TOIO TE/LOS PA/NTESSIN

Diogenes

File Edit View Go Help

Διογένης

Book 1, line 1

1.1

Ἀρχόμενος σέο Φοῖβε παλαιγενέων κλέα φωτῶν
μνήσομαι οἷ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
Κυανέας βασιλῆος ἐφημοσύνη Πελῖαιο
χρῦσειον μετὰ κῶας ἐϋζυγον ἤλασαν Ἀργῶ.
1.5
Τοίην γὰρ Πελῖης φάτιν ἔκλυεν, ὥς μιν ὀπίσσω
μοῖρα μένει στυγερή, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ὄντιν' ἴδοιτο
δημόθεν οἰοπέδιλον ὑπ' ἐννεσίησι δαμῆναι·
δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα τεινὴν κατὰ βάξιν Ἰήσων,
χειμερίοιο ῥέεθρα κιῶν διὰ ποσσὶν Ἀναύρου,
1.10
ἄλλο μὲν ἐξεσάωσεν ὑπ' ἰλύος ἄλλο δ' ἐνερθεν
κάλλιπεν αὐθι πέδιλον ἐνισχόμενον προχοῇσιν·
ἴκετο δ' ἐς Πελίην αὐτοσχεδόν, ἀντιβολήσων
εἰλαπίνης ἦν πατρὶ Ποσειδάωνι καὶ ἄλλοις
ῥέζε θεοῖς, Ἥρης δὲ Πελασγίδος οὐκ ἀλέγιζεν·
1.15
αἶψα δὲ τόνγ' ἐσιδὼν ἐφράσσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄεθλον
ἔντυε ναυτιλίας πολυκηδέος, ὄφρ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
ἦε καὶ ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσι νόστον ὀλέσσει.
Νῆα μὲν οὖν οἱ πρόσθεν ἔτι κλείουσιν ᾠοῖδοί
Ἄργον Ἀθηναίης καμέειν ὑποθημοσύνησι·
1.20
νῦν δ' ἂν ἐγὼ γενεὴν τε καὶ οὔνομα μυθησαίμην
ἡρώων, δολιχῆς τε πόρους ἀλός, ὅσσα τ' ἔρεξαν
πλαζόμενοι· Μοῦσαι δ' ὑποφήτορες εἶεν ᾠοιδῆς.
Πρῶτά νυν Ὀρφῆος μνησώμεθα, τὸν ρά ποτ' αὐτὴ
Καλλιόπη Θρήικι φατίζεται εὐνηθεῖσα
1.25
Οἰάγρῳ σκοπιῆς Πιμπληίδος ἄγχι τεκέσθαι.
αὐτὰρ τόνγ' ἐνέπουσιν ἀτειρέας οὔρεσι πέτρας
θέλξαι ᾠοιδάων ἐνοπῇ ποταμῶν τε ῥέεθρα·
φηγοὶ δ' ἀγριάδες κείνης ἔτι σήματα μολπῆς

TLG text of beginning of Apollonius Rhodius, *Argonautica* (TLG0001), as displayed with external software Diogenes



SEARCH THE TLG CORPUS

SIMPLE | **PROXIMITY** | ADVANCED PROXIMITY

☐ Word Index ☐ Lemma ☒ Textual Search

andr and ▼ ennep and ▼

Within Words first word first word

☐ Non-alphab. chars ☐ Diacritics sensitive
☐ Exact Match ☐ Case sensitive ☐ Adscript as subscript ☐ Wildcard ?

Input

Search in: ☒ Full Corpus
or: ☐ Author

SELECTION

andr

ennep

Lines: Display: Sort: Links:

Results per page:

« RESULTS »

Display results: as a list |



Prev | Next

1. HOMERUS *Epic. Odyssea* {0012.002} (8 B.C.) Book 1 line 1
(1) ΟΔΥΣΣΕΙΑΣ Α



Ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, ὃς μάλα πολλὰ (1)
πλάγχθη, ἐπεὶ Τροίης ἱερὸν πτολίεθρον ἔπερσε·

2. SAPPHO *Lyr. Fragmenta* {0009.001} (7-6 B.C.) Fragment 18 line 5



(18) <π>άν κεδ[
<έ>ννέπην [
γλῶσσα μ[
μυθολογῇ[
κάνδρι .[(5)
μεσδον[@1



1951

First issue of *Computers and the Humanities*

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1965

First issue of *Revue: International Organization for Ancient Languages Analysis by Computer*

1971

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) starts

1982

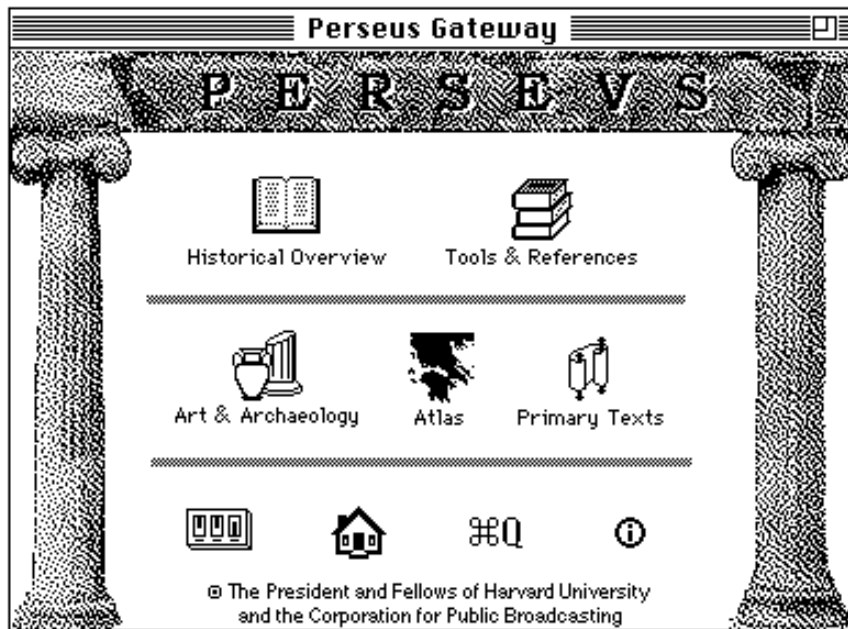
Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri (DDbDP) starts

1985

Perseus Project (hypermedia environment for teaching and research) starts

Macintosh HyperCard public release

1987



- Gregory (Greg) Crane

The first publicly-released version of Perseus (1991)

- 1985 Planning for Perseus begins
- 1987 Establishment of project
- 1992 Perseus 1.0 released by Yale University Press
- 1995 Perseus WWW site begins, with addition of LSJ9
- 1996 Perseus 2.0 (Mac only) released by Yale University Press
- 1997 First release of Latin texts on Perseus as well as start of Renaissance collection
- 1999 Perseus begins work under Digital Library Initiative, Phase 2
- 2000 Perseus 2.0 (Platform Independent) released by Yale University Press
- 2000 Perseus web site expanded and revised becoming "Perseus 3.0"; several new collections are added
- 2005 Perseus 4.0 released on WWW
- 2006 Release of Perseus TEI XML collections in Greek, Latin, and English under a Creative Commons ShareAlike/Non-Commercial/Attribution license.
- 2007 Source code for Perseus 4.0 released
- 2015 Experimental Canonical Text Services and Capitains text server
- 2017 Open Greek and Latin launches First Thousand Years of Greek project
- 2018 Scaife Viewer released
- 2022 Beyond Translation released

- “[A] single, heterogeneous database with many kinds of evidence about a particular culture” (Crane 1992) in “a structure that allows readers to move as easily as possible from one kind of information to another” (Perseus 1.0 documentation)
- **“Our larger mission is to make the full record of humanity - linguistic sources, physical artifacts, historical spaces - as intellectually accessible as possible to every human being**, regardless of linguistic or cultural background. ... Perseus has a particular focus upon the Greco-Roman world and classical Greek and Latin, but the larger mission provides the distant, but fixed star by which we have charted our path for over two decades.”
(<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/research>)

1996



Περσεύς PROJECT

Tufts
University
Classics
Department
Gregory Crane
Editor-in-Chief
[About Perseus](#)

What's New	Starting Points
Art & Archaeology	Order Perseus 2.0
Searching Tools	Teaching With Perseus
Texts Greek/English	Documentation & Help
Greek Lexica	Related Links
Secondary Sources	Mail & Mailing Lists

An Evolving Digital Library on Ancient Greece *and* [Rome](#)

[Copyright](#) | [General Policies of this Site](#)

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Check out the [Area around Lake Marathon in a snowstorm](#), a photograph from our site database, courtesy of Thomas Martin and Ivy S. Sun.

Happy Holidays from the staff of the Perseus Project!

Are you feeling nostalgic for the Atlanta Olympics already?
...how about for the [Ancient Olympic Games](#)?

There is also a [text-only homepage](#).

The Perseus Project is supported by the [Annenberg/CPB Project](#), the [National Science Foundation](#), [Apple Computer](#) and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), the Packard Humanities Institute, the [Getty Grant program](#), [Xerox Corporation](#), [Boston University](#), [Harvard University](#), and the [Fund to Improve Post-Secondary Education](#). Perseus is a non-profit enterprise, headquartered at the [Classics Department](#), [Tufts University](#).



Welcome to **Perseus 4.0**, also known as the **Perseus Hopper**.

Read more on the [Perseus version history](#).

New to Perseus? Click [here](#) for a short tutorial.



2026

Perseus News and Updates

- Please visit the [Perseus Updates](#) blog for news on project activities, research, and initiatives. We invite you to contact us via [email to the Perseus webmaster](#) if you have any comments, questions, or concerns.

• January 16, 2024: Towards a new Perseus: Update

We have now completed work on [Beyond Translation](#) (a draft white paper on this work that has been submitted to the [NEH Office of Digital Humanities](#) is available [here](#)) and are focused on using the Beyond Translation work as part of an update to the [Scaife Viewer](#). The resulting system will finally allow us to replace Perseus 4. We are calling the new version Perseus 6 (rather than 5) to reflect the amount of work embedded in the Scaife Viewer and now Beyond Translation (which we view collectively as Perseus 5). A grant from the NEH Collections and References program in the NEH Division of Preservation and Access for [Perseus on the Web – preparing for the next thirty years](#) provides the primary support for this phase of work, with additional support from the Tufts Data Intensive Studies Center, the School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts Technology Services and Google.

Our main collaborator in this phase of development is [James Tauber](#), who is now working with [Signum University](#). We also are waiting on Tufts administrative paperwork to finalize a contract with another group to help us reorganize the Perseus home (and associated sub pages) and replace our WordPress-based blog with the [Pubpub Publishing Platform](#) (which we already began using in documenting

Popular Texts

- Caesar, *Gallic War* ([English](#), [Latin](#))
- Catullus, *Carmina* ([English](#), [Latin](#))
- Cicero, *In Catilinam I* ([English](#), [Latin](#))
- Vergil, *Aeneid* ([English](#), [Latin](#))
- Herodotus, *Histories* ([English](#), [Greek](#))
- Homer, *Odyssey* ([English](#), [Greek](#))
- Plato, *Republic* ([English](#), [Greek](#))
- Tom Martin, *Overview of Classical Greek History from Mycenae to Alexander* ([English](#))

Art and Archaeology



Aegina, Temple of Aphaia



Silver obol from Athens



Satyr on Attic red figure vase



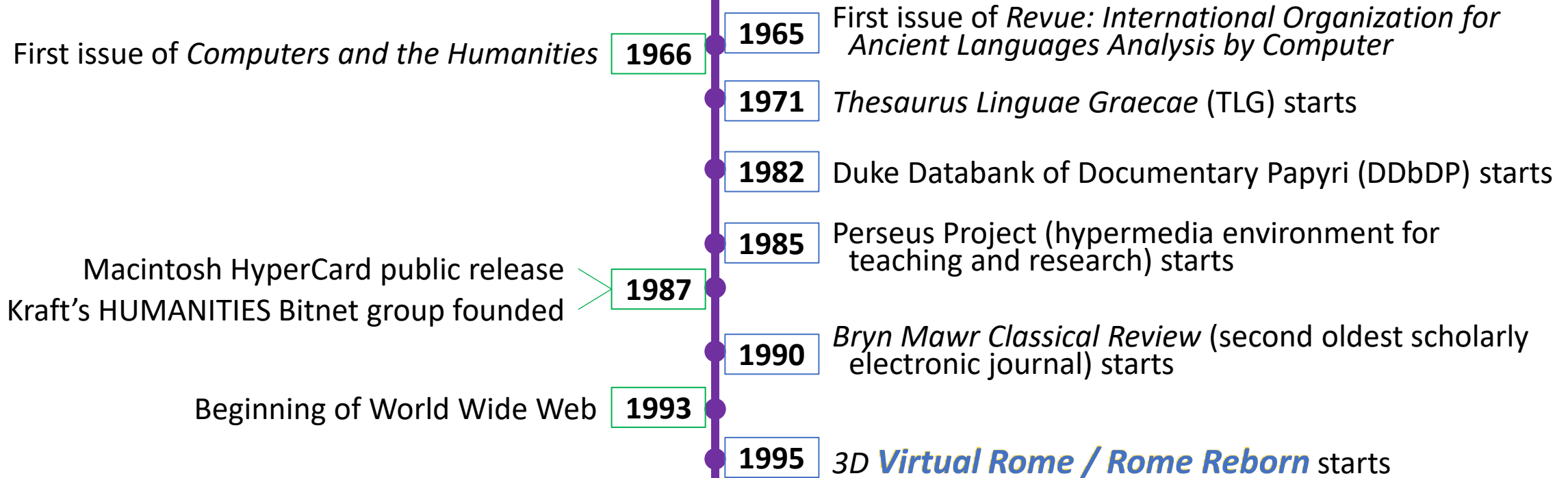
The Bartlett Head

DH/worldwide major
events and milestones

Roberto Busa's first DH publication

1951

Digital Classics major
projects and milestones

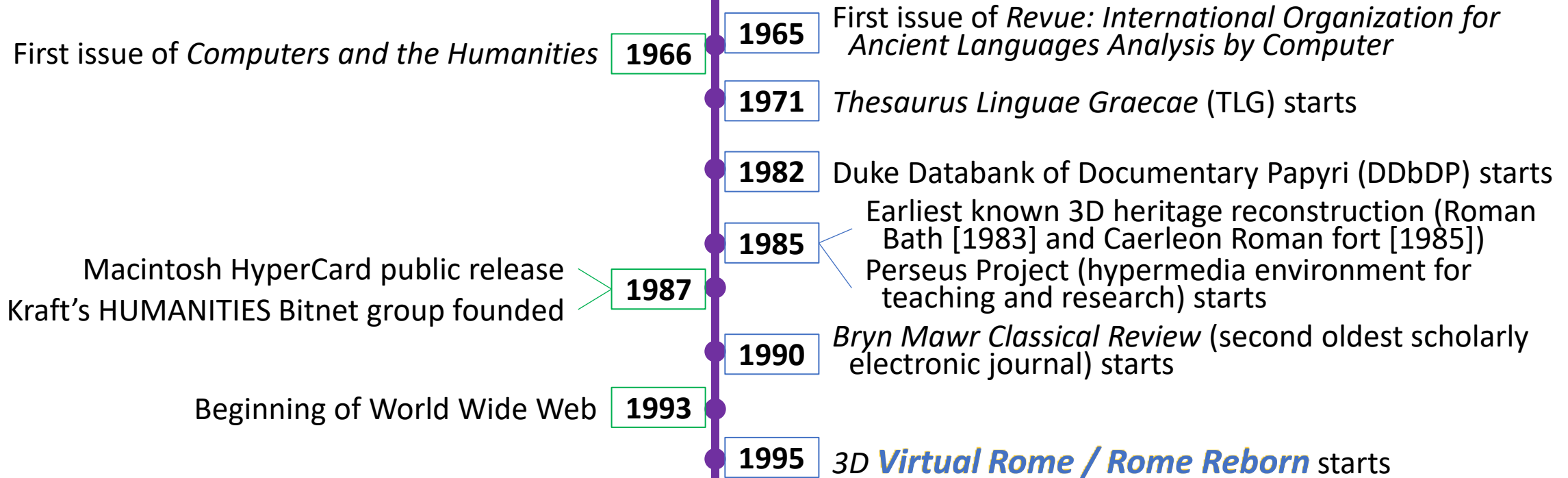


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• Bernard (Bernie) Frischer



Exploring Old Rome Without Air (or Time) Travel

By ELISABETTA POVOLEDO

RÔME — First Google Earth turned millions of Internet users into virtual travelers who could fly to any spot on the globe. Then its Sky feature took them to other galaxies. Now Google Earth has embraced a frontier dating back 17 centuries: ancient Rome under Constantine the Great.

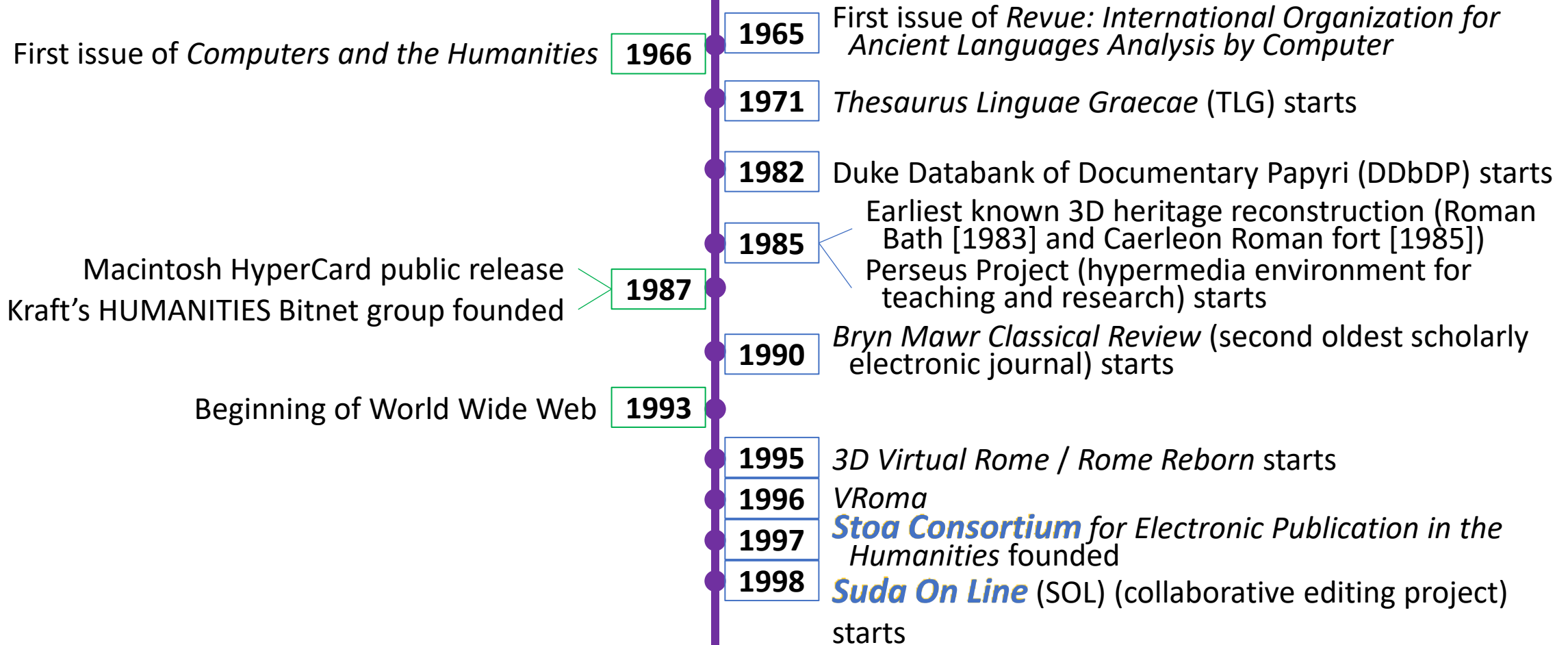


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• Ross Scaife



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[Headword List](#)

[Search the Greek](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

[Entire list of entries](#)

Login ID: Password:

The Suda on Line

For Attic phrase in Plato let them seek,
I poach in Suidas for unlicens'd Greek.
— Alexander Pope, *The Dunciad* [4.227-8](#)

Pope's 'Suidas' is not a man but a work, The *Suda* (or **Stronghold**): a massive 10th century Byzantine Greek historical encyclopedia of the ancient Mediterranean world, covering the whole of Greek and Roman antiquity and also including Biblical and Christian material.

Preserved in several medieval manuscripts, it has been edited and published several times since the end of the 14th century in traditional hard-copy scholarly editions, most recently that of Ada Adler (Teubner, 5 volumes: 1928-1938, reprinted 1971). The Suda On Line (SOL) project, begun in 1998 as part of the Stoa Consortium, opens up this stronghold of information by means of a freely accessible, keyword-searchable database, with English translations, notes, bibliography, and links to other electronic resources. With contributions (as Translators and/or Editors) from more than two hundred people worldwide, the SOL reached the landmark of all entries being translated and "vetted" (edited) to a usable standard on July 21, 2014. But more can, and will, be done.

A fuller history of the project may be found [here](#).

Using this website

Users of our website have three options.

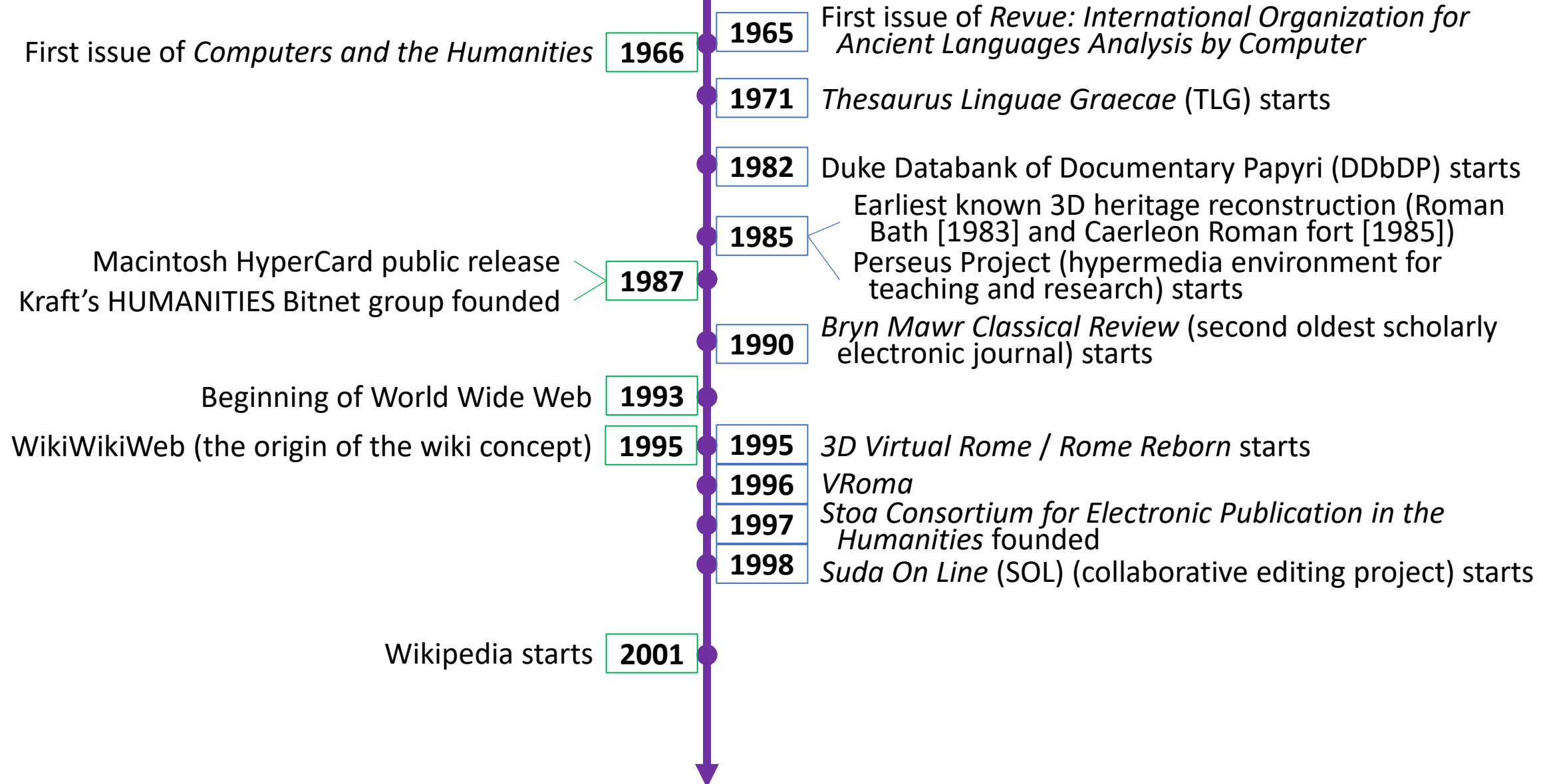
1. Without registration you can gain immediate access to the [entire list of entries](#). It may be sufficient if you already know which entry or entries (by Adler number) you want to consult. You may also undertake simple searching here:

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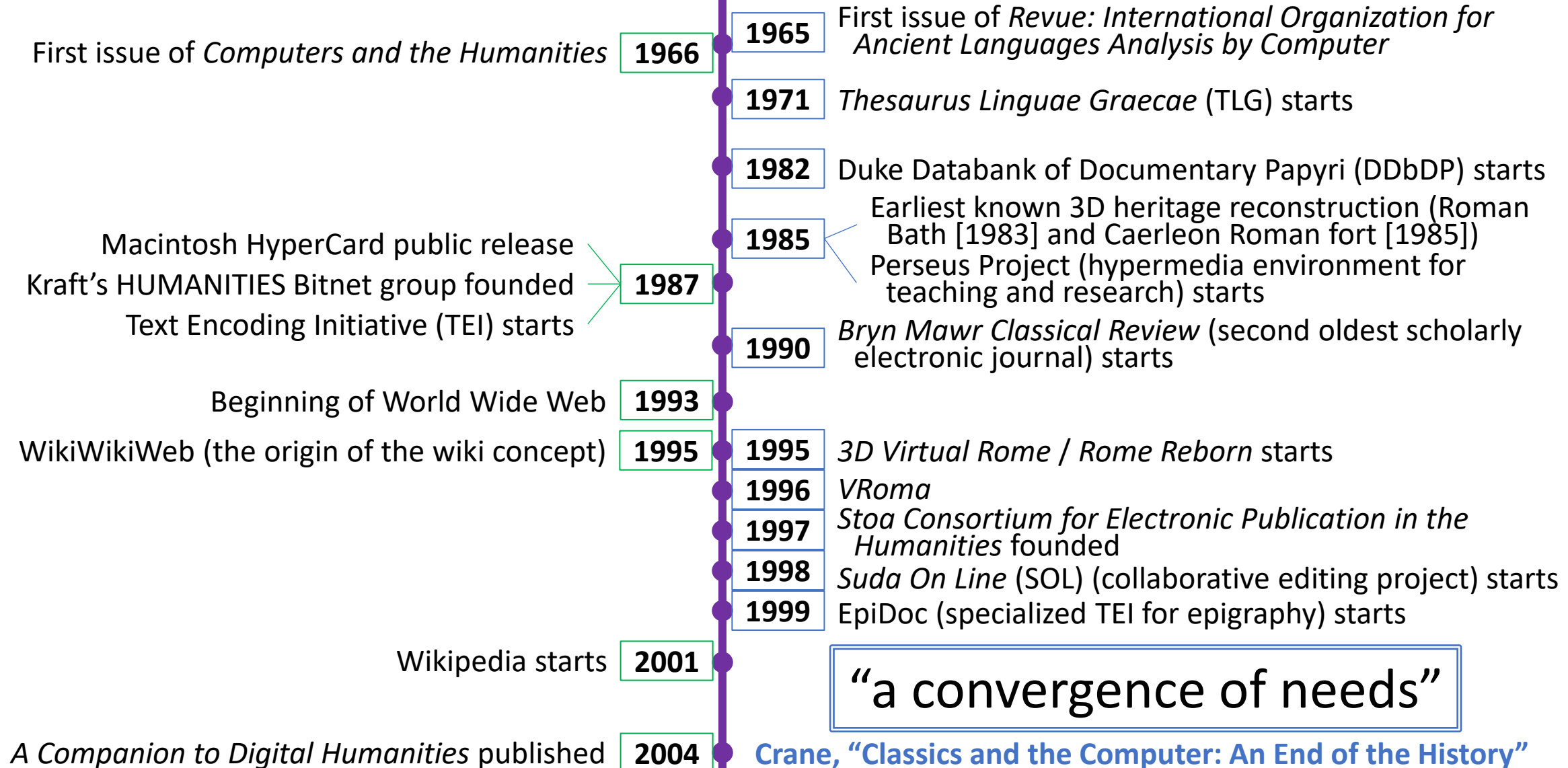


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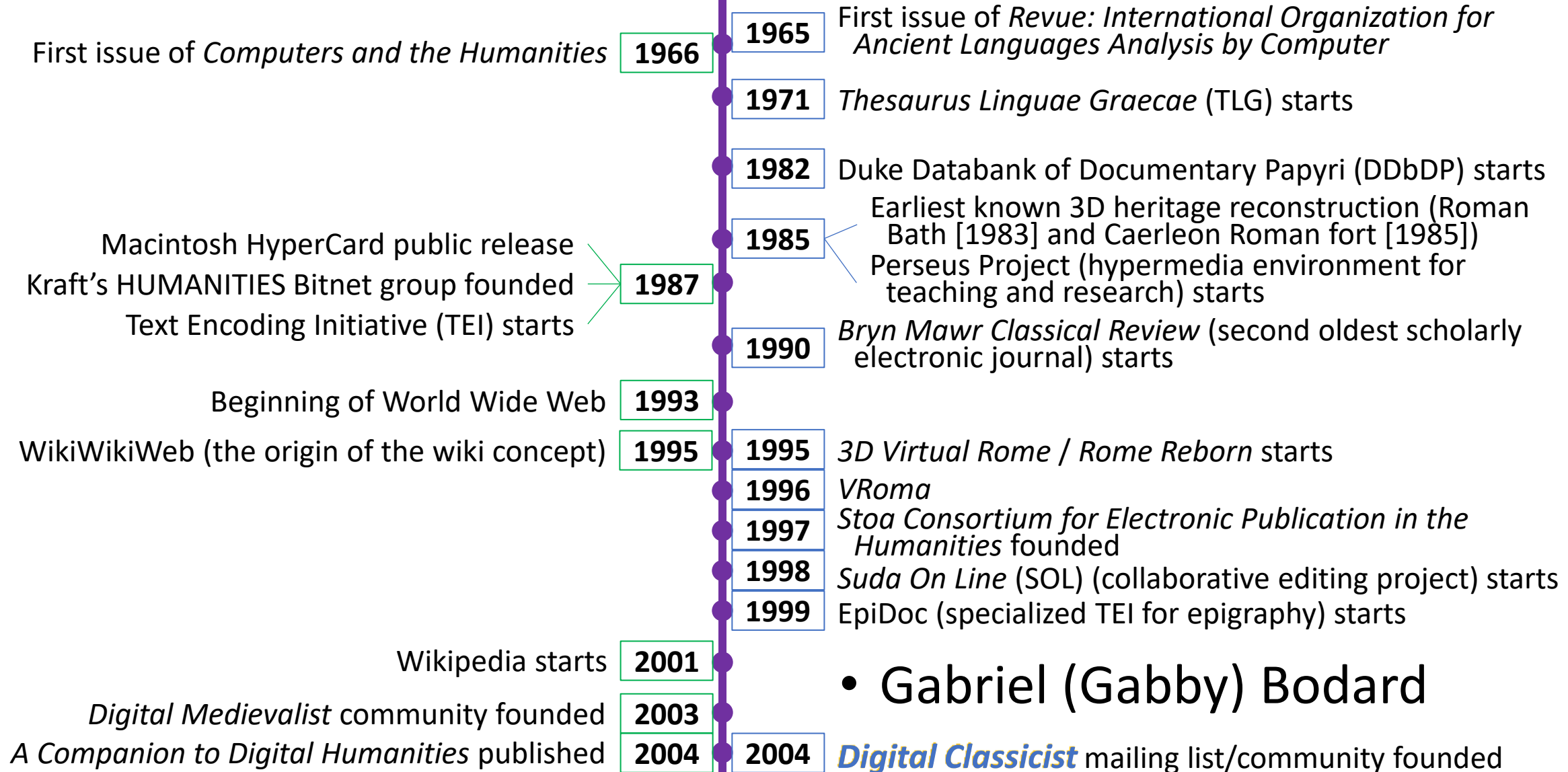


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• Gabriel (Gabby) Bodard

Computational Linguistics

A decorative teal underline consisting of two parallel, slightly curved lines that taper at both ends, positioned directly beneath the word 'Linguistics'.



Computational linguistics

The study of human language
as structured data
using computational methods

How it differs from (and builds on) linked disciplines

Theoretical linguistics

- Focuses on abstract models of linguistics knowledge
- Often works with small, constructed examples; abstracts away from variation
- Grammaticality judgements



- **CL focuses on pattern discovery in large datasets**
- **Attested language use**
- **Tests hypotheses against empirical data**

NLP

- Goal: building functional systems
- Often **application-driven** (search, translation, AI assistants)
- Linguistic theory is optional



- **CL is research-driven**
- **Interested in what models reveal about language and its use**
- **Linguistic theory is often explicitly incorporated**

Examples of methods in computational linguistics

Corpus-based methods

- Large collections of texts (corpora)
- Frequency analysis, collocations, keywords

Linguistic annotation

- Part-of-speech tagging, parsing, named entities
- Makes structure explicit and searchable
- Example: treebanking

Semantic models

- Distributional models of meaning
- Track similarity and semantic change

Statistical modeling

- Probabilistic models
- Capture variation and uncertainty

Machine learning

- Classification and clustering
- Supervised and unsupervised approaches

Supervised:

- We tell the model what to look for
- Which features predict the given categories?

Unsupervised:

- we ask the model to show what it found
- Where are the regularities and latent structure in the data?

What can we learn from (computational) linguistics

(beyond grammar)

Psycholinguistics: language and cognition

- Attention
- Cognitive load
- Perspective and distance

Sociolinguistics: language and society

- Social class and education
- Language contact
- Standardisation

Historical linguistics:

- Long-term linguistic change
- Cultural transformations
- Semantic change

Etc. – language data as empirical evidence for questions that go beyond language itself.

**Linguistics is useful wherever language is evidence –
which means almost everywhere!**