
How to Write Historical Marvels: The Construction and Authentication of History in Ancient Paradoxography

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline.be

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Project abstract:

The ancient Greeks and Romans were deeply interested in the “marvelous”. In the Hellenistic period, such interest was channeled into a specific branch of literature exclusively devoted to marvels, the so-called paradoxography. Works belonging to this tradition consist of collections of strange-but-(supposedly-)true phenomena mostly drawn from earlier works of natural science or historiography.

Scholars of historiography have traditionally regarded paradoxographical works as mere compilations of fragments of lost historical works. The present project suggests a paradigm shift in our approach to paradoxography, proposing to regard it as a literary tradition with its own merits and as a particular way of shaping historical memory that shares with historiography a deep concern for truth and credibility.

It will examine the ways in which paradoxography constructed and authenticated historical marvels and compare paradoxographical and historiographical works to assess the relationship between the epistemological principles and the strategies of authentication at work in each tradition.

Putting paradoxography and historiography into dialogue will lead not only to fully understanding paradoxography as a literary tradition in its own right, but also to assessing the function of marvels in historiography. The present project will thus be a unique gateway to core problems of (ancient) history writing, namely, the epistemological foundations and limits of historical knowledge itself.

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FWO DMP (Flemish Standard DMP)

1. Research Data Summary

List and describe all datasets or research materials that you plan to generate/collect or reuse during your research project. For each dataset or data type (observational, experimental etc.), provide a short name & description (sufficient for yourself to know what data it is about), indicate whether the data are newly generated/collected or reused, digital or physical, also indicate the type of the data (the kind of content), its technical format (file extension), and an estimate of the upper limit of the volume of the data.

				Only for digital data	Only for digital data	Only for digital data	Only for physical data
Dataset Name	Description	New or reused	Digital or Physical	Digital Data Type	Digital Data format	Digital data volume (MB/GB/TB)	Physical volume
		<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate new data Reuse existing data 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Physical 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observational Experimental Compiled/aggregated data Simulation data Software Other NA 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .por, .xml, .tab, .csv, .pdf, .txt, .rtf, .dwg, .gml, ... NA 	<i>Please choose from the following options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <100MB <1GB <100GB <1TB <5TB <10TB <50TB >50TB NA 	
Digital editions	Existing digital text editions of Greek and Latin authors – under and out of copyright	Reuse existing data	Digital	Textual	.pdf	Undetermined. Accessible via LIMO or Google Books, Archive.org etc.	NA
Print editions	Existing print text editions of Greek and Latin authors – under and out of copyright	Reuse existing data	Physical	Textual	NA	NA	Undetermined. Available at KU Leuven Library
Text databases	Full text databases of Greek literature: TLG, Jacoby Online – under copyright	Reuse existing data	Digital	Textual	.html, .xml,	Undetermined. Accessible via LIMO.	NA
TM	Trismegistos+ database	Reuse existing data	Digital	Textual/Compiled/aggregated data	.csv	Undetermined. Accessible via LIMO.	NA
Digital secondary literature	Digital secondary literature – under and out of copyright	Reuse existing data	Digital	Textual	.pdf	Undetermined. Accessible via LIMO or Google Books, Archive.org etc.	NA
Print secondary literature	Print secondary literature – under and out of copyright	Reuse existing data	Physical	Textual	.pdf	NA	Undetermined. Available at KU Leuven Library
Bibliography	Bibliographic references	Generate new data	Digital	Textual	.docx	< 100 MB	NA
Notes	Personal notes	Generate new data	Digital	Textual	.docx	< 100 MB	NA
Digital Paradoxography	Creation of a database of ancient paradoxography within the relational database Trismegistos+ (TM) (https://www.trismegistos.org/), using Filemaker	Generate new data	Digital	Textual/Compiled/aggregated data	.txt .csv .xml .fmp12	< 1 GB	NA

If you reuse existing data, please specify the source, preferably by using a persistent identifier (e.g. DOI, Handle, URL etc.) per dataset or data type:

Digital editions: accessible via LIMO, Google Books, or archive.org.

Print editions: available at KU Leuven Library.

Text databases: TLG (<https://stephanus.tlg.uci.edu/index.php>) and Jacoby Online (<https://scholarlyeditions.brill.com/bnjo/>), both accessible via LIMO.

Trismegistos+: <https://www.trismegistos.org/index.php>, accessible via LIMO.

Digital secondary literature: accessible via LIMO, Google Books, or archive.org.

Print secondary literature: available at KU Leuven Library.

Are there any ethical issues concerning the creation and/or use of the data (e.g. experiments on humans or animals, dual use)? Describe these issues in the comment section. Please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate.

- No

Will you process personal data? If so, briefly describe the kind of personal data you will use in the comment section. Please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate.

- No

Does your work have potential for commercial valorization (e.g. tech transfer, for example spin-offs, commercial exploitation, ...)? If so, please comment per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- No

Do existing 3rd party agreements restrict exploitation or dissemination of the data you (re)use (e.g. Material/Data transfer agreements/ research collaboration agreements)? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and what restrictions are in place.

- No

Are there any other legal issues, such as intellectual property rights and ownership, to be managed related to the data you (re)use? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and which restrictions will be asserted.

- No

2. Documentation and Metadata

Clearly describe what approach will be followed to capture the accompanying information necessary to keep data understandable and usable, for yourself and others, now and in the future (e.g., in terms of documentation levels and types required, procedures used, Electronic Lab Notebooks, README.txt files, Codebook.tsv etc. where this information is recorded).

The generated data (docx., .txt, and .csv) will be saved in folders (on OneDrive) in the form of a hierarchical tree with separate folders containing data on the individual paradoxographical texts and folders on more general topics related to paradoxography. All folders and data will be clearly labelled so that external users can easily find their way through the file organisation system. Within the folders on the individual paradoxographers, subfolders will be created distinguishing different types of data. The structure of the file organization system will thus be self-evident, and a "readme.txt" file attached to the general folder will make the data understandable to others. The word file with the bibliographical references will be structured in the most intuitive way possible, organized in sections and sub-sections concerning general topics and individual texts. Bibliographic references will be provided in extended form, to avoid any ambiguity. The same applies to the word file containing the notes.

Will a metadata standard be used to make it easier to find and reuse the data? If so, please specify (where appropriate per dataset or data type) which metadata standard will be used. If not, please specify (where appropriate per dataset or data type) which metadata will be created to make the data easier to find and reuse.

- Yes

Concerning the organization of data and metadata in the OneDrive folder, see the previous answer. I will seek the advice of colleagues in my discipline and research support staff at my institution to decide which metadata standard (if any) is appropriate for me. In particular, I consider using the KU

Leuven RDR DataCite as a metadata standard. In the Trismegistos+ (TM) environment, the key fields in relational tables are mapped to existing ontologies.

3. Data storage & back-up during the research project

Where will the data be stored?

The database will be stored on the Trismegistos+ (TM) server. These data are backed up automatically and their long-term availability is ensured by TM's status as KU Leuven Core Facility. My personal notes and bibliographical references (.docx), as well as the .txt and .csv files, will be backed up in the Faculty's OneDrive cloud service, which offers enough storage for my research purposes.

How will the data be backed up?

The Faculty's OneDrive cloud service includes automatic daily backups, so my data will be safeguarded in case of theft, accidental loss, or deletion. The same applies to information stored on the Trismegistos+ (TM) server.

Is there currently sufficient storage & backup capacity during the project? If yes, specify concisely.
If no or insufficient storage or backup capacities are available, then explain how this will be taken care of.

- Yes

The storage offered by the Faculty's OneDrive cloud service and Trismegistos+ is enough for my research purposes.

How will you ensure that the data are securely stored and not accessed or modified by unauthorized persons?

Scholars in my research unit and I will have access to the data. My data does not contain personal or sensitive information. Therefore, the KU Leuven multi-factor authentication procedure used for accessing laptops, databases, and OneDrive is sufficient.

The database hosted on the Trismegistos+ server is equally protected by KU Leuven's two-factor authentication and will only be accessible to users of the platform, i.e. staff of my research unit and a number of collaborators. The databases are VPN and password protected, and a personal account needs to be set up in order to grant a collaborator access to the data.

What are the expected costs for data storage and backup during the research project? How will these costs be covered?

The costs involved by the collaboration with Trismegistos+ (which also includes data storage and long-term preservation) are covered by my FWO bench-fee and are included in the project's budget.

4. Data preservation after the end of the research project

Which data will be retained for at least five years (or longer, in agreement with other retention policies that are applicable) after the end of the project? In case some data cannot be preserved, clearly state the reasons for this (e.g. legal or contractual restrictions, storage/budget issues, institutional policies...).

After the project, all the generated data will be preserved for at least 10 years, according to KU Leuven RDM policy (<https://www.kuleuven.be/rdm/en/guidance/preservation>).

Where will these data be archived (stored and curated for the long-term)?

After the project, the generated files (.txt, .csv., and .docx) will be archived through KU Leuven's Research Data Repository. The database will remain hosted on the Trismegistos server. Publications will be archived in the Lirias repository (<https://www.kuleuven.be/rdm/en/rdr/rdr>).

What are the expected costs for data preservation during the expected retention period? How will these costs be covered?

No costs are expected for the preservation of my datasets.

5. Data sharing and reuse

Will the data (or part of the data) be made available for reuse after/during the project? In the comment section please explain per dataset or data type which data will be made available.

- Yes, in an Open Access repository

I will apply the FAIR principles as thoroughly as possible when sharing my data. All data will be made accessible unless subject to copyright restrictions.

If access is restricted, please specify who will be able to access the data and under what conditions.

NA

Are there any factors that restrict or prevent the sharing of (some of) the data (e.g. as defined in an agreement with a 3rd party, legal restrictions)? Please explain in the comment section per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- Yes, Intellectual Property Rights

The .txt files, from which the .csv files are generated, are based on editions under copyright (TLG, Jacoby Online). I will thus check what restrictions my apply here.

Where will the data be made available? If already known, please provide a repository per dataset or data type.

All generated datasets will be made available in the KU Leuven Research Data Repository.

When will the data be made available?

The datasets will be made available upon publication of the research results.

Which data usage licenses are you going to provide? If none, please explain why.

Data access will be offered according to a CC BY-SA 4.0 license, which means that the data can be reused and modified by anyone as long as they attribute it and use the same license for their data/project (<https://chooser-beta.creativecommons.org/>).

Do you intend to add a PID/DOI/accession number to your dataset(s)? If already available, you have the option to provide it in the comment section.

- Yes

Yes, I will add a permanent identifier (DOI) to my datasets.

What are the expected costs for data sharing? How will these costs be covered?

The costs will be covered by the repository.

6. Responsibilities

Who will manage data documentation and metadata during the research project?

Pietro Zaccaria, the principal investigator of the project, will manage data documentation and metadata during the research project.

Who will manage data storage and backup during the research project?

Pietro Zaccaria, the principal investigator of the project, and Mark Depauw, director of the Trismegistos database, will manage data storage and backup during the research project.

Who will manage data preservation and sharing?

Stefan Schorn, the supervisor of the project, and Mark Depauw, director of the Trismegistos database, will manage the long term preservation and sharing after the end of the project.

Who will update and implement this DMP?

Pietro Zaccaria, the principal investigator of the project, will be responsible for updating and implementing this DMP.