

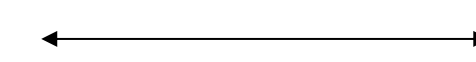
I. Epigraphy-related Wikibase instances in the context of the WikiProject Epigraphy

An individual **Wikibase** instance allows you to **model, analyse and make Linked Open Data reusable**, giving you control over **the licence** under which data are made available and **who can collaborate**. When using **Wikibase Cloud**, there are no maintenance costs as the database is hosted on **Wikimedia Deutschland's servers**. Compared to **Wikidata**, an individual Wikibase instance offers greater freedom and flexibility in defining the data model. However, for Wikibase instances related to a specific discipline, such as epigraphy, it would be beneficial to adopt **a common data model** to ensure interoperability between projects. Therefore, **a data model for epigraphy** should be developed – one that can be used in Wikidata projects and individual Wikibase instances (see the proposal of the WikiProject IDEA).



WikiProject Epigraphy

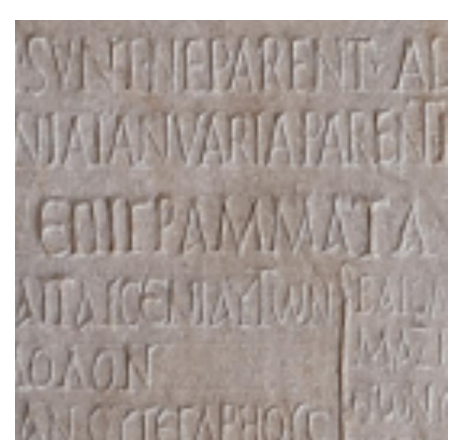
a common data model for epigraphy
based on **FAIR Principles**



II. The Wikibase instance *Greek Metrical Inscriptions*

This Wikibase instance aims to provide **a collaborative space** for modelling and analysing **Linked Open Data** related to Greek metrical inscriptions. The purpose is to make the data accessible, searchable, and reusable for the study of Greek epigraphic poetry, in its various literary forms, and diverse geographical, archaeological, and socio-historical contexts. It is possible to **expand the corpora** at any time, whether new inscriptions are discovered or new editions of already known inscriptions are published. By linking to external digital resources, this Wikibase instance aims to serve as **a connecting space to digital epigraphic resources**, both in terms of the inscriptions and the variety of data associated with them. Another objective is to contribute to the development of a common data model for Greek and Latin epigraphy to be shared in Wikidata and other individual Wikibase instances. The data model should be as consistent as possible with **the principles and vocabularies of the FAIR Epigraphy Project** and the WikiProject Epigraphy in Wikidata.

The project was created with the aim of **sharing in a structured form and making reusable data collected for the PhD thesis** on the metrical features of Greek metrical inscriptions from the Imperial period (late 1st century BCE – early 4th century CE). As a future perspective, it would be desirable to expand the Wikibase instance to include the Greek metrical inscriptions from the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic periods and Late Antiquity.



greek-metrical-inscriptions.wikibase.cloud

Persistent identifier (ARPI UNIPi)

CC BY-SA 4.0

Collaboration Space

II.a Data model

- The data are modelled through the association of **properties** and **values (items [stele], EDTF Date/Time values [Dating EDTF], external identifiers [Trismegistos ID, MAPPOLA ID], quantities [height], text strings [signature – text], URLs [edition URL])**. A property can be used as a **qualifier** to specify information (**metrical scheme**) or as a **reference** to indicate the source of the information (**source(URL)**).
- Each item (**funerary inscription**) has a **label** and **aliases** that can be expressed in **multiple languages**. In the **statements**, the data are structured through the association of properties and values.
- The data include** (see e.g. *I.Egypte métriques* 26): references to editions, translations and images, type of inscription, geographic provenance, dating, object (material, state of preservation, measures, last recorded location), writing technique, number of inscriptions on the object, language, length of the text, meter, layout, clients and recipients, author, external resources (Trismegistos, MAPPOLA, CLEO, Pleiades, Wikidata).

II.b Entering the data

Data can be entered manually using the **‘New Item’ / ‘New Property’** functions or via **QuickStatements**, **Cradle**, and **Open Refine**.

Wikibase
New Item
New Property
New Schema



OpenRefine

II.c Querying the data

The data are analysed using **SPARQL queries** executed through the **Query Service**. At the beginning of the query, **prefixes** are specified to select the type of data to be queried (a property, an item, a qualifier, etc.). Then, the query is built based on the data to be retrieved. The retrieved data can be **exported and reused** in different formats (**CSV, TSV, JSON**). Queries are available on the page **Query - access to data**. e.g.:

- all metrical inscriptions**
- inscriptions – iambic metre – Egypt**
- inscriptions – dactylic metra/cola + prose**
- multiple inscriptions – metre / prose**
- signed metrical inscriptions / women / men**
- inscriptions – verse division based on caesurae / eisthesis of pentameters**
- funerary inscriptions – women / slaves**
- inscriptions – statue base / stele**
- editions – Italy / Attica / images – Bithynia**
- cities – Egypt / Phrygia / places – Athens**

Ontology

- FAIR Epigraphic Vocabularies**
- EAGLE Vocabularies**
- Opentheso - Poésie épigraphique**

Wikibase EntitySchemas

The use of **EntitySchemas** based on **Shape Expressions (ShEx)** allows to: 1) **Validate data** by checking the conformity of items against a predefined model. 2) **Standardise the data structure** to facilitate integration with other knowledge bases. 3) **Help users** to enter data correctly and completely. Cf. the **Wikidata EntitySchema for inscriptions (E467)** by Maxime Guénette



label — IG Napoli II 91 (Q734)

item identifier (Q)
URI <https://greek-metrical-inscriptions.wikibase.cloud/entity/Q734>

alias

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	IG Napoli II 91	No description defined	IG XIV 763 Peek, GVI 511
Italian	No label defined	No description defined	
Latin	No label defined	No description defined	
Ancient Greek	No label defined	No description defined	

Statements

Instance of

inscription

value – item (Q)

edition URL

<https://inscriptions.packhum.org/text/177706?ts=24-45>

value – URL

dating (EDTF)

150/200 (Year 150 to Year 200)

property (P)

150-200 d.C. ca. (Italian)

value – string

qualifier

length of the text

8 line

value – quantity

unit – item (Q)

Trismegistos ID

254446

value – external identifier

Contact

Pietro Ortimini, PhD student
University of Pisa – Doctoral School in
Sciences of Antiquity and Archaeology
pietro.ortimini@phd.unipi.it
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0479-8553>

Bibliography

- Heřmánková, P., Asif, I., Prag, J., Horster, M. (2024) *FAIR Epigraphic Vocabularies: Advancing FAIR and Open Science in Epigraphy*, Zenodo.
- Heřmánková, P., Horster, M., Prag, J. (2022) *Digital Epigraphy in 2022: A Report from the Scoping Survey of the FAIR Epigraphy Project (v1.0.0)*, Zenodo.
- Maniero Azzolini, A.C. (2024) *Altinum. Un progetto Wikidata per l'epigrafia digitale*, MA Thesis, Ca' Foscari University of Venice. See **Altinum**
- Orlandi, S., (2021) *Digital Projects in Epigraphy: Research Needs, Technical Possibilities, and Funding Problems*, in Velasquez Soriano I., Espinosa D. (eds.), *Epigraphy in the Digital Age: Opportunities and challenges in the Recording, Analysis and Dissemination of Inscriptions*, Oxford, 1-8.
- Thornton, K., Seals Nutt, K., Chen A. (2024) *Encoding Archaeological Data Models as Wikidata Schemas: Utilizing Shape Expressions to Structure Collaborative Linked Open Data for Digital Storytelling Within the International Dura-Europos Archive*, «The International Journal of Technology, Knowledge, and Society» XXI/1, 69-83. See **Wikidata:WikiProject IDEA**
- Tupman, C. (2021) *Where Can Our Inscriptions Take Us? Harnessing the Potential of Linked Open Data for Epigraphy*, in Velasquez Soriano I., Espinosa D. (edd.), *Epigraphy in the Digital Age: Opportunities and Challenges in the Recording, Analysis and Dissemination of Inscriptions*, Oxford, 115-128.
- Zhao, F. (2023) *A systematic review of Wikidata in Digital Humanities projects*, «Digital Scholarship in the Humanities», XXXVIII/2, 852-874.