



Report on the fourth Epigraphy.info workshop  
held in Hamburg, February 19 - 21, 2020  
(Arbeitsbereich Alte Geschichte, Universität Hamburg)

Epigraphy.info is an **international open community** pursuing a **collaborative environment for digital epigraphy**, which facilitates scholarly communication and interaction. We apply FAIR principles to epigraphic information in order to efficiently create, use and share it among researchers, students and enthusiasts around the globe. The Epigraphy.info community works to **gather and enhance the many existing epigraphic efforts**, and serves as a landing point for digital tools, practices and methodologies for managing collections of inscriptions.

Since 2018 four official meetings of the community have taken place:

- Heidelberg, March 21st – 23rd , 2018: <http://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00024397>
- Zadar, December 14th – 16th 2018: <http://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00026330>
- Vienna, May 30th – June 1st 2019: <https://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00027928>
- Hamburg, February 19th – 21st 2020: [http://epigraphy.info/workshop\\_4.html](http://epigraphy.info/workshop_4.html)

The fourth workshop, subject of this report, took place in Hamburg (19 - 21 February 2020) and it was preceded by the two-and-a-half day EpiDoc and TEI training, given by Pietro Liuzzo. Twenty participants from six countries attended the training and coded their first inscriptions in EpiDoc.

## Programme / Course of the meeting

The first afternoon of the fourth workshop in Hamburg started with a welcome by the organizers and a presentation of different projects. At the beginning, the community was introduced to the Hamburg-based Cluster of Excellence “*Understanding Written Artefacts*”, which primarily focuses on improving our understanding of the diverse manuscript and epigraphic cultures around the world. An afternoon of networking and presentation of new projects followed and this time we focused not just on Greek and Latin epigraphy but also on Indian and Chinese inscriptions.

In addition to the presentation of **possibilities for inscriptions to be considered in three dimensions**, the main focus was on the question of how information that goes beyond the textual content should be treated. There were ideas to connect the TEI with the already existing CIDOC-CRM or even to create new deep models for a **material ontology**. Furthermore, the idea of **cross-project controlled vocabularies** and ontologies was recommended.

The morning of the second day started with **short reports** on the tasks of the last workshop:

- The poster at the NACGLE (Third North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy) 2020 attracted new members to the mailing list.<sup>1</sup>
- The social media profiles ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) were presented and criteria for following people/institutions and publication/republishing of pictures discussed.
- The draft of an editorial board was discussed and a working group created which should define the characteristics and functions of an “editorial advisory board”.

During further short presentations a **publishing model** for live digital editions and the **user scenario** with ‘Wendy the epigraphist’ were additional topics in the morning. Regarding the question of how epigraphers should deal with constantly changing digital editions, there was a proposal to use URIs for inscriptions, DOIs for editions (example of [I.Sicily](#), [GitHub repository](#); publication of [IDEA data](#) on Zenodo).

The afternoon with break-out sessions was framed by several kick-off speeches: The question arose whether a **minimal template** is needed or whether **triples** are the solution for the many differently prepared data sets. In other words: Do we need new ontologies or only one that is used by the EpiFinder? These aspects are particularly pressing in view of the imminent end of the EDH in 2021. Subsequently, in separate groups the possibilities of **funding**, technical issues during a **hackathon (Xtriples)** and the criteria for Epigraphy.info **membership** were discussed.

On the last day the results of the different working groups, new tasks and the steps for the next workshop were provided: The **Statement of Intent on the Handling of Unpublished Inscriptions** was approved. **Leuven/Belgium** was chosen as the venue for the next

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<sup>1</sup> A PDF of the poster is available online at [http://www.lust-auf-rom.de/epigraphy\\_info/Epigraphy\\_dot\\_Info\\_Poster.pdf](http://www.lust-auf-rom.de/epigraphy_info/Epigraphy_dot_Info_Poster.pdf).

workshop.<sup>2</sup> Franziska Weise and Jonathan Prag were announced as **new members** of the Steering Committee. The purpose of the **editorial advisory board** was discussed and outsourced to a new working group because there was no agreement on who could approach the board and what power the board has. **Membership** and/or how to recruit **voters** for future steering committee elections was another controversial topic.

At the end of the workshop the **technical working group** presented their output: The idea for an **expert workshop** in Mainz for a general data model of epigraphers (minimal TEI template for EpiDoc) under the head of Epigraphy.info was announced.

## Results

### A. Organisational matters / fundamental framework conditions / agreement on:

1. The [fifth Epigraphy.info workshop](#) will be held in Leuven (Belgium), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, from November 3rd-6th, 2020; organizer of the next workshop: Tom Gheldof (Leuven).
2. Newly elected **members** of the **Steering Committee**:
  - a. The following committee members were elected to substitute the two resigning members until the next meeting: Jonathan Prag (Oxford), Franziska Weise (Hamburg);

The current members of the Steering Committee are (in charge until the next workshop meeting):

- 1) Chiara Cenati (Universität Wien)
  - 2) Tom Elliott (NYU)
  - 3) M. Cristina de la Escosura (Universidad de Zaragoza)
  - 4) Jonathan Prag (Oxford University)
  - 5) Vincent Razanajao (Université Bordeaux Montaigne / Patrimonium)
  - 6) Franziska Weise (Universität Hamburg)
  - 7) Tom Gheldof (KU Leuven / Trismegistos, member of the local organizing team of the next workshop)
3. A **Statement of Intent on the Handling of Unpublished Inscriptions** has been ratified and published online.<sup>3</sup>
  4. Following up the hackathon and the technical discussion of the ontologies an **expert workshop on XTriples configuration files** is planned to take place in Mainz in collaboration with the Digitale Akademie later in 2020.

### B. Tasks until and for the next workshop(s):

1. With regard to community administration, a new **tool for managing the tasks of the working groups** will be selected and implemented (Tom Elliott + Steering Committee).
2. Create a new **election procedure** for the Steering Committee (Steering Committee + volunteers).

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<sup>2</sup> For more information see [http://epigraphy.info/workshop\\_5.html](http://epigraphy.info/workshop_5.html).

<sup>3</sup> F. Feraudi-Gruénais, Statement of Intent on the Handling of Unpublished Inscriptions, (published 26 Feb 2020), DOI: <[10.11588/heidok.00027952](https://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00027952)>.

3. The draft of an “**editorial advisory board**” for discussion/adoption (Tom Elliott, Silvia Evangelisti + more volunteers of the community).
4. Draft a “**membership**” document/policy for the community (working group Tom Gheldof).
5. Working group on **ontologies**, which creates a mailing list and follows up on the results of the Xtriples workshop in Mainz (Pietro Liuzzo).
6. Working group for **funding and financing / institutional anchoring** group (Cristina de la Escosura, Tom Gheldof + volunteers).
7. Technical solution for **bibliographical questions** and unique identifiers (Tom Gheldof).
8. Constitute a “**technical working group**” (Pietro Liuzzo).

*Previously foreseen tasks remain to be addressed:*

1. Collating lists of desiderata into a single set of **scenarios for Wendy** (Giulia Sarullo).
2. **User interface** and **search experience evaluation** and design for Wendy (Vincent Razanajao et al.).
3. Move actively towards assuring that all texts and **metadata** are available **open-access in EpiDoc** with stable URIs (James Cowey et al.)
4. Cleanup of **vocabularies** and looking at guidelines and specifications for RDF and linked data for epigraphy (James Cowey et al.)
5. Creation of **pilot of DTS** (Brill, EDH, Lupa, Petrae).

## Participants

Forty-seven scholars from eleven countries personally attended the 4th Epigraphy.info workshop in Hamburg, while twenty-three more indicated that they were not able to come, but nonetheless expressed their interest in being involved in Epigraphy.info activities. Twenty scholars attended the training course on EpiDoc (and XML, DTS and other digital epigraphy tools) during the 2 ½ days that preceded the workshop.

### **Personally present at the workshop:**

N. Ahrens (DE, Universität Hamburg), J. Andreu Pintado (**ES**, Universidad de Navarra), A. Boukouvalas (DE, Freie Universität Berlin), N. Cannata (**IT**, Università di Roma), S. Chiarini (DE, Universität Hamburg), Ch. Chrysafis (DE, Universität Augsburg), A. Dalla Rosa (**FR**, Université Bordeaux Montaigne), S. Dege-Müller (DE, Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Ph. Egetenmeier (DE, Universität Hamburg), D. Eibeck (DE, Universität Stuttgart), T. Elliott (**USA**, New York University), C. Escosura Balbas (ES, Universidad de Zaragoza), D. Espinosa (AT, Universität Wien), S. Evangelisti (IT, Università di Foggia, EDR), F. Feraudi-Gruenais (**DE**, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, EDH), T. Gheldof (**BE**, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, TM), N. Götze (DE, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften), F. Grieshaber (DE, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, EDH), K.

Haegermann (DE, Universität Hamburg), H. Halfmann (DE, Universität Hamburg), K. Harter-Uibopuu (DE, Universität Hamburg, EDAK), P. Hermankova (**DK**, Aarhus Universitet), M. Horster (DE, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), A. Janiak (FR, Université Paris 1), D. Kloss (DE, Universität Hamburg), T. Kollatz (DE, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), A. Kurilić (**HR**, Sveučilište u Zadru), P. Liuzzo (DE, Universität Hamburg), F. Maniglia (IT, Università di Bologna), K. Matijević (DE, Europa-Universität Flensburg), R. Möller (DE, Universität zu Lübeck), J. Müller-Laackman (DE, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften), A. Opfermann (DE, Ludwig Maximilians Universität München), L. Osthof (DE, Universität Hamburg), S. Pesce (IT, Università di Bologna), J. Prag (**UK**, University of Oxford), A. Ragolič (**SLO**, ZRC SAZU, Inštitut za arheologijo), A. Rampichini (DE, Universität Heidelberg), V. Razanajao (FR, University of Bordeaux, Patrimonium), N. Riegler (**AT**, Universität Wien), M. Seifert (DE, Universität Hamburg), A. Sforacchi (IT, Università di Bologna), O. Škrabal (DE, Universität Hamburg), M. Stanke (DE, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), K. Stenzel (AT, Universität Wien), I. Vagionakis (IT, Università Ca' Foscari), F. Weise (DE, Universität Hamburg, EDAK)

**Not personally present at the workshop but expressed their wish to be involved:**

A. Bencivenni (IT, Università di Bologna), J. M. Bermúdez Lorenzo (ES, Universitat de Barcelona), J. Bodel (USA, Brown University), Chiara Calvano (IT, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia), L. Calvelli (IT, Università Ca' Foscari, EDF), H. Cayless (USA, Duke University), C. Cenati (AT, Universität Wien), M. Grabowska (PL, Uniwersytet Warszawski), A. Felicetti (IT, Università degli Studi di Firenze), O. Gengler (DE, Heidelberg Akademie der Wissenschaften, Malalas), B. Gräf (DE, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, EDH), A. Griffiths (FR, Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, DHARMA Project), A. Hershkovitz (USA, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ), M. Khayutina (DE, Ludwig Maximilians Universität München), P. Kruschwitz (AT, Universität Wien), A. Levivier (FR, Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, DHARMA Project), F. Murano (IT, Università degli Studi di Firenze), S. Orlandi (IT, Sapienza - Università di Roma, AIEGL), G. Sarullo (IT, IDEA), W. Spickermann (AT, Universität Graz), E. Suyver (NL, Brill), F. Toska (AL, Universiteti i Tiranës), R. Varga (RO, University of Cluj Napoca, Romans 1by1)

Bordeaux – Hamburg – New York – Oxford – Vienna – Zaragoza, October 16th 2020

Chiara CENATI / Tom ELLIOT / Cristina DE LA ESCOSURA BALBAS / Jonathan PRAG / Vincent RAZANAJAO / Franziska WEISE

In close collaboration with Petra HEŘMÁNKOVÁ (Aarhus) and Nadine RIEGLER (Vienna).