

# Epigraphy.info in 2020-2023

## Report on Epigraphy.info Workshops V-VII



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### Citation:

Gheldof, T., Hershkowitz, A., & Heřmánková, P. (2024). Epigraphy.info in 2020-2023: Report on Epigraphy.info Workshops V-VII. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11241585>

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 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.

7 official meetings of the community have taken place since 2018:

- Heidelberg, March 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018: <http://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00024397>
- Zadar, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018: <http://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00026330>
- Vienna, May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019: <https://doi.org/10.11588/heidok.00027928>
- Hamburg, February 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020: <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/archiv/28950>
- Leuven (online), November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020: [https://epigraphy.info/workshop\\_5/](https://epigraphy.info/workshop_5/)
- IAS (online), October 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021: [https://epigraphy.info/workshop\\_6/](https://epigraphy.info/workshop_6/)
- Leuven, April-24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023: [https://epigraphy.info/workshop\\_7/](https://epigraphy.info/workshop_7/)

Due to the measures taken against the pandemic of COVID-19, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Epigraphy.info workshops have been organized as online events, including pre-conference workshops, Virtual Poster sessions and hackathons. In 2023, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition returned to Leuven, where it was organized as a hybrid workshop in collaboration with the ENCODE project. The interval between meetings is usually around 12 months.

### 2020

In 2020, as usual, the workshop was preceded by pre-conference workshops, with Mark Depauw and Tom Gheldof for a more hands-on “Trismegistos Users sessions” and with Vincent Razanajao on the topic “Consolidating and using the EAGLE thesaurus with epigraphical corpora”. Andrews Meadows (professor of Ancient History at Oxford University)

gave the keynote about “Building a Digital Community: the Nomisma project”. The virtual poster presentations are still accessible via the Epigraphy.info GitHub page:

[https://github.com/epigraphy-info/epigraphy-info/blob/main/documents/workshop\\_5](https://github.com/epigraphy-info/epigraphy-info/blob/main/documents/workshop_5)

Several of the WGs had productive breakout sessions in the virtual Zoom environment. The Cleanup vocabularies WG amended the EAGLE vocabularies and discussed best practices for the future (e.g., keeping track of proposed changes and communal edits in Google spreadsheets). The Funding WG outlined its tasks and functions (such as looking for institutional anchoring, e.g., via European funding), and made this visible on the [website](#). The Ontology WG discussed the previously created document “Modeling Epigraphy with an Ontology” with the purpose of publishing a stable version of EpiOnt. The Social Media WG decided that the website would be moved to GitHub Pages for sustainability reasons and an [Epigraphy.info Instagram](#) and [YouTube channel](#) were created. Finally, the membership of Epigraphy.info was discussed and a membership form was created, to allow potential new members to directly register via the website.

## 2021

There was no pre-conference workshop in [2021](#). The Vocabularies Working Group presented a [short report](#) and [Working Paper](#) on their progress during the previous year. The Ontologies Working Group provided an overview of the [Ontology "White Paper"](#), published on the Epigraphy.info website and Zenodo. It provided [some examples](#) of how to model RDF Xtriples for epigraphy. The Social Media working group reported on its activities, the transfer of the Epigraphy.info website to GitHub, the new Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Email contacts for the working group, and two potential options for a new Epigraphy.info logo, one of which was ratified on the third day. The Funding and Membership Working Group reported back on their [kick-off meeting in February of 2021](#) and invited the Epigraphy.info community to use the working group as a tool for networking and collaborating rather than viewing it as a separate and discrete entity. Vincent Razanajao presented on the EpiDoc Editor that he has been developing for Patrimonium and allowed attendees to test it. There was an [E-Poster session](#), and Polly Low (professor in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University) was invited for the [keynote talk](#) on the project “Attic Inscriptions Online” which can be accessed via [Epigraphy.info YouTube channel](#). In looking forward, there was a discussion of the Epigraphy.info “Statement of Intent on the Handling of Unpublished Inscriptions”, especially concerning items of problematic provenance. An “Ethics” WG was proposed but did not reach the critical mass of volunteers to be formed. A new working group was formed around the idea of “Outreach to other languages and cultures”, and met several times during 2021 and 2022.

## 2023

Finally, in 2023, an in-person event was organized again in Leuven (as a hybrid workshop, in which most sessions could be joined online as well). In collaboration with the [ENCODE project](#), two training sessions were held: Gabriel Bodard, Federico Aurora, Alice Bencivenni and Marta Fogagnolo taught the participants how to use “EpiDoc for Mycenaean inscriptions” and Stephen White taught how to start “working with inscriptions in the READ environment”. The first day concluded with a Poster session featuring 13 digital posters, also presented on the Epigraphy.info [website](#). The second day of the workshop started with a

short report on the previous 2 (online) editions, followed by reports from the Working Groups on [Social Media](#), [Funding](#), [Outreach](#) and [Vocabulary/Ontology](#). In the afternoon, several colleagues presented their [projects](#), before Professor Alex Mullen, our keynote speaker (from the Latin Now project at the University Of Nottingham), talked about ‘Our digital epigraphic ecosystem: challenges and prospects’ which can be accessed via [Epigraphy.info Youtube channel](#).

The final day consisted of several breakout sessions and an extensive discussion about the future and past of Epigraphy.info as a community. A revised version of the [Organization and selection of the steering committee of Epigraphy.info](#) was presented by Aaron Hershkowitz and accepted by the community. The last part of the morning session was also dedicated to the new tasks and the election of the new members of the Steering Committee, which is now composed of the following persons:

- Elena Duce Pastor Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, ES. Chair
- David Eibeck, Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, DE. Liaison
- Petra Heřmánková, Aarhus University, DK / Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, DE. Website
- Aaron Hershkowitz, Institute for Advanced Study, USA. Secretary
- Jonathan Prag, Oxford University, UK
- Vincent Razanajao, Bordeaux Montaigne, Patrimonium, FR
- Marietta Horster, Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, DE. Local organizer

At the end of the workshop, it was announced that in 2024, the 8<sup>th</sup> workshop of Epigraphy.info will be organized in Berlin, hosted by the Department of Digital History at the Humboldt University of Berlin, with the courtesy of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW). Topics that will be further discussed and considered (by the WGs) during this workshop are: continuing working on the Epigraphy.info vocabularies (and ontology), updating the Epigraphy.info website (documents, WG pages and descriptions, membership form), and creating and disseminating an Epigraphy.info ToolBox.

For more information and suggestions visit our website Epigraphy.info, follow us on X/Twitter ([@epigraphy\\_info](#)) and Facebook ([Epigraphy.info](#)). If you want to become a member of the community and join the working groups, check the membership form on the website ([https://epigraphy.info/join\\_us](https://epigraphy.info/join_us)) or send an email to the Steering Committee at [info@epigraphy.info](mailto:info@epigraphy.info).