

LINKED HERITAGE:
EDR (EPIGRAPHIC DATABASE ROMA)'s CONTRIBUTION.
DIGILAB, CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON DIGITAL ARTS & HUMANITIES
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Keywords: epigraphy, ancient text, Europeana, Linked Heritage, Epigraphic Database Roma

Abstract

The cultural identity of the entire western world is rooted in the Greco-Latin tradition; from philosophy to architecture, geometry to law, rhetoric to literature, there remains the presence of the ancients in the way we think, live, and express ourselves. Only a small fraction of the total production of texts from ancient Greece and Rome has survived to modern times, leaving many sizeable gaps in the historiographic record. A invaluable alternative source of historical evidence can be found in the form of ancient inscriptions. These are invaluable 'time capsules' that provide us with a myriad of useful facts, allowing us to cast light on otherwise undocumented historical events, laws and customs. The Linked Heritage project brings for the first time ancient inscriptions to the Europeana collection and makes them accessible through a rich set of metadata, provided through the online database EDR (Epigraphic Database Roma – www.edr-edr.it), which will allow for the virtual reconstruction of the inscriptions' original archaeological and historical context. At the end of the project, Europeana will be enriched with about 30.000 images (photos and drawings) of ancient inscribed artifacts, mostly belonging to the main public collections in Rome and Ostia: Musei Capitolini, Museo Nazionale Romano, and others. Thanks to the Linked Heritage's massive digital undertaking, private enthusiasts and academics alike will be able to make "virtual visits" to the project's space in which they can access updated information not only regarding the most important inscriptions that are normally on display, but also the materials preserved in storages and places not open to the public.

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