UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA
Instituto Universitario de Análisis
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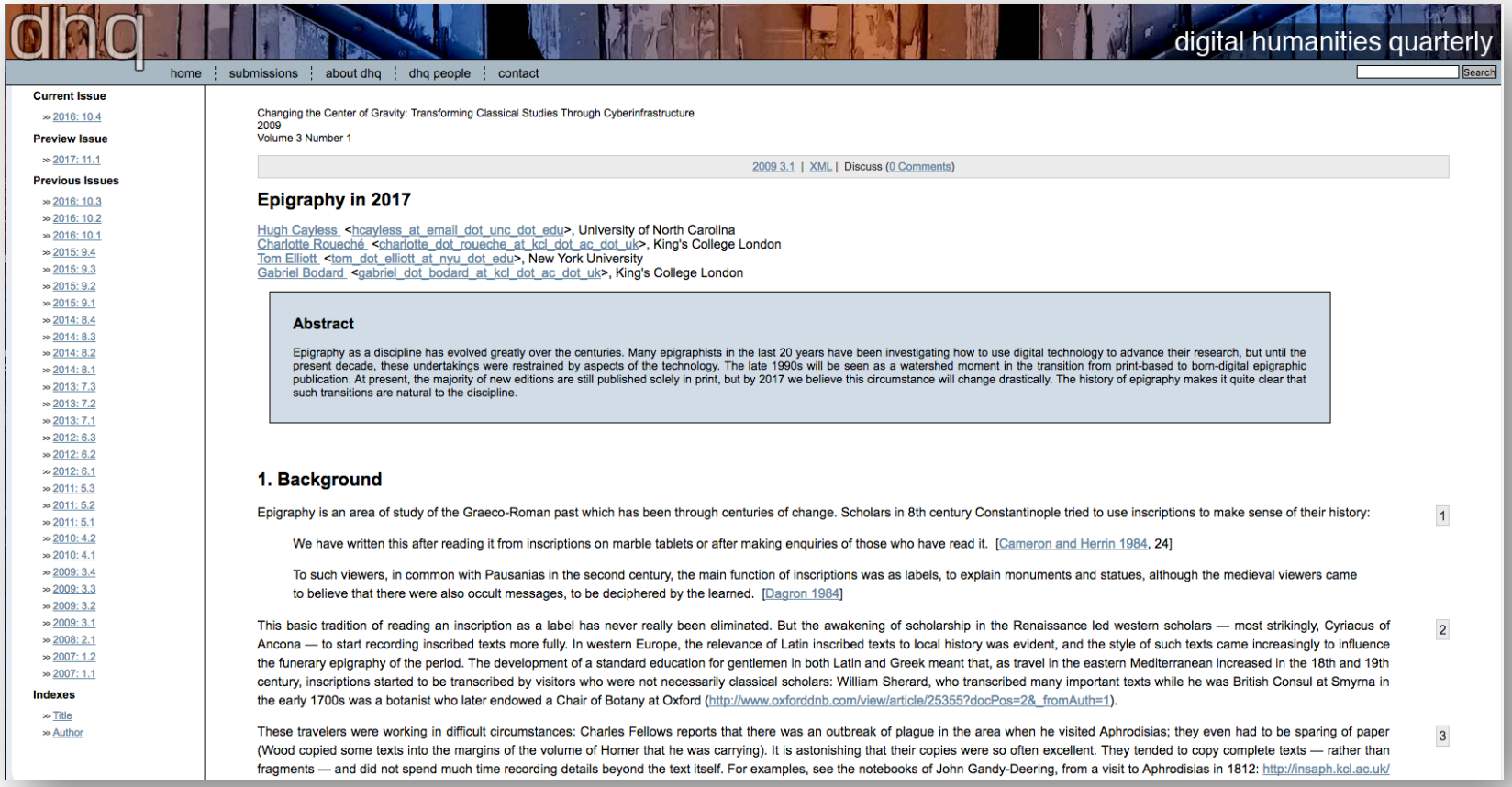
IAtext

New frontiers in digital epigraphy: The epigrapher at work today

Manuel Ramírez-Sánchez
ULPGC-IATEXT



Changing the Center of Gravity: Transforming Classical Studies Through Cyberinfrastructure
2009
Volume 3 Number 1

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Epigraphy in 2017

Hugh Cayless <hcayless_at_email_dot_unc_dot_edu>, University of North Carolina
Charlotte Roueché <charlotte_dot_roueche_at_kcl_dot_ac_dot_uk>, King's College London
Tom Elliott <tom_dot_elliott_at_nyu_dot_edu>, New York University
Gabriel Bodard <gabriel_dot_bodard_at_kcl_dot_ac_dot_uk>, King's College London

Abstract

Epigraphy as a discipline has evolved greatly over the centuries. Many epigraphists in the last 20 years have been investigating how to use digital technology to advance their research, but until the present decade, these undertakings were restrained by aspects of the technology. The late 1990s will be seen as a watershed moment in the transition from print-based to born-digital epigraphic publication. At present, the majority of new editions are still published solely in print, but by 2017 we believe this circumstance will change drastically. The history of epigraphy makes it quite clear that such transitions are natural to the discipline.

1. Background

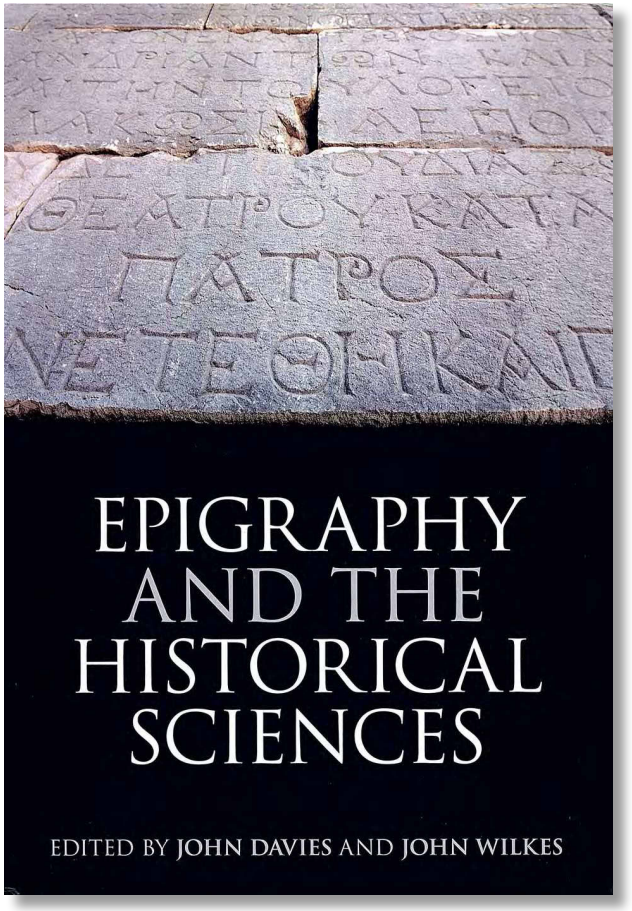
Epigraphy is an area of study of the Graeco-Roman past which has been through centuries of change. Scholars in 8th century Constantinople tried to use inscriptions to make sense of their history: 1

> We have written this after reading it from inscriptions on marble tablets or after making enquiries of those who have read it. [Cameron and Herrin 1984, 24]
>
> To such viewers, in common with Pausanias in the second century, the main function of inscriptions was as labels, to explain monuments and statues, although the medieval viewers came to believe that there were also occult messages, to be deciphered by the learned. [Dagron 1984]

This basic tradition of reading an inscription as a label has never really been eliminated. But the awakening of scholarship in the Renaissance led western scholars — most strikingly, Cyriacus of Ancona — to start recording inscribed texts more fully. In western Europe, the relevance of Latin inscribed texts to local history was evident, and the style of such texts came increasingly to influence the funerary epigraphy of the period. The development of a standard education for gentlemen in both Latin and Greek meant that, as travel in the eastern Mediterranean increased in the 18th and 19th century, inscriptions started to be transcribed by visitors who were not necessarily classical scholars: William Sherard, who transcribed many important texts while he was British Consul at Smyrna in the early 1700s was a botanist who later endowed a Chair of Botany at Oxford (http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/25355?docPos=2&_fromAuth=1). 2

These travelers were working in difficult circumstances: Charles Fellows reports that there was an outbreak of plague in the area when he visited Aphrodisias; they even had to be sparing of paper (Wood copied some texts into the margins of the volume of Homer that he was carrying). It is astonishing that their copies were so often excellent. They tended to copy complete texts — rather than fragments — and did not spend much time recording details beyond the text itself. For examples, see the notebooks of John Gandy-Deering, from a visit to Aphrodisias in 1812: http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/ 3

https://goo.gl/Oxpd9J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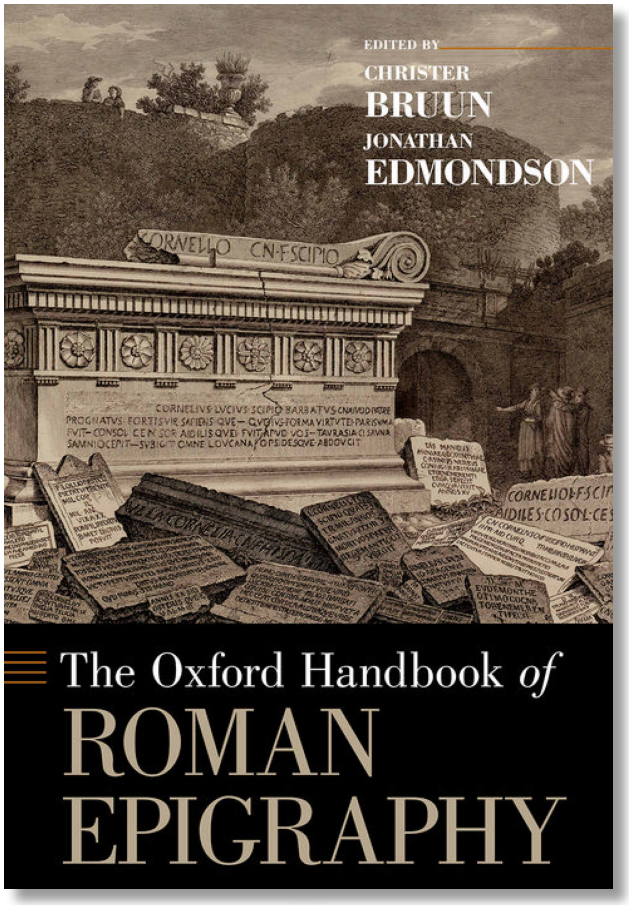
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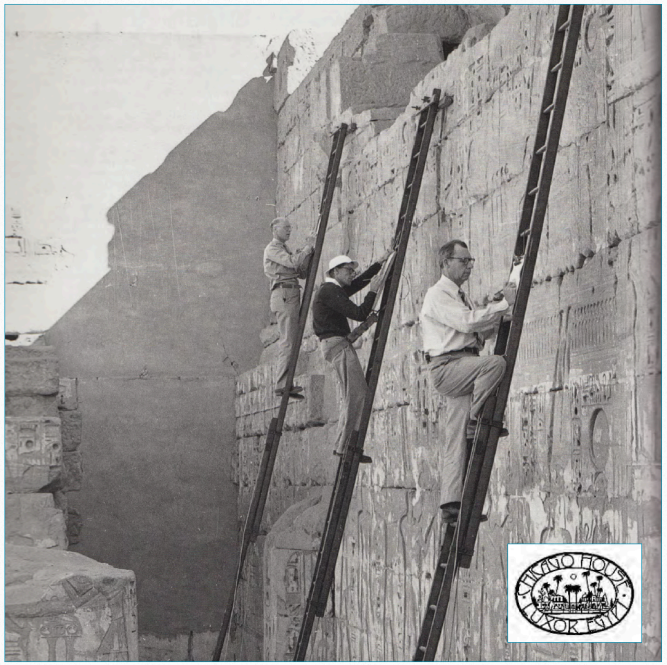
2015

oi.uchicago.edu

Digital Epigraphy

Written and designed by Krisztián Vértes



The Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute,
University of Chicago

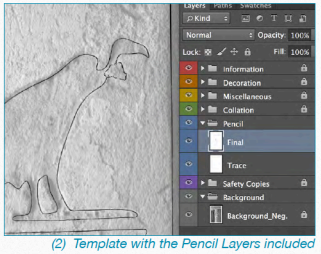
2014

oi.uchicago.edu

Photo by S. Osgood

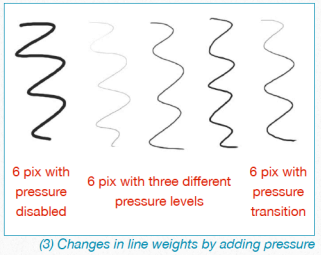
(1) Setup made for working on the tablet

(4) Searching for the right curve with the Brush tool

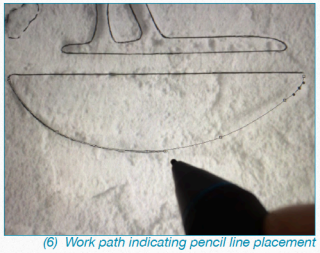


(2) Template with the Pencil Layers included

(5) Using a "soft" eraser for refining edges



(3) Changes in line weights by adding pressure



(6) Work path indicating pencil line placement

PAST & PRESENT

2005

Milestone of Sp. Postumius Albinus (CIL I^2, 624)

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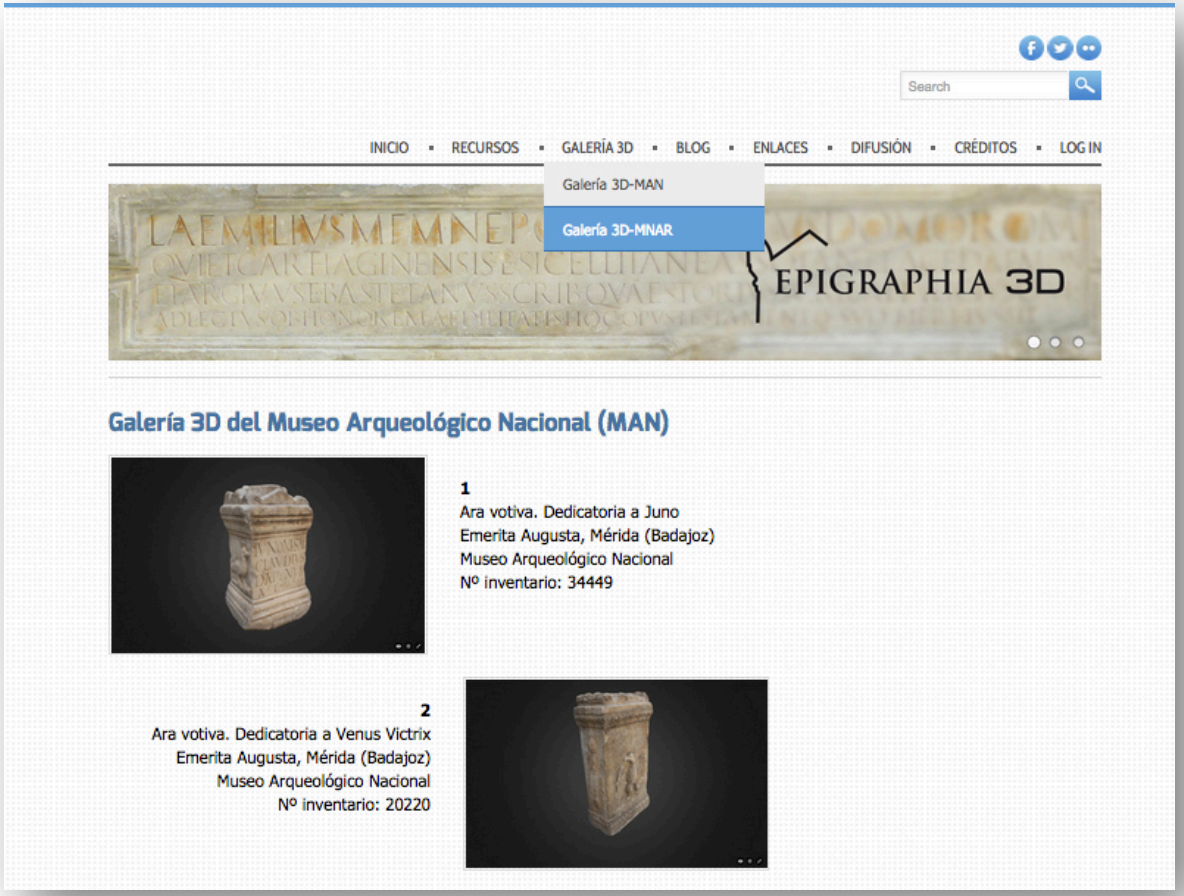
www.epigraphia3d.es



96 roman inscriptions in 3D

Epigraphia3D: responsive design

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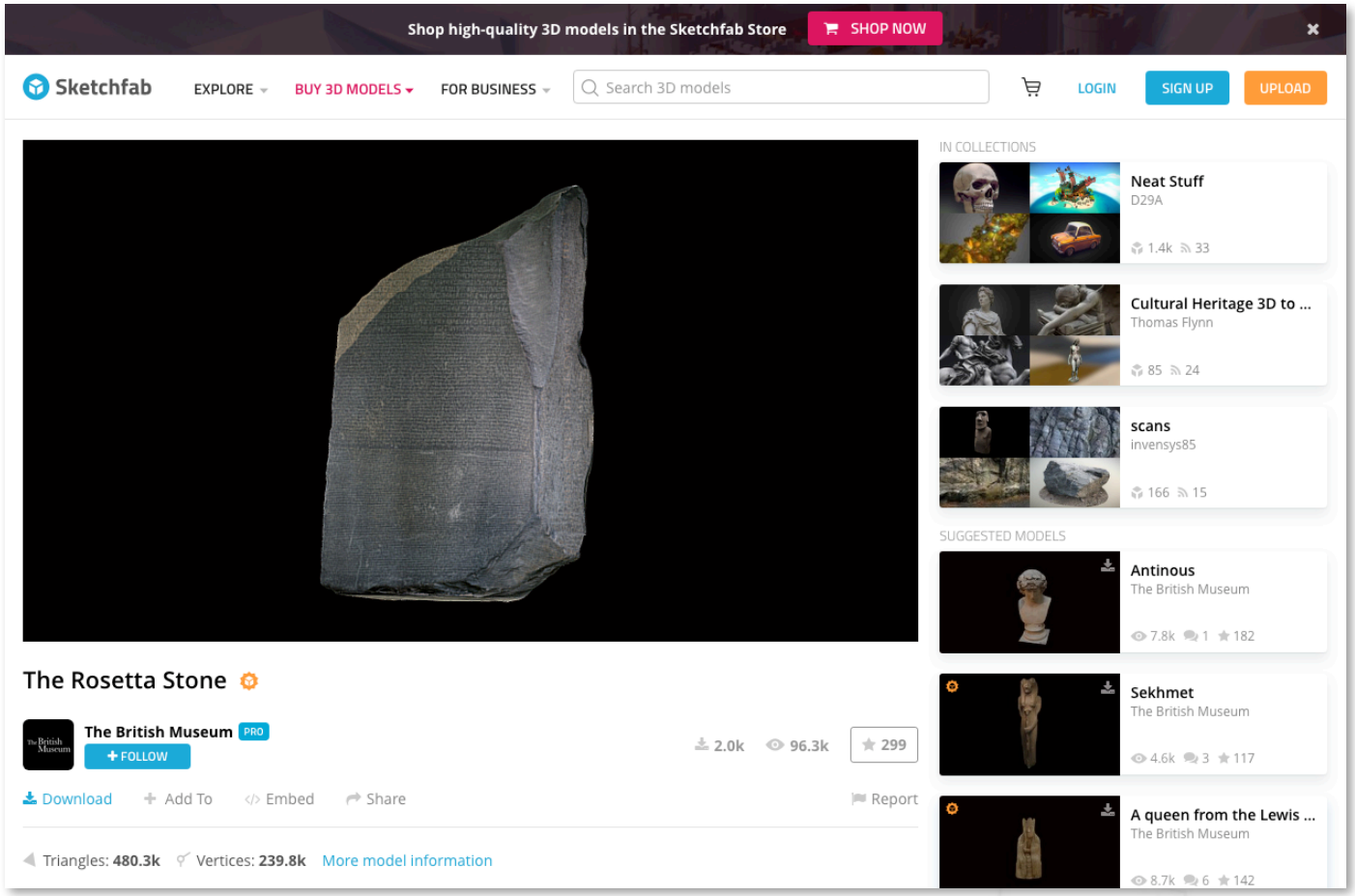
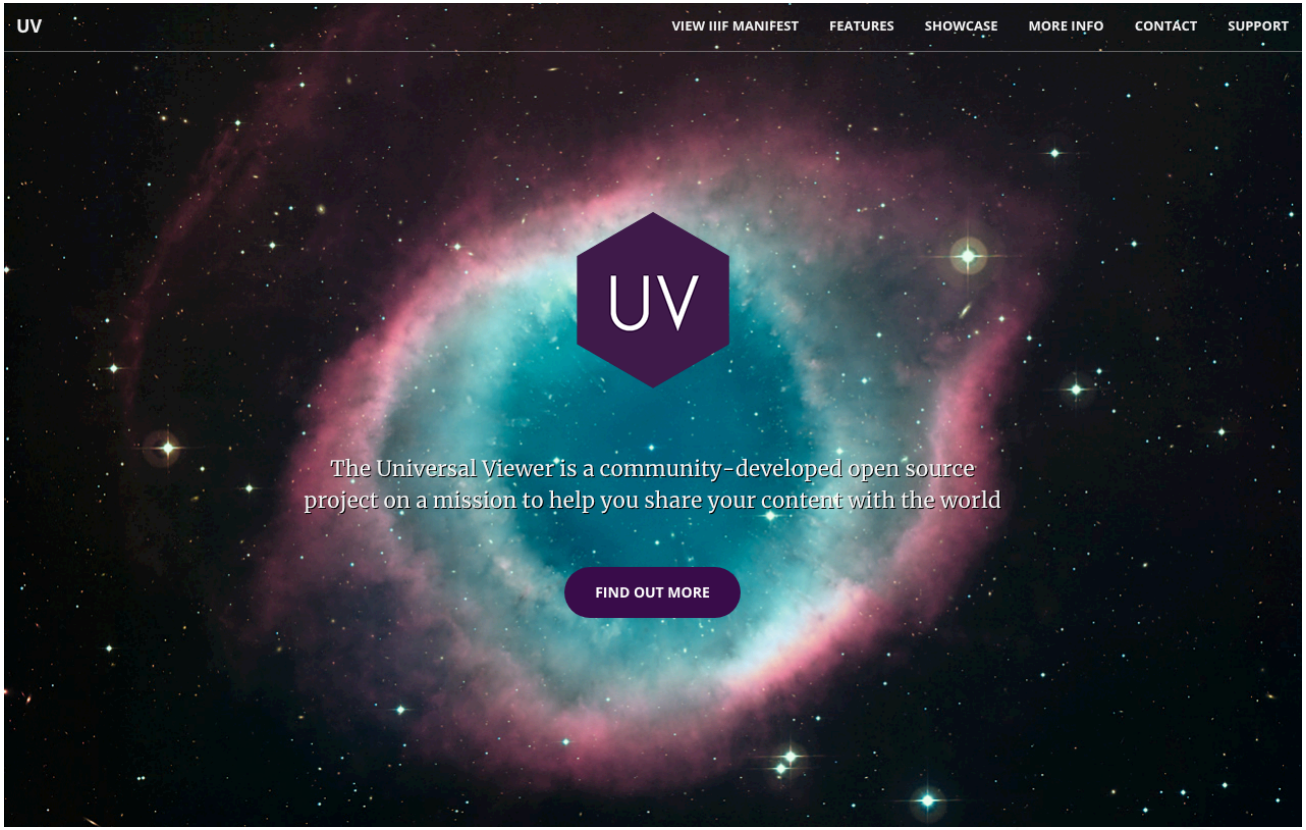


The British Museum at Sketchfab

There is life for 3D beyond Sketchfab…



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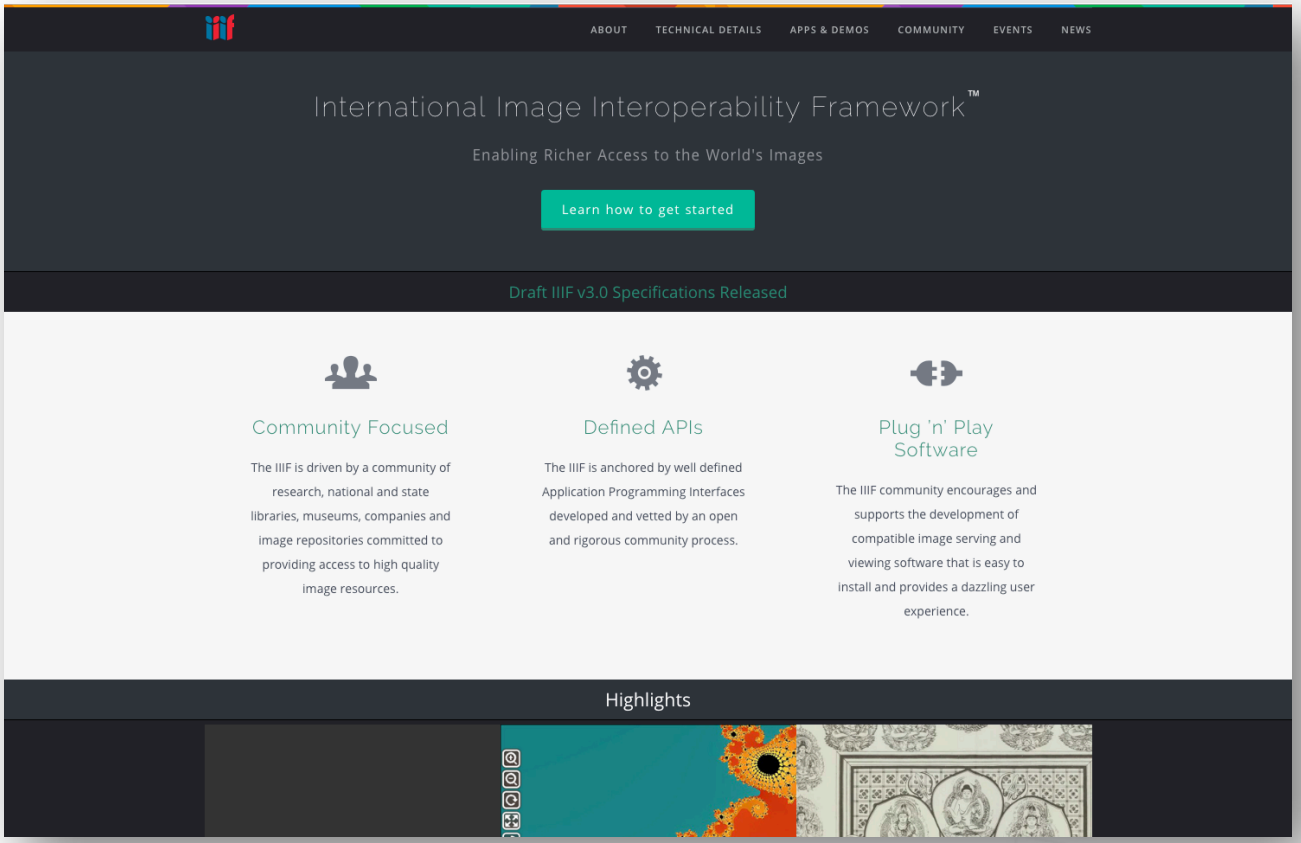

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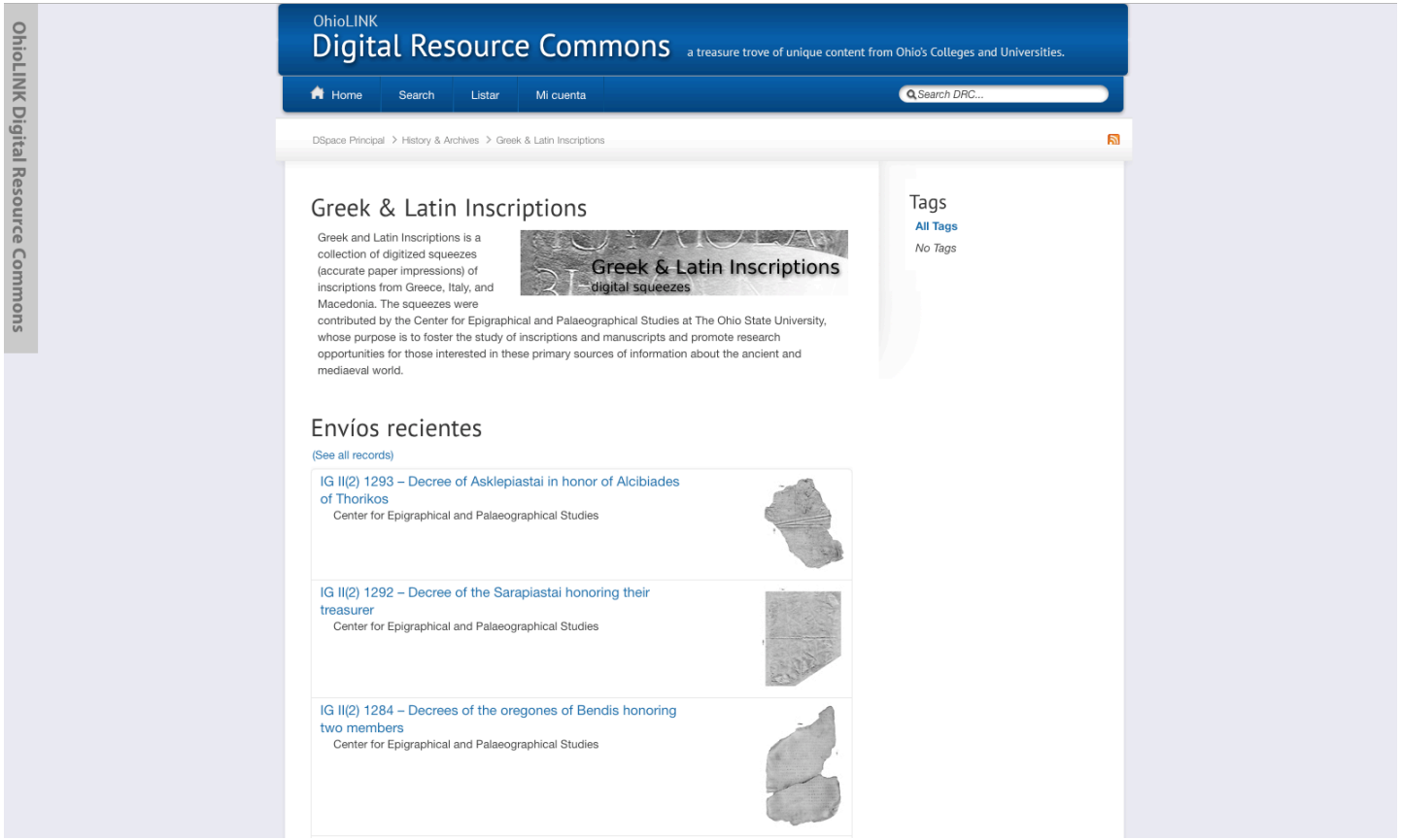
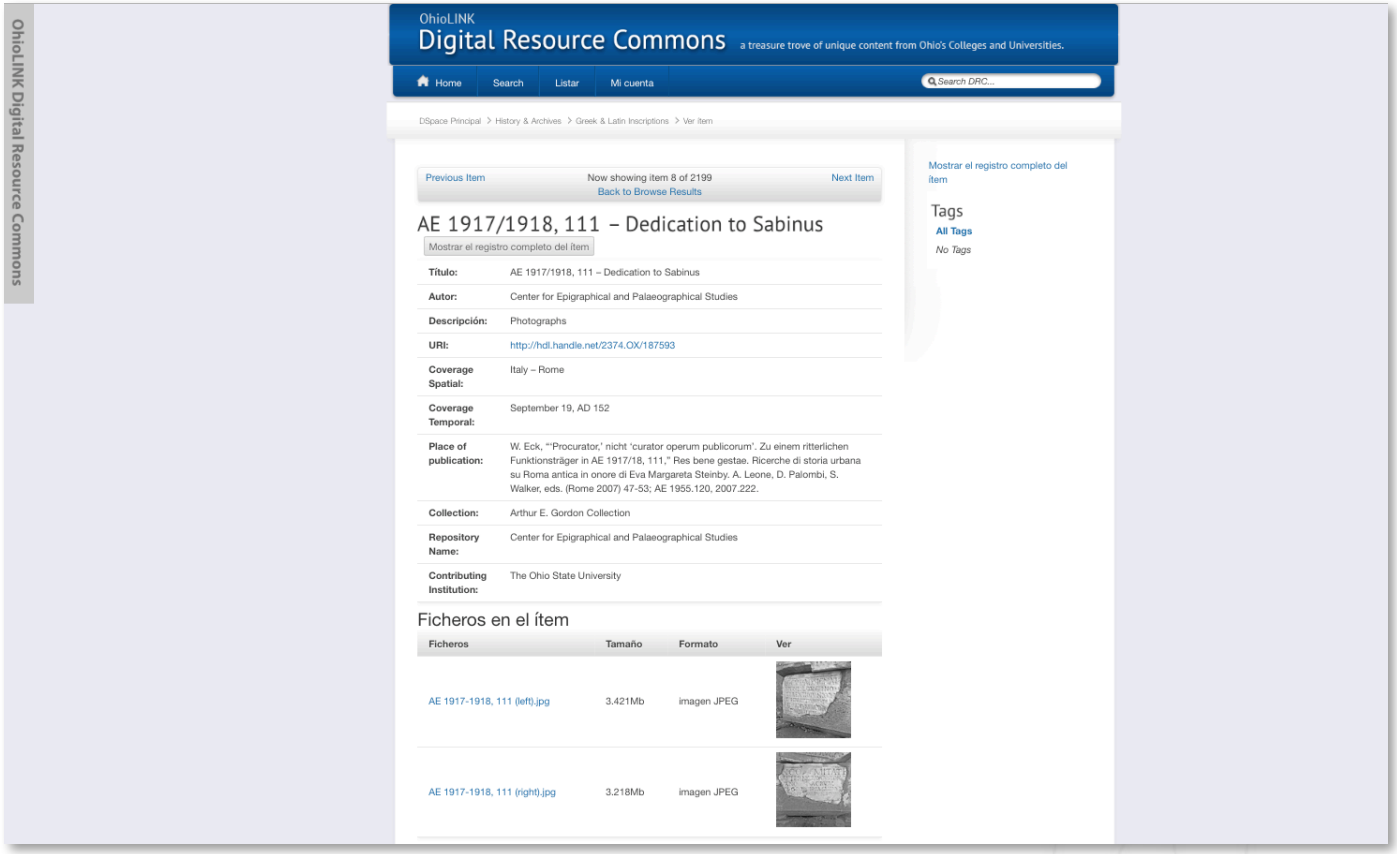


Digital library of inscriptions in Dspace



Latin inscriptions recorded in Dspace

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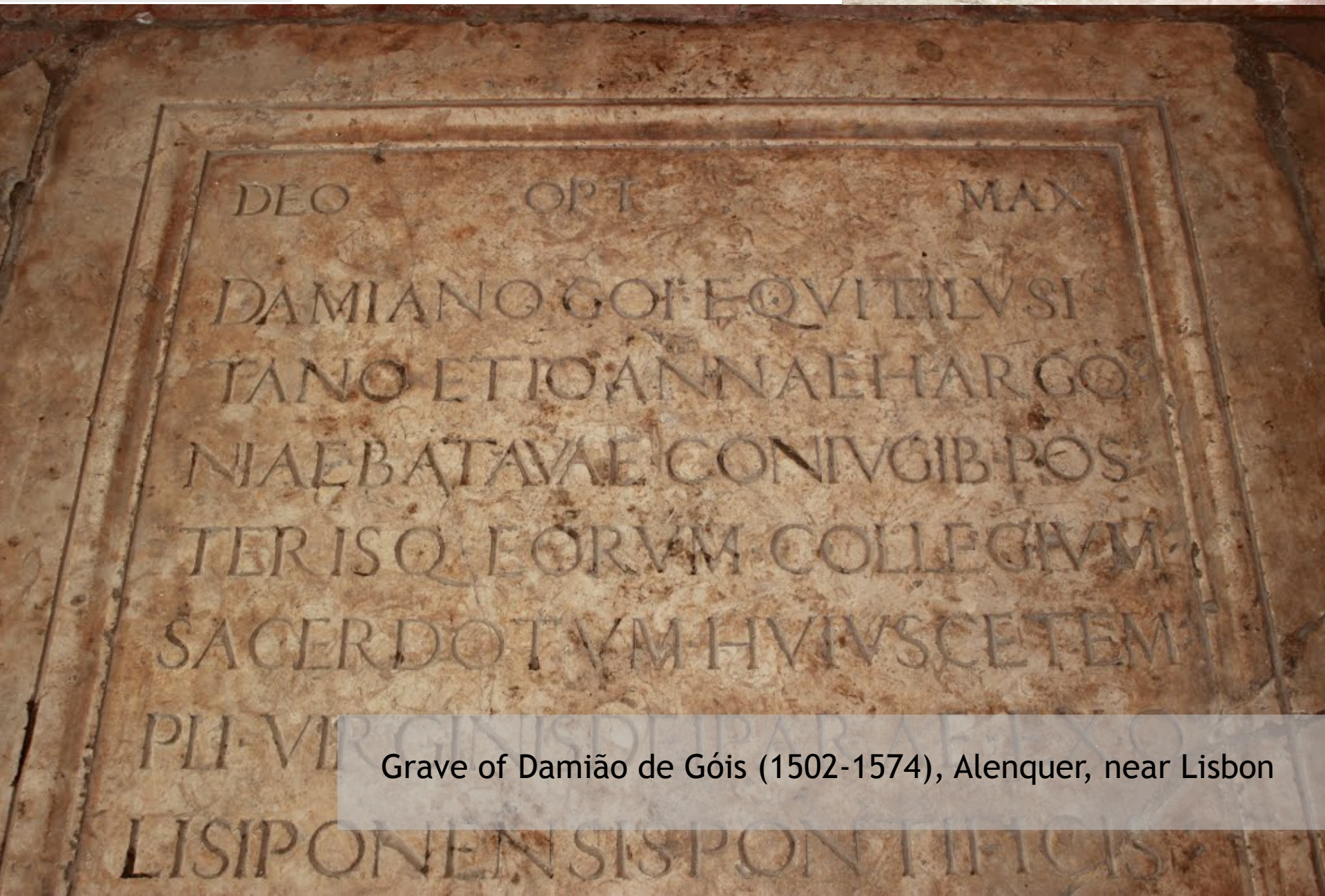
EPI·HVM
www.epigrafiahumanistica.eu

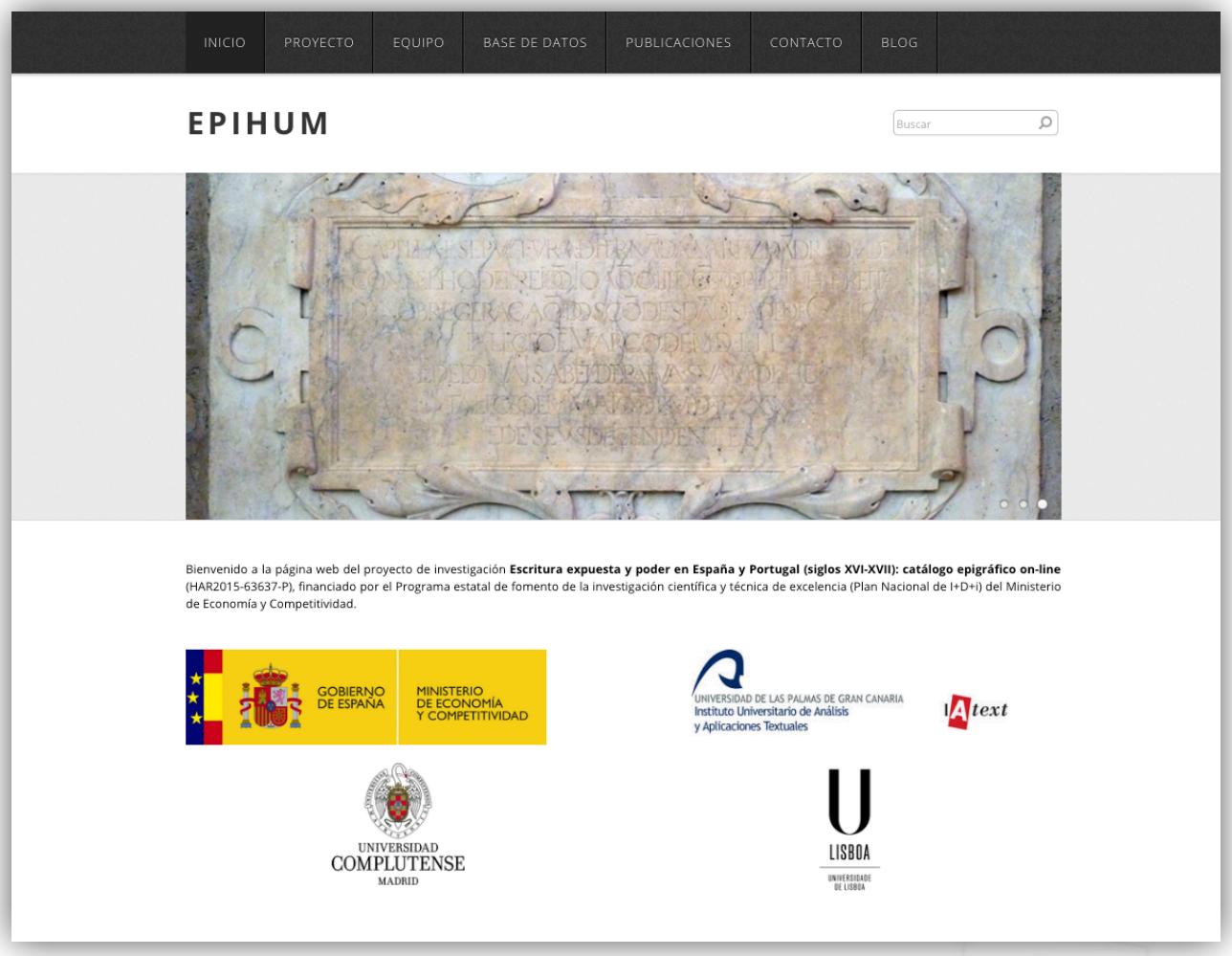
Digital epigrapgy

Inscriptions in the Renaissance

History of Writing



Grave of Damião de Góis (1502-1574), Alenquer, near Lisbon



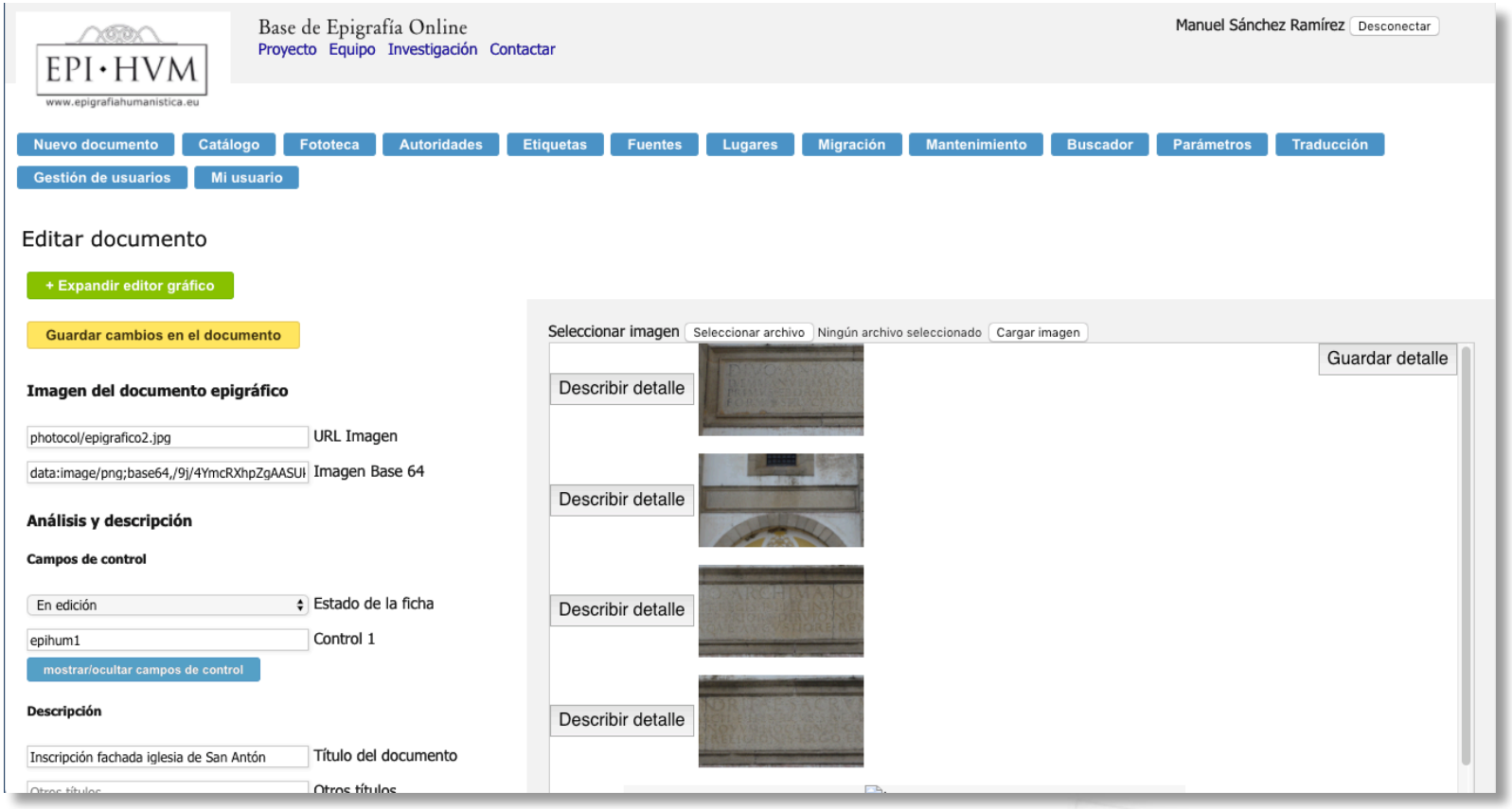
https://www.epigrafiahumanistica.eu

Main objetives of EPIHUM Project

1. Document, catalog and study the humanistic inscriptions of Spain and Portugal dated until 1668.
2. Georeferencing in Google Maps Engine, the humanistic inscriptions of Spain and Portugal dated until 1668.
3. Design the epigraphic database and link all the data with the documentary resources on the web (Linked Data).
4. Study the mechanisms of dissemination of humanistic epigraphic writing and its political use by elites in Spain and Portugal, in the process of building national identities.
5. Disseminate the results obtained in the research project focused on the location and distribution of humanistic inscriptions of the Iberian Peninsula and its political use in the process of construction of national identities.

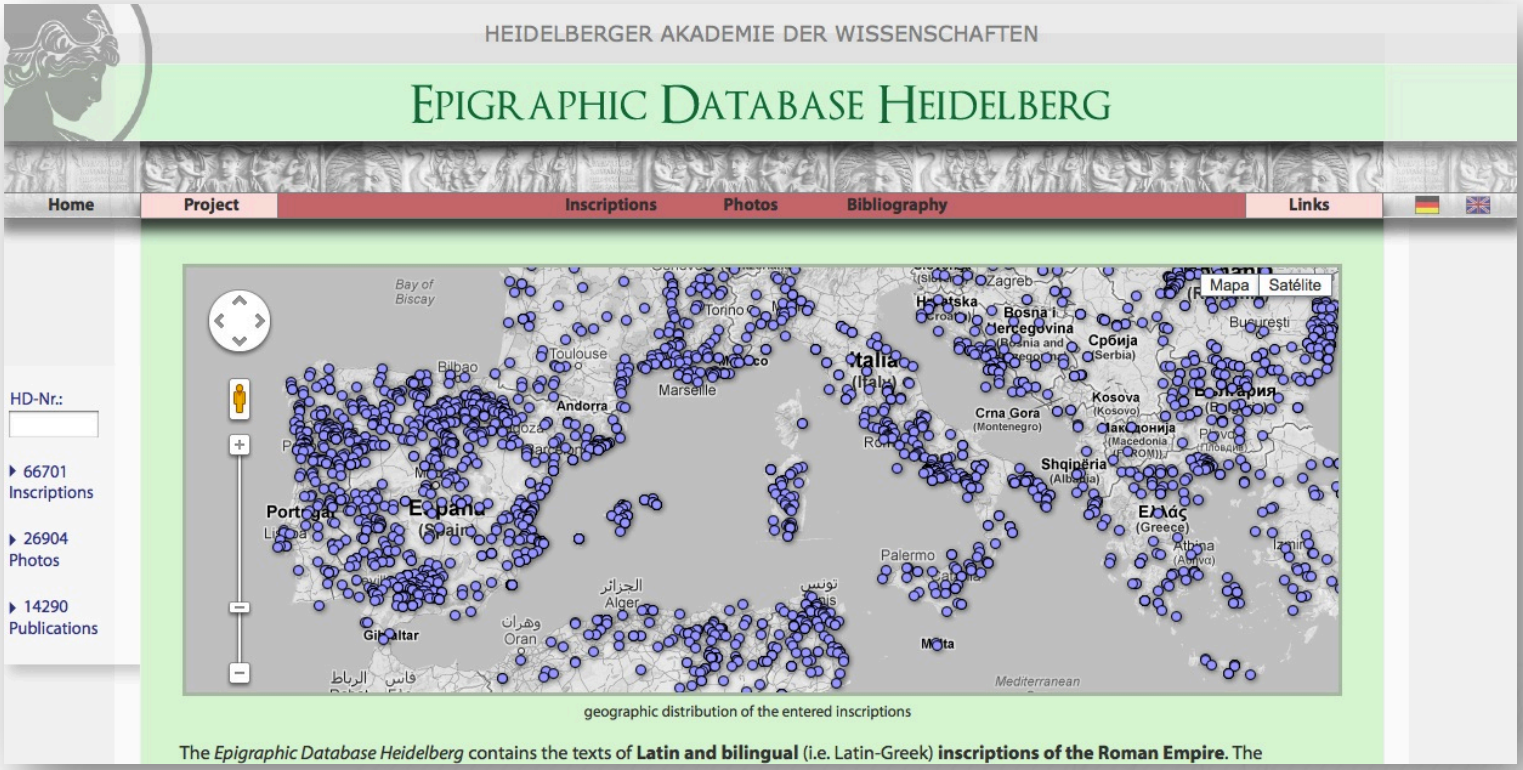
Main objetives of the epigraphic database

- Create a cataloging system specialized in epigraphic documents, with the experience of the Science of Documentation.
- Use a comprehensive, extensible and standardized description model.
- Compatibility with Epidoc TEI-XML.
- Provide a full text search engine for the epigraphic catalog.
- Management of epigraphic documents, photographs of epigraphic documents, authorities, locations, labels, sources / bibliography, data migration, parameters, translation and user management.



Database EPIHUM interface

Good examples digital projects of Roman epigraphy…

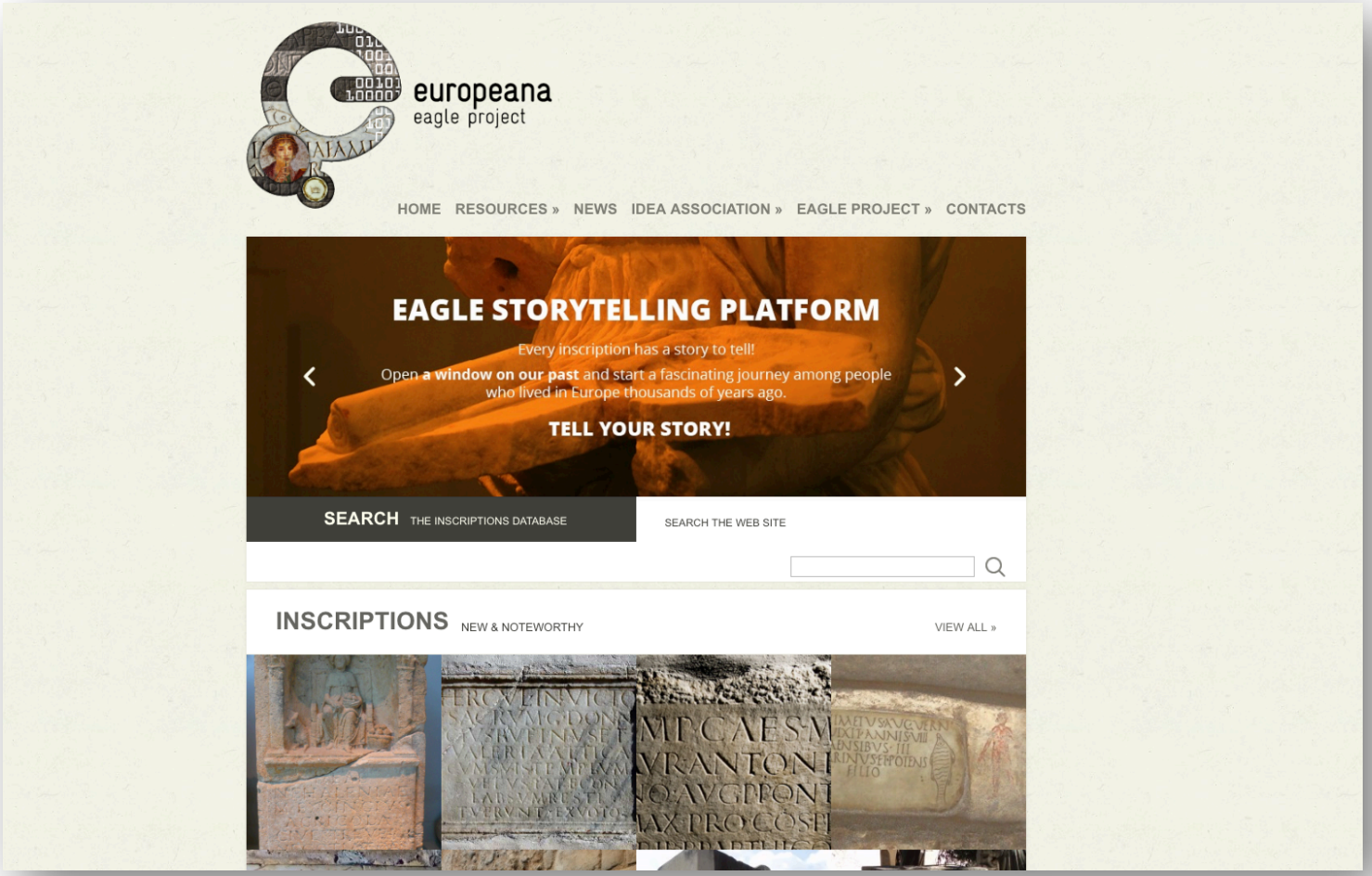


http://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de

Good examples digital projects of Roman epigraphy…

http://petrae.huma-num.fr

Our epigraphical database as closed systems



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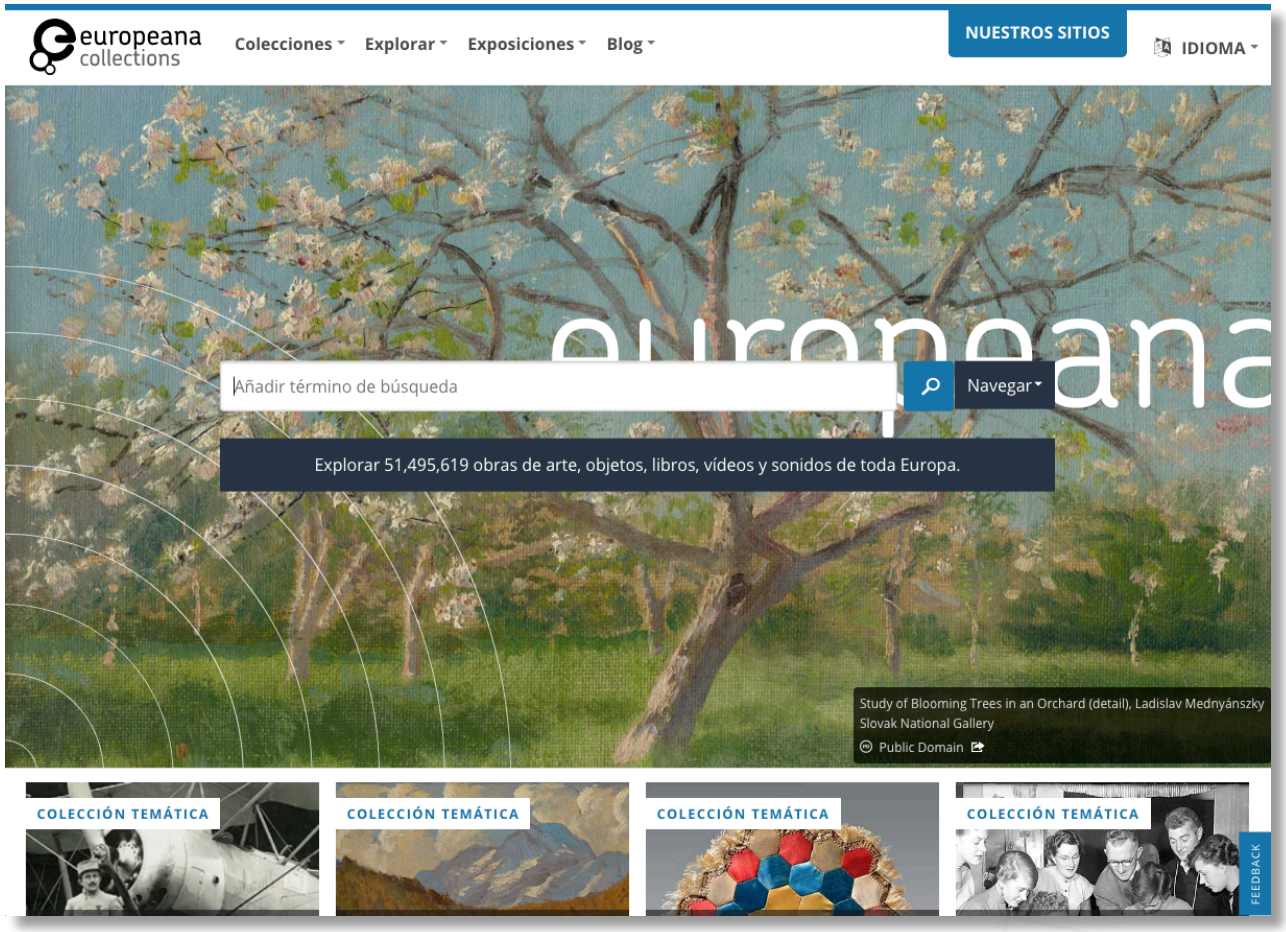

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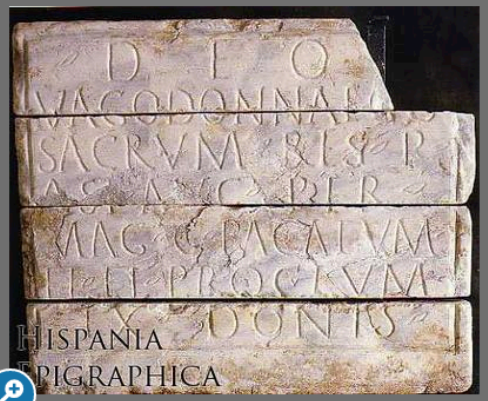

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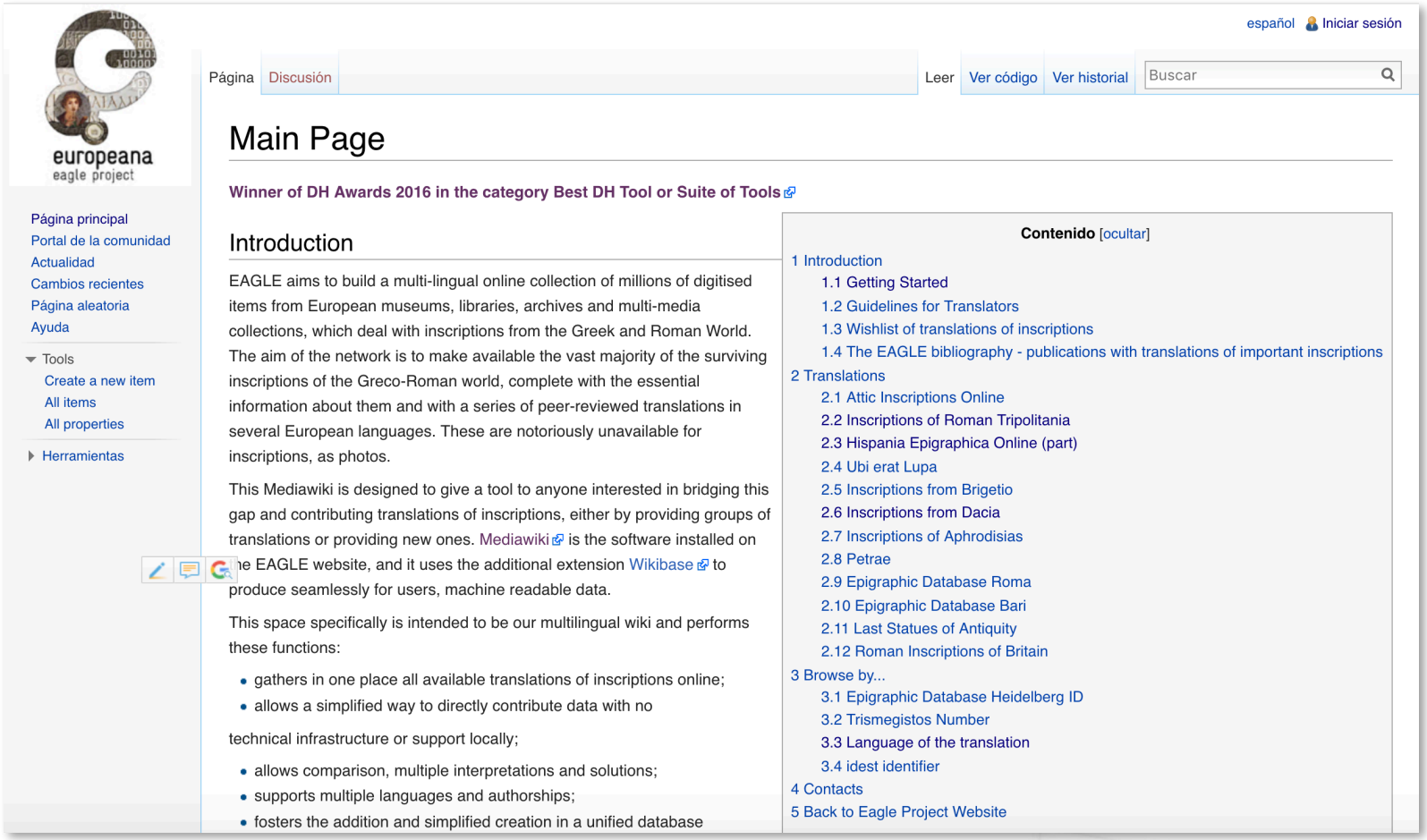

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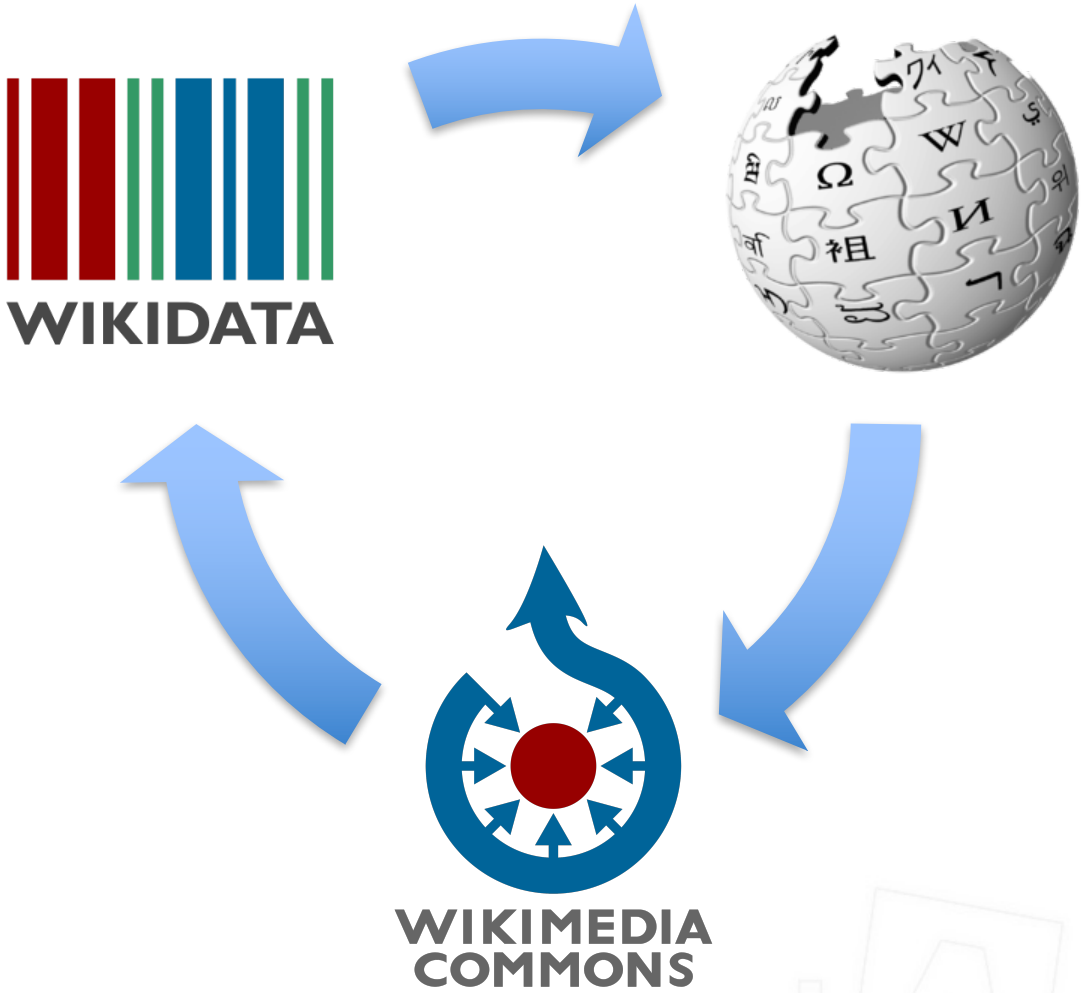
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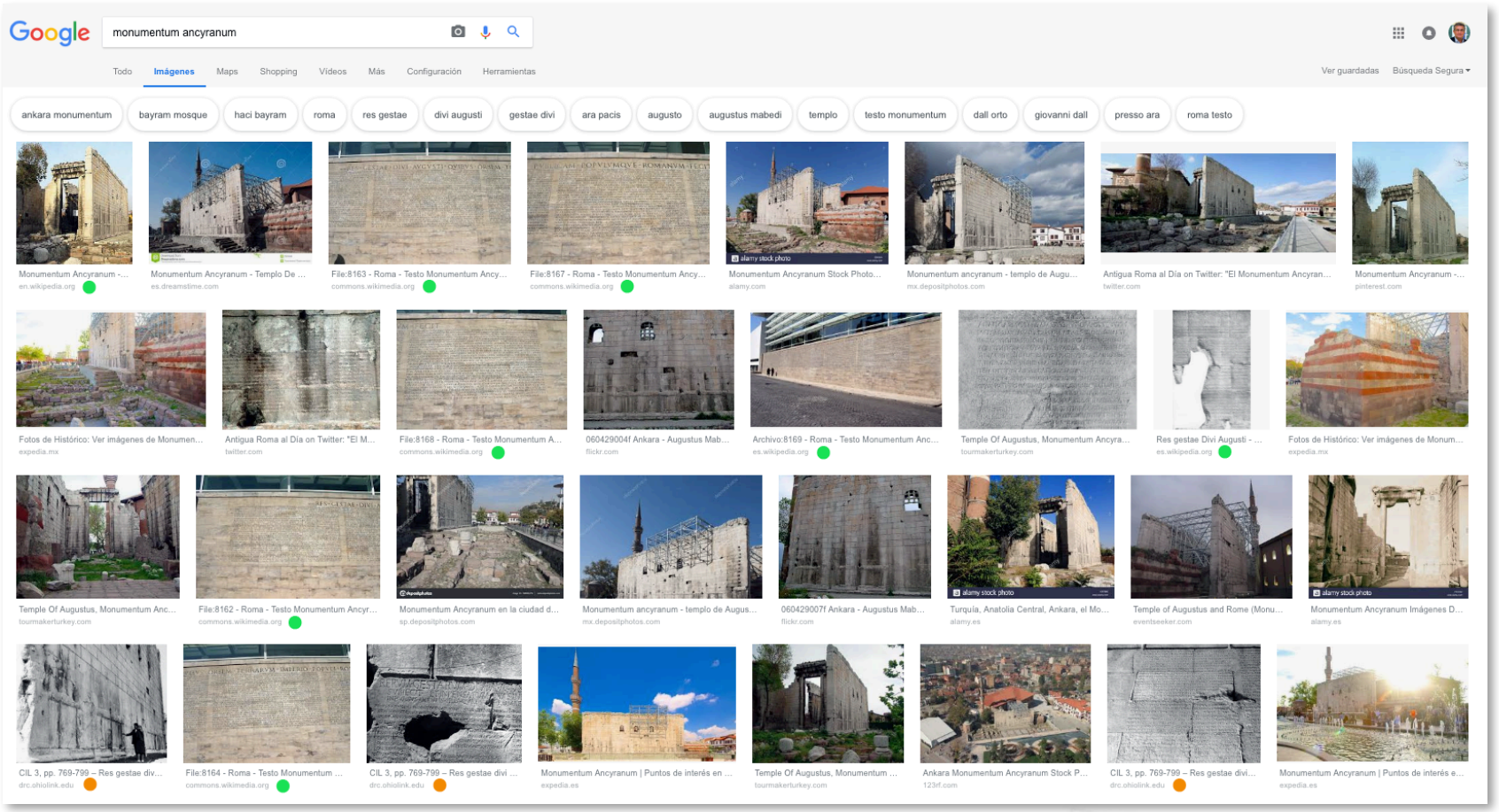

A good example of SEO* image refered to inscriptions

* SEO = Search Engine Optimization

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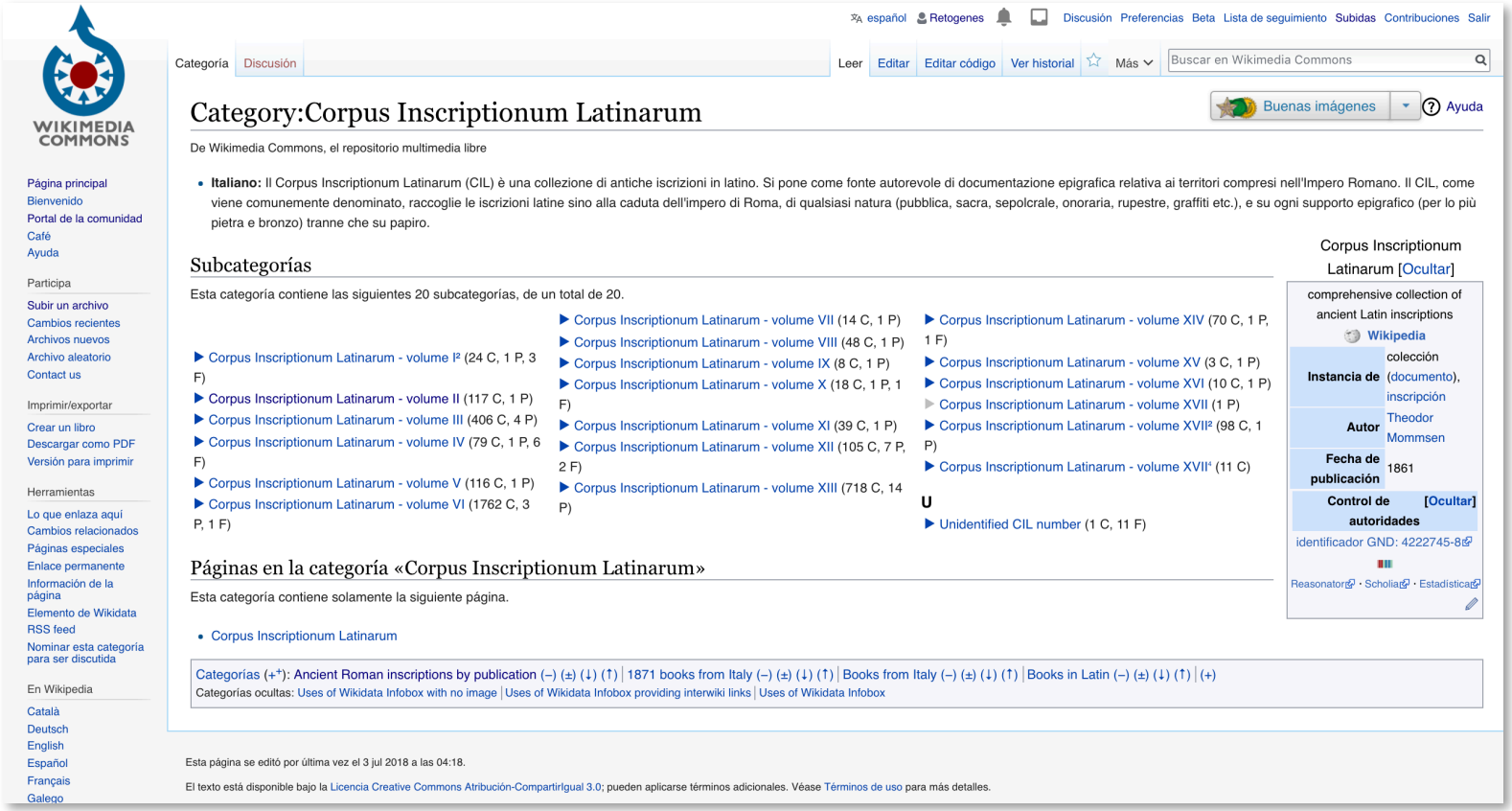

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Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum [Ocultar]

comprehensive collection of ancient Latin inscriptions

Wikipedia

Instancia de	colección (documento), inscripción
Autor	Theodor Mommsen
Fecha de publicación	1861
Control de autoridades	[Ocultar]

identificador GND: 4222745-8

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Categorías (+⁺): Ancient Roman inscriptions by publication (–) (±) (↓) (↑) | 1871 books from Italy (–) (±) (↓) (↑) | Books from Italy (–) (±) (↓) (↑) | Books in Latin (–) (±) (↓) (↑) | (+)
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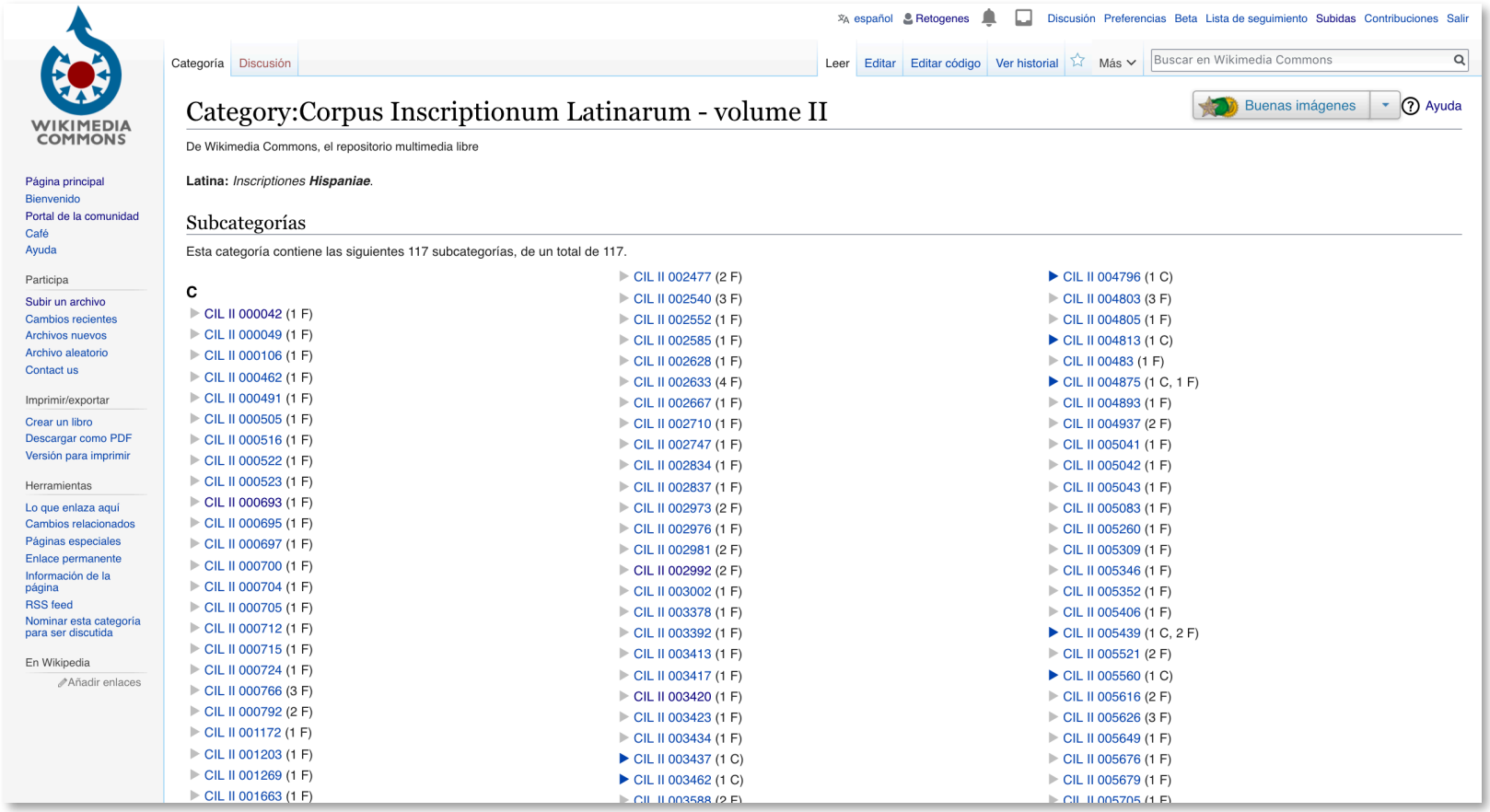

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- CIL II 000523 (1 F)
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- CIL II 000695 (1 F)
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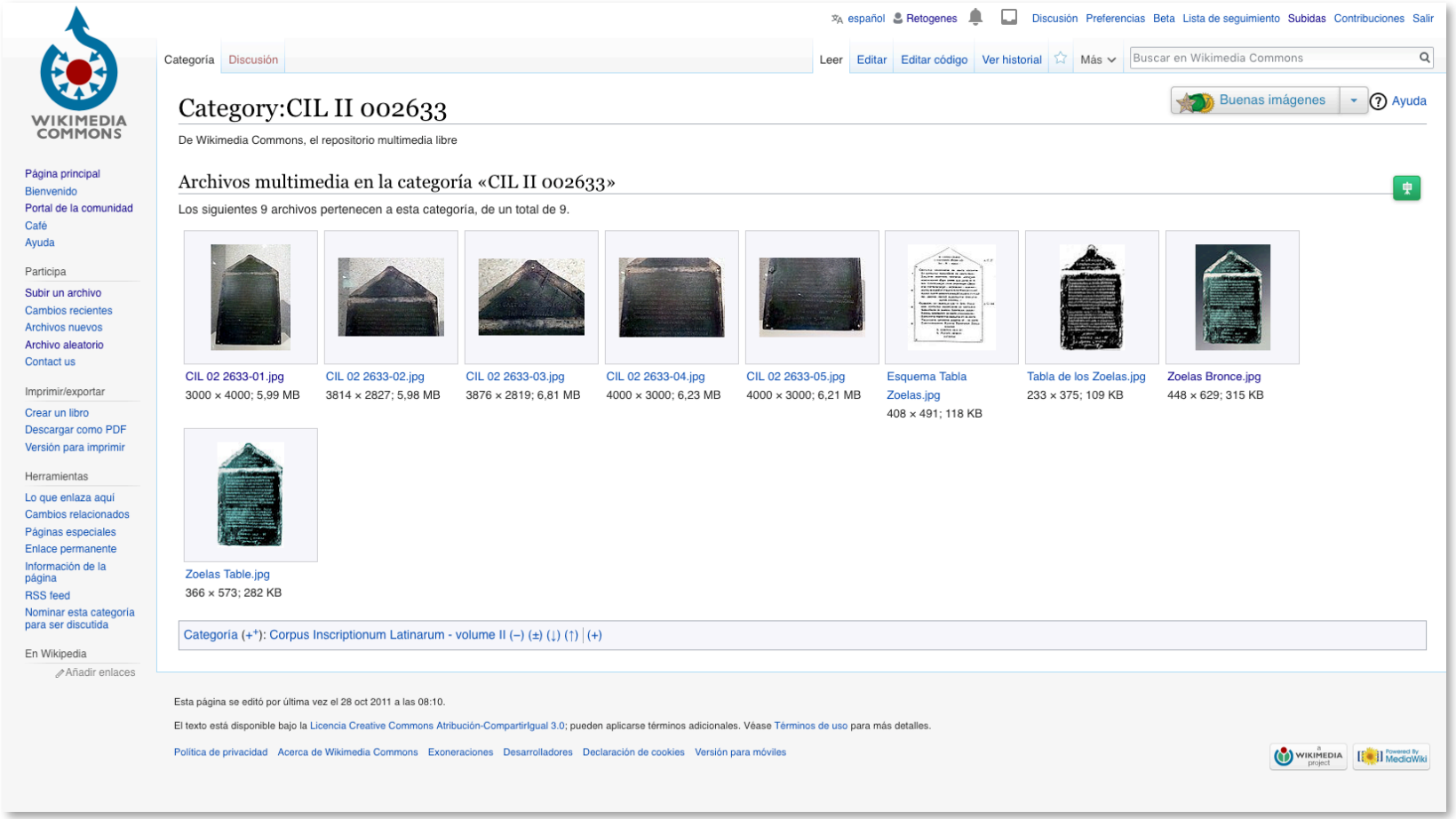

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