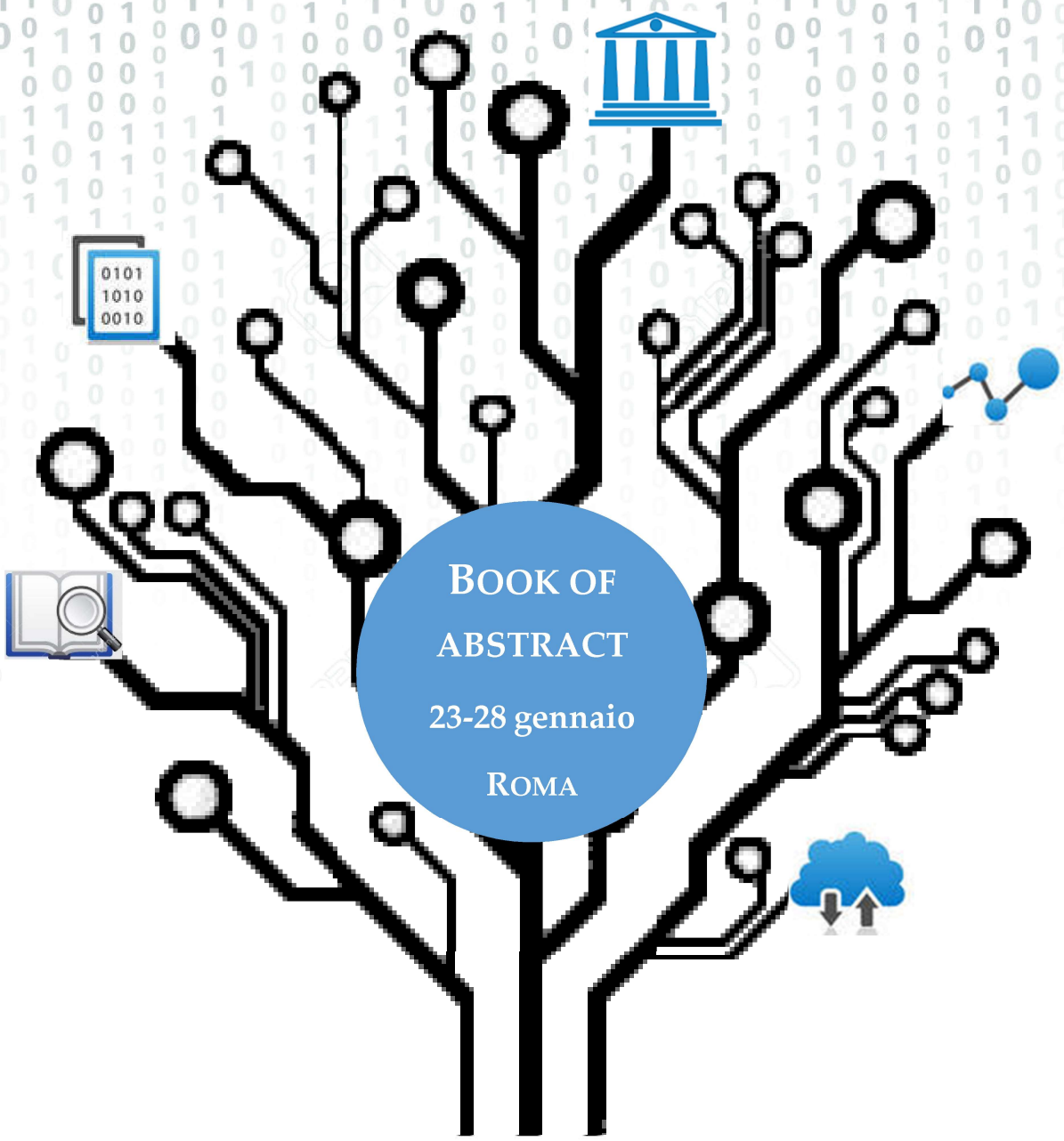
AIUCD 2017 CONFERENCE

Il telescopio inverso: big data e distant reading nelle discipline umanistiche



BOOK OF ABSTRACT

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POSTERS

Processing Data on Fake Inscriptions: How to Build the New Epigraphic Database Falsae (EDF)

Lorenzo Calvelli, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Principal Investigator for the Italian Research Project of National Interest «False testimonianze. Copie, contraffazioni, manipolazioni e abusi del documento epigrafico antico», lorenzoc@unive.it

A New Research Project on Epigraphic Forgeries

As a part of its ongoing commitment to finance basic research in Italy, the Italian Ministry of Education, University, and Research (MIUR) recently approved a list of Research Projects of National Interest (PRIN) which includes a three-year investigation on fake ancient inscriptions entitled «False testimonianze. Copie, contraffazioni, manipolazioni e abusi del documento epigrafico antico». Directed by Lorenzo Calvelli, tenured lecturer in Roman History and Latin Epigraphy at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the project involves scholars from the universities of Bari, Bologna, Genoa, Macerata, Milan, Pisa, Rome, Trieste, Turin, Venice, and Verona with at least an additional five post-doctoral positions for young scholars. It will last from February 2017 to January 2020.

The project has 4 main goals: (1) to create an electronic archive of fake inscriptions called the EDF (Epigraphic Database Falsae); (2) to establish a regular schedule of work-in-progress meetings; (3) to organize an international conference on epigraphic forgeries whose proceedings will be published; and (4) to set up a temporary travelling exhibition dedicated to the subject.

The New Electronic Archive EDF (Epigraphic Database Falsae)

This poster addresses the preliminary steps related to the construction of the EDF, which is currently in an embryonic stage. The main reason why such a tool has not been created previously is the absence of a scholarly consensus as to what should be considered a fake inscription. Existing sections devoted to forgeries in the principle printed collections of ancient inscriptions group together large and ambiguous sets of documents which include intentional forgeries, copies of ancient inscriptions, and Medieval and Renaissance inscriptions that imitate classical models. Further confounding the question, intentional forgeries are most frequently written solely on paper (i.e. they are quoted in manuscripts or printed books), although they can also be incised on actual objects including ancient or only partially ancient materials as well as more recent artefacts.

In response, it has been decided that the EDF will compile data from multiple sources and concern all known typologies of fake inscriptions, including transcriptions, reproductions, and facsimiles of thousands of forgeries. Eventually, the electronic archive is meant to encompass all forged epigraphic texts that originate from the whole territory of Italy and, it is hoped, will extend its geographic range to include the rest of Europe and the Mediterranean, provided that partnerships with foreign and international institutions are created.

The Core Structure of EDF

Experts of the digitization of epigraphic documents are currently building the core of the EDF which will soon be accessible through a search engine. We aim to get feedback from the users of the World Wide Web at a very early stage of the project, in order to further improve the structure of the database.

Tentatively, the search engine will allow users to perform queries in the following fields:

1) textual typologies, distinguishing between actual forgeries (i.e. invented texts), post-classical inscriptions, and copies of genuine ancient inscriptions. The latter will be subdivided into full copies, partial copies, and interpolated copies. In the case of Christian inscriptions it will also be possible to identify "Christianized" pagan monuments and later imitations of early Christian inscriptions;

2) the modes of transmission, distinguishing between forgeries written exclusively on paper and those that were actually incised on durable materials (stone, metal, etc.);

3) the methods of production, distinguishing between forgeries invented wholly from complete, partial, or interpolated copies of ancient inscriptions;

4) the intentions of the forgers, distinguishing between commercial forgeries (i.e. inscriptions produced with the intent to earn profit) and historical and documentary forgeries (i.e. documents fabricated with the intent of validating a certain historical statement, whether true or false);

5) the age when the forgery was created;

6) the identity of the forgers, certain or suspected, whenever possible;

7) the production site of actual forgeries;

8) the subsequent displacements of these forgeries;

9) their current location (whenever the objects are still traceable).

By combining the last three sets of data on an interactive map, it will be possible for users to visualize the locations of the workshops where forgeries were physically produced, to trace the routes of their dispersal, and to follow the steps that brought them to their current place of conservation. This kind of information, which is entirely absent in the indices of the main printed epigraphic corpora, will be made available through a GIS (Geographic Information System) innovative tool.

Interaction with existing online epigraphic resources

Visually, the EDF will be structured so as to be readily understandable and accessible in multiple languages in order to comply with the principles of the inclusive and intercultural approach to information promoted by the European Union. In the end, it will be an unrestricted online resource, freely accessible to multiple users: scholars from different countries, students, curators and visitors of local museums, national and international institutions committed to the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, and qualified professionals of the antiquities trade. The EDF will also be reachable through the new EAGLE shared portal (European network of Ancient Greek and Latin Epigraphy: www.eagle-network.eu), and it is planned that it will properly interact with the main existing online resources related to epigraphy, in particular the EDR (Epigraphic Database Roma: www.edr-edr.it) and the EDB (Epigraphic Database Bari: www.edb.uniba.it), which have as their aim the inclusion of all published Greek and Latin inscriptions (both pagan and Christian) from ancient Italy dating from before the 7th century AD.

In conclusion, the EDF will stimulate historical research by presenting previously neglected sources using up-to-date technologies. Digital data will be made available to scholars of different disciplines and will offer to the international academic community an enlarged documentary base for further research. Furthermore, the electronic archive will also facilitate the dissemination of knowledge by combining data on epigraphic forgeries with hyperlinks to other digital libraries and by incorporating already existing online data into its own records. Thanks to its unrestricted access

and its intelligible structure, the database will also be accessible to non-specialist users, whose better comprehension of the world of forgery will also lead to a more critical awareness of the use of data and information in everyday life.

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Il modello a microkernel di Omega nello sviluppo di strumenti per lo studio dei testi: dagli ADT alle API

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Introduzione

In questo contributo si illustra il lavoro metodologico e ingegneristico in corso presso il gruppo di Literary Computing dell'Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale (ILC) del CNR di Pisa nella progettazione e nella implementazione di una piattaforma per lo studio dei testi. Tale piattaforma si basa su un'architettura minimale (microkernel) dotata di strutture dati e di funzionalità di base. Il microkernel è capace di gestire moduli, altamente disaccoppiati, attraverso cui fornire i servizi orientati al trattamento (semi-)automatico di opere letterarie, con particolare attenzione al textual scholarship e all'analisi linguistica, semantica e lessicale. Nello specifico, si mostreranno alcuni strumenti sviluppati in collaborazione con altri istituti di ricerca nel contesto di vari progetti di Digital Humanities (DH). Verranno, altresì, introdotti gli strumenti realizzati nel corso del progetto Clavius on the Web.

L'uso delle tecnologie informatiche e dei sistemi digitali per lo studio scientifico e l'analisi di testi letterari ha sortito, negli ultimi anni, un duplice effetto: da un lato, una ingente disponibilità di risorse e di dati testuali in formati standard, aperti e machine-actionable e, dall'altro, lo sviluppo di complesse procedure in grado di elaborare automaticamente tali risorse, producendo nuova conoscenza e nuove