

INSCRIPTIONS ON iDAI.OBJECTS ARACHNE

Arachne is the central object database of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) and the Archaeological Institute of the University of Cologne. It provides a free Internet research tool for archaeological objects. The design of the Arachne database uses a model that builds on very basic assumptions of archaeological research: that is, all objects should be comparable on a very general level and, if possible, for all objects there should be provided a contextual background. So the contextualisation of the Arachne data is of very special interest. Instead of specified object modelling, the Arachne objects have a basic general part in their object model. To this general part more class-specific information can be added.

Since the Arachne online presentation in 2001, the database aims to connect all running projects by addressing machine-readable metadata strategies of the Semantic Web and to support the idea of the open linked data web. Thus, Arachne follows a paradigm of highly structured object-metadata which is mapped onto the CIDOC-CRM.

In particular, three Arachne projects were significant for supporting the operation and the information content of inscriptions: *Emagines*, *iDAI.Bookbrowser* and *CIL Open Access*. In the context of *Emagines* millions of images could be provided and contextualized, whereas in *CIL Open Access* over fifty *CIL* volumes were provided inside the *iDAI.Bookbrowser*, so that every single volume is accessible via the TEI-Editor and is both linked with external web portals like the virtual library Propylaeum specialized in classical and ancient studies as well as the Central Register of Digitised Prints (ZVDD) and with further DAI services such as the ZENON (OPAC of the DAI) and the *iDAI.Gazetteer*.

Within the EU-project EAGLE, Arachne therefore could immediately contribute its previous work¹. Concretely, more than nine thousand inscriptions, over twenty-nine thousand images in the unstructured photo stocks and over twenty-five thousand book pages were to be taken into account. All in all, an amount of more than fifty-four thousand images are available. Next to the pure inscription data, a storytelling application is being developed which is based on Arachne's data structure and its data context created by about 1.7 million images.

Such a storytelling application intends both to browse inside the Arachne and outside within the project partners' databases. The starting point will

¹ For details on all DAI projects cfr. the following links: <http://www.arachne.uni-koeln.de/>; <http://www.dainst.org/>; <http://www.gazetteer.dainst.org/>; <http://www.zenon.dainst.org/>.



Fig. 1 – The logo of the iDAI.OBJECTS ARACHNE.

be always an inscription record which should be embedded in an extensive information context independently by its sort of information career. That may be a primary reference such as a line in a book, an image of a block of stone or a place on a map or secondary information like a book reference for further information.

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