THE EPIGRAPHIC PROJECT OF THE LABORATORY
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The first trials by C. Zaccaria to use a database (P.E.T.R.A.E created by Centre Ausonius of Bordeaux University, France) for recording and studying the epigraphic heritage of Friuli-Venezia Giulia date back to the late 1980s. This body of material consists of approximately 5,300 Greek and Latin inscriptions belonging to the Roman cities of Aquileia, Tergeste, Iulium Carnicum and Forum Iulii in the eastern part of Regio X, Venetia et Histria. In the mid-90s the need arose to use a locally manageable database, orient- ed towards a closed source, but guaranteeing flexibility, in a cross-platform environment (Windows and Mac), and easy data exportation (XML) with Unicode characters.

Using FileMaker™, I developed a large relational database management system (RDBM) for epigraphic evidence, including instrumentum, which is also connected to a photo database. The RDBM allows considering all aspects related to inscriptions: discovery and current conservation, monument and iconography, text, and bibliography. The RDBM is structured to record multiple and duplicate inscriptions and graffiti on the instrumentum and can display variants of the same stamp. Text search (e.g. onomastic one) can be performed simultaneously in the texts of the lapidary inscriptions and in those of the instrumentum. The next step will be to participate in a portal built by different projects within existing instrumentum inscriptum.

The participation, since 2003, in the EDR project (EAGLE - Europeana), with a contribution to date of approximately 2,600 inscriptions, did not reduce the validity of the local RDBM. Thanks to a web data access reserved to the contributors (with an app for a mobile), the local RDBM remains the essential basis for any future research. It is an indispensable tool in order to relate to other datasets, which may share only a few fields with the original dataset, thus preserving data not necessarily shown by joint online queries.

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Fig. 1 – (a) Database screenshot of “monument”; (b) Database screenshots of “text”.

- **Fig. 1a**: Database screenshot of “monument”.
- **Fig. 1b**: Database screenshots of “text”.

The images depict database interfaces with fields such as “Supporto”, “Testo”, “Instrumentum”, and “Graffito-Titulus p.”. The text sections include details such as “CIL 05, 02799 Arch. Triset., 5, 1877-1878, p. 339, nr. 41 (C. Gregorutti) CIL 01 (2 ed.), 02171b” and “Timpo di Glove”. 

The text on the page discusses aspects of historical and archaeological data entry, likely emphasizing the importance of accurate and detailed records for studying and preserving historical sites and artifacts.