INTRODUCTION

This section presents and discusses case studies, virtuous practices and current proposals that aim to deepen the epistemological and theoretical reflection on the impact of digital technologies and linked knowledge-sharing on cultural heritage research strategies and archaeological mapping. These 18 short papers were initially conceived as contributions to the international Symposium held in Naples in November 2023 titled *Linking Pasts and Sharing Knowledge. Mapping Archaeological Heritage, Legacy Data Integration and Web Technologies for Modelling Historical Landscapes*, and are here collected and enriched with the insights generated through feedback and conversations. The initial purpose of the meeting was to bring together scholars, researchers and students from archaeology and digital humanities who are interested in exploring digital approaches to the semantic and graphic representation of present and past historical landscapes and to stimulate a cross- and interdisciplinary conversation. The discussions focused, in particular, on the synergies between Digital Humanities and Archaeology for the reuse and reinterpretation of digitised and born-digital resources, enabling new kinds of historical research questions and the enhancement of cultural heritage.

The papers were complemented by two practical workshops: one dedicated to the semantic annotation of digitised maps and the other to the topographic exploitation of anomalies in remotely sensed legacy data. Each workshop showed how digital tools and methods can become opportunities to reflect on the value of these palimpsests of signs whose reading is essential for the diachronic analysis of cultural landscapes and to explore directly the integration between innovative and traditional methods and sources for archaeological topography research.

The Symposium featured two main, and intertwined, themes that are echoed in the papers here collected. The first stream centred digital methods for the exploitation of archaeological legacy data and their semantic and topographic integration. Many institutions sit on large data sets from previous excavations, published and unpublished, whose digitisation, spatial mapping and re-analysis could greatly facilitate new research on historical landscapes. Case studies, such as those discussed by Borg and Iacopini on the use of historical cadastral maps to recontextualise Roman inscriptions, by Vitale and McDonough about investigating the evolution of historical sites in Great Britain through the labels on Ordnance Survey maps and by Russo, generating new insights from published pottery data through statistical and spatial analysis, contribute to draw a rich landscape of successes, as well as failures, in dealing with already-compiled research data sets and

documentation materials in both analogue and digital formats. Instead, Bran-
cato and colleagues apply digital tools to integrate heterogeneous legacy data
in order to create a deep map of historical landscapes in Southern Italy, using
a diachronic approach to investigate centuriation.

The second stream explores best practices for integrating digital tools into
research projects on both macro and micro scales. It introduces new audiences
to cutting-edge technologies and methodologies while critically assessing the
opportunities and challenges these approaches present. Specific insights into
the archaeological topography of urban landscapes are contributed by Azzari
and Liverani, who examine the complex integration and documentation
of source data for the 3D visualisation of an archaeological area in Rome.
Serlorenzi and colleagues highlight the potential of the SITAR platform
for sharing archaeological knowledge. A large-scale landscape approach is
exemplified in the contribution by Bogdani and D'Erasmo, who combine
new and old information to reconstruct the landscape of Albania in the 1930s;
Renda and others employ digital tools to analyse, visualise, and reconstruct
archaeological landscapes in the crucial ancient region of Campania.

We would like these and all the papers in the section to be read not as a
series of independent pieces, but as a multivocal conversation that highlights
diverse perspectives and links, different and original views on the digital
representation, either visual or semantic, of present and past historical land-
scapes, and strongly advocates for the reuse of existing datasets, even when
deceptively obsolete.

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