

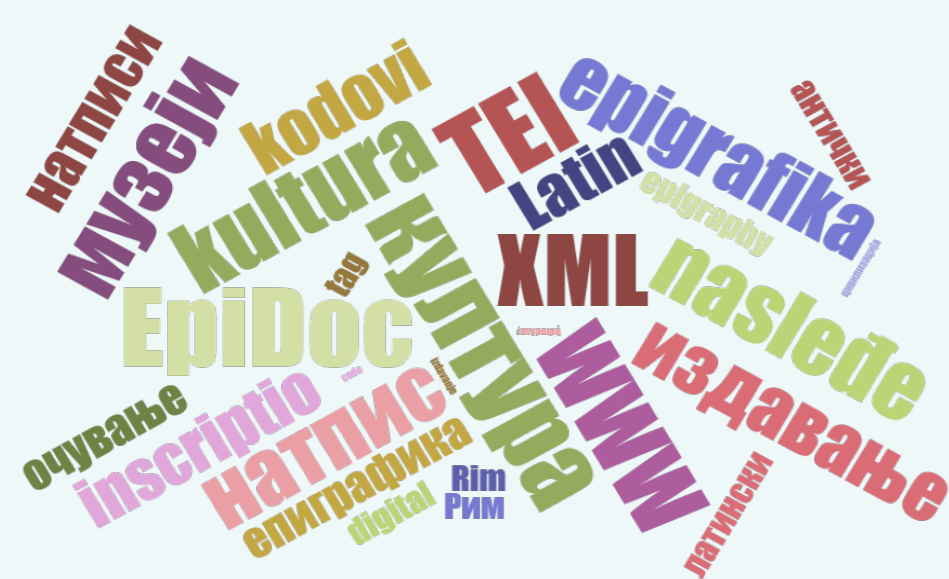


# Digitization of Ancient Epigraphic Heritage: Project EpiDoc XML Encoding of Roman Inscriptions from Serbia

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## About the Project

The project EpiDoc XML Encoding of Roman Inscriptions from Serbia: Digitization of Ancient Epigraphic Heritage is carried out by the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia. It focuses on research, training, digital documenting and digital edition of Roman inscriptions from the territory of Serbia (the Roman province of Upper Moesia and parts of Lower Pannonia, Dalmatia and Thrace).



The project's primary aim is to form a national e-archive of inscriptions that will be encoded in EpiDoc TEI-XML format. This collection of digital corpora will represent a completely new epigraphic edition that is furthermore born-digital and ready for interchange. The project is envisioned as a core for networking and intensifying the collaboration between academic and cultural institutions. Its mission is to educate, inspire and instigate collaborative work and new concepts in epigraphic research.



[www.digitalepigraphyserbia.rs](http://www.digitalepigraphyserbia.rs)

## Methods and Activities



### Documentation

The work begins with documentation. The team is digitizing and updating the existing epigraphic documentation and compiling new records, scanning photographs, films and publications.



### Fieldwork

The project team is undertaking fieldwork to determine the exact locations of monuments, check readings on stone (autopsy) and gather other important details about monuments. An important task is taking digital photos of monuments and making squeezes of inscriptions if necessary. Some of the epigraphic monuments have been photographed by our team the first time or after a century.

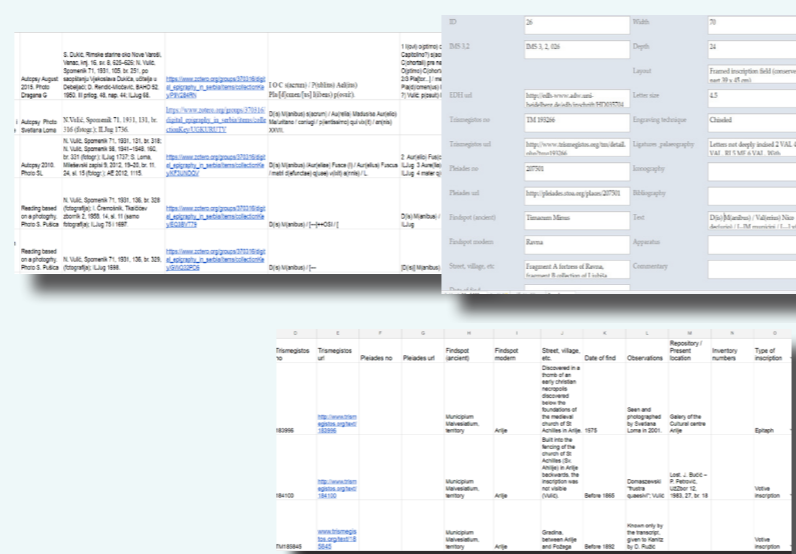


For that purpose, a series of collaborations with museums and local cultural institutions has been established.



### Data processing

The data (metadata, bibliographies, edition, apparatus, etc.) are processed and entered in tables which are used as a working database. These data are later encoded in TEI-XML.



## Bibliographies

The bibliographic database of the project contains bibliographic references about the ancient inscriptions in Serbia. It is compiled in Zotero, a free reference management software, and it is available online. It is divided into Epigraphic bibliography and Epigraphic documentation.



## Encoding inscriptions in EpiDoc TEI-XML

The processed inscriptions will be encoded in EpiDoc TEI-XML\*\* and published electronically by collections. EpiDoc is a set of recommendations for mark-up in TEI-XML of ancient inscriptions (and other type of ancient texts, e.g. papyri).



One of many advantages of using XML (a semantic encoding language) for this kind of work is its durability as it is a format free from any platform and programme.

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</div>
</div>
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\*Text Encoding Initiative <http://www.tei-c.org>

\*\*eXtensible Markup Language <https://www.w3.org/XML/>



Institute for Balkan Studies

Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Funding:



Republic of Serbia

Ministry of Culture and Information