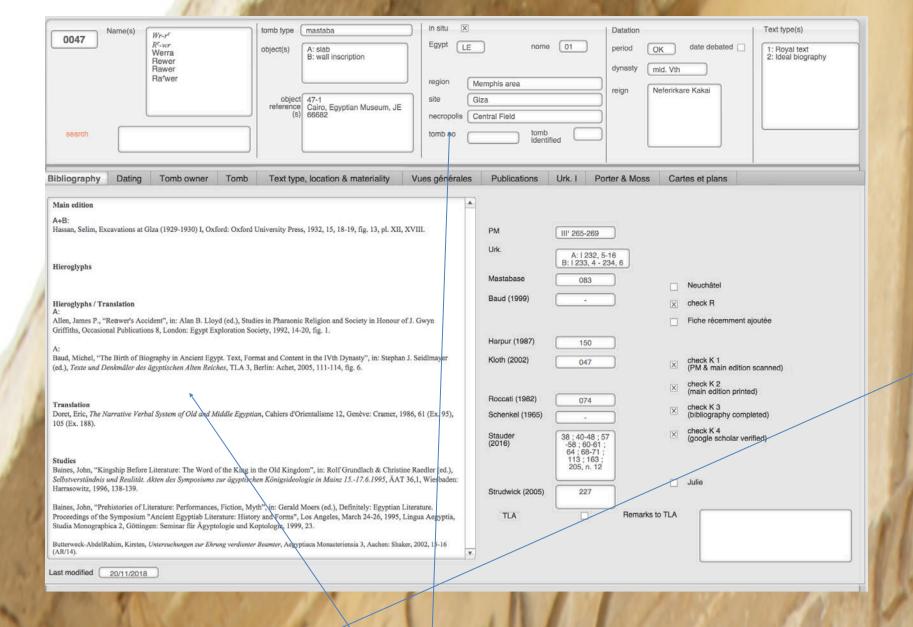
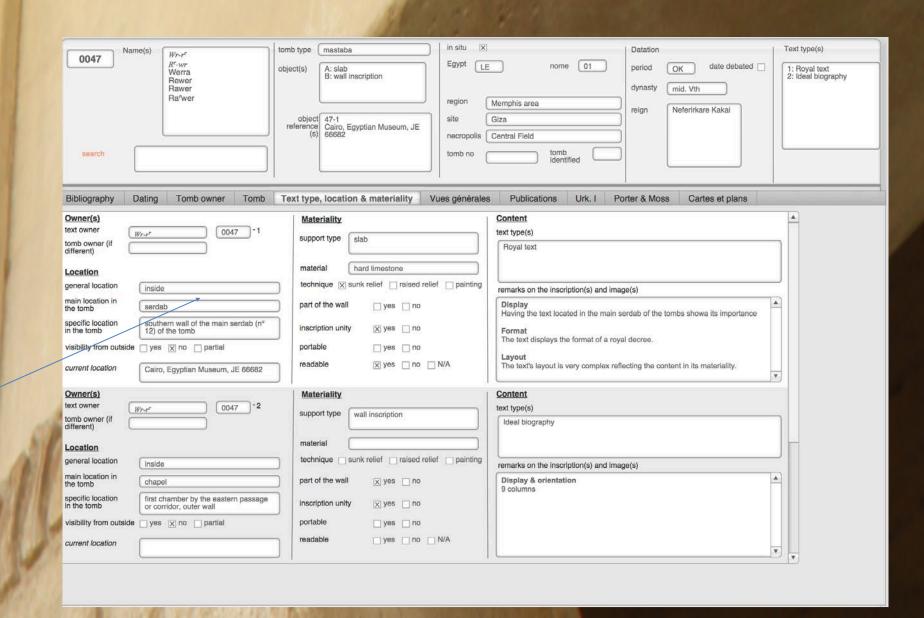
BUILDING A RICH DIGITAL CORPUS OF EGYPTIAN INSCRIPTIONS OF THE 3D MILLENNIUM BCE





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A database of texts in private funerary chapels of the Old Kingdom



In the project "Monumental Discourse in 3d millennium BCE Egypt," we have en developing a database "Old Kingdom texts in non-royal contexts." In a classic this makes accessible information about the texts such as: type of text, position ce and on the monument), epigraphic aspects, contents, tomb owner (identity dating, and bibliographical references.

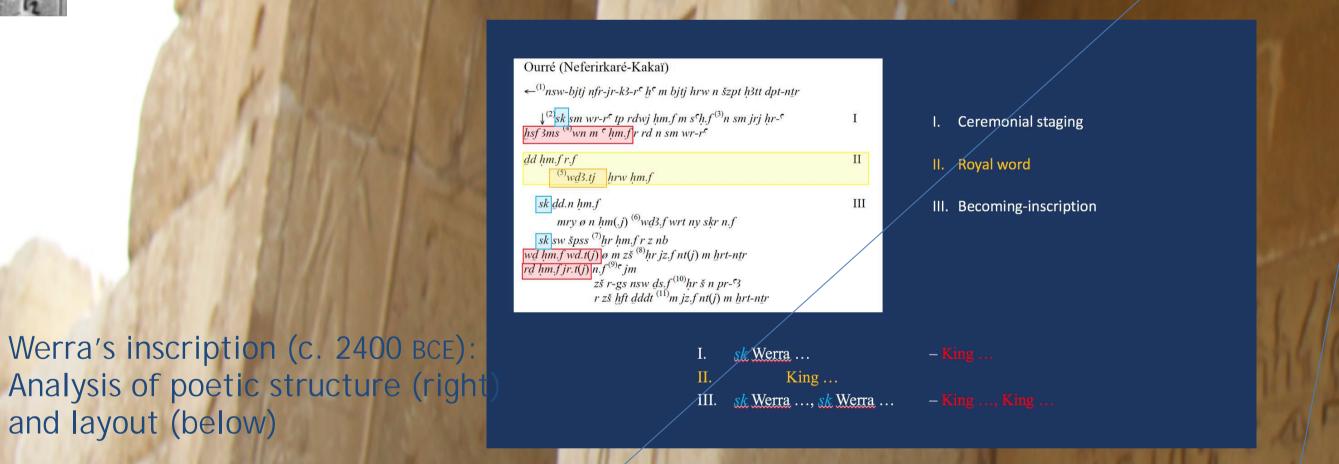
Extant digital corpuses of Egyptian texts are limited to the transcriptions of words, in some cases related to a digital thesaurus, and rarely with grammatical markup. Various questions arise in devising a digital corpus meant to represent Egyptian inscriptions as complex multi-layered text artifacts.



jnk z3b zš rk jzzj z3b shd zš jnk z3b shd zš n rk wnjs z3b ^cd-mr jn ttj nb(.j) (w)d w(j) m z3b cd-mr(w)d w(j) m htj-tp nsw hrj-tp nsw $rd.n \ hm.f \ jr.t(j) \ n(.j) \ \emptyset$ n rh hm.f rn(.j) n rh hm.f rn(.j) m jtt zš n cw.f ny-wnt h3 nb sh3 n.f w(j) dd.n.f s3r jr.n(.j) zš hr hm.f m-h3t zšw jr.n(.j) sr hr hm.f m-h3t srw h3(.j) r wj3 % stp-z3jwt(.j) r w3wt hrj-tp nsw jr.t(j) 3wt mr m hrj-tp nsw sk w(i) m z3b cd-mr ny-wnt jry.t(j) mrtt n mrt(.j) nb m r3-c mm srw z3b shd zš sk w(j) m z3b shd zš n rh hm.f rn(.j) tny r b3k nb n rh hm.f rn(.j)

nalysis of poetic structure. Hesi's inscription (c. 2300 BCE):

m, mirrored in layout (col. 1-2; col. 3; col. 4-5 The composition is a tripartite for and focusing on the middle part. The form is palindromic, with the titles and other expressions in the first part (col. 1-2) recuring in reversed order in the last (col. 4-5) see right part of image



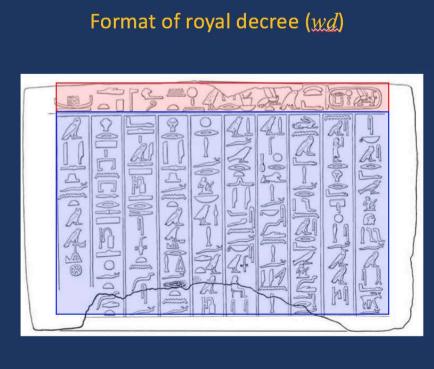
Dimensions to be represented in a rich digital corpus

Inscriptions are complex objects well beyond what their words say. A rich digital corpus ought to include not only an image of the inscription, its transcription, its translation, and the relevant metadata (derived from the above textual database). It must also represent:

- non-trivial dimensions of grammatical analysis;
- intertextual relations with other texts of the same genre (to begin with these) and beyond;
- composition and poetic structure (metricalization);
- layout on the material support (including the metricalization of the text as a lapidary inscription).

The first two dimensions can be realized through extensive markup; the second also implies building an ad hoc thesaurus of formulaic expressions and recurrent clusters of language. The third and fourth dimensions must be represented visually, with added commentary.

A "workspace" would (classically) include an image of the inscription, its transcription, and its translation (all scrollable zoomable, and re-sizable). Mouse-overs and clicks would permit multi-dimensional consultation of the objects, as well navigation to other, similar or intertextually allied, objects. Toggl should permit to switch to the images with analyses of con and layout.



wd hm.f wd.t(j) a m zš (8)hr jz.f nt(j) m hrt-ntr $rd\ hm, fir.t(j)\ n.f^{(9)}$ im zš r-gs nsw ds $f^{(10)}hr$ š n pr- '3 r zš hft dddt (11)m jz,f nt(j) m hrt-ntr

and layout (below)

"His Majesty decreed that it be put in writing (8) on his tomb which is in the necropolis. His Majesty caused that there be established for him (9)a document on this subject, written in the presence of the king himself (10)in the workshop of the Palace, to write it down in accordance with what was said,

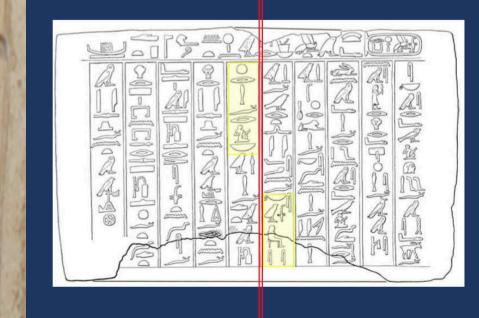
(11)in his tomb which is in the necropolis."



⁽⁵⁾wd3.ti " '(5) Be whole!' " (6)wd3.f.wrt (...) "(6)that he be whole fully ..."

- \rightarrow Lapidary inscription (...) ⁽⁸⁾ $hr_jz_sf_nt(j)$ m $hrt-ntr_s$
- "... (8) on his tomb that is in the necropolis"

 $(\ldots)^{(11)}m$ jz f nt(j) m hrt-ntr"...) (11)in his tomb that is in the necropolis."



sk sw špss and as he was eminent

(7) hr. hm.f. r z nb

(7) with His Majesty more than anyone,



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in situ inscriptions), and/or with the authors or situations are diverse and often complex for the laym researcher). As discussion with colleagues con problem shows, a widespread need is felt for



Salle des antiquités égyptiennes, Louvre, Paris