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Deciphering Demotic Digitally

The Demotic Palaeographical Database Project – DPDP

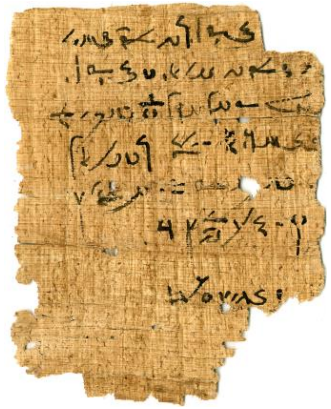
Claudia Maderna – Fabian Wespi – Jannik Korte

Egyptological Institute – University of Heidelberg

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

towards creating a Demotic palaeography…

PALAEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH



- DATE
- PROVENANCE
- COMPOSITION OF FRAGMENTS
- COMPARISON OF HANDS

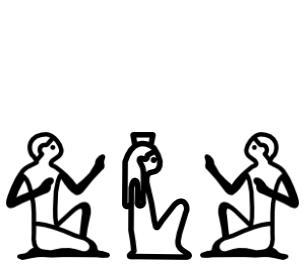


Abbildung: P. Heid. Inv. Dem. 750 a – © Institut für Papyrologie, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. http://zaw-papy.zaw.uni-heidelberg.de/fmi/xsl/Demotisch/home.xsl

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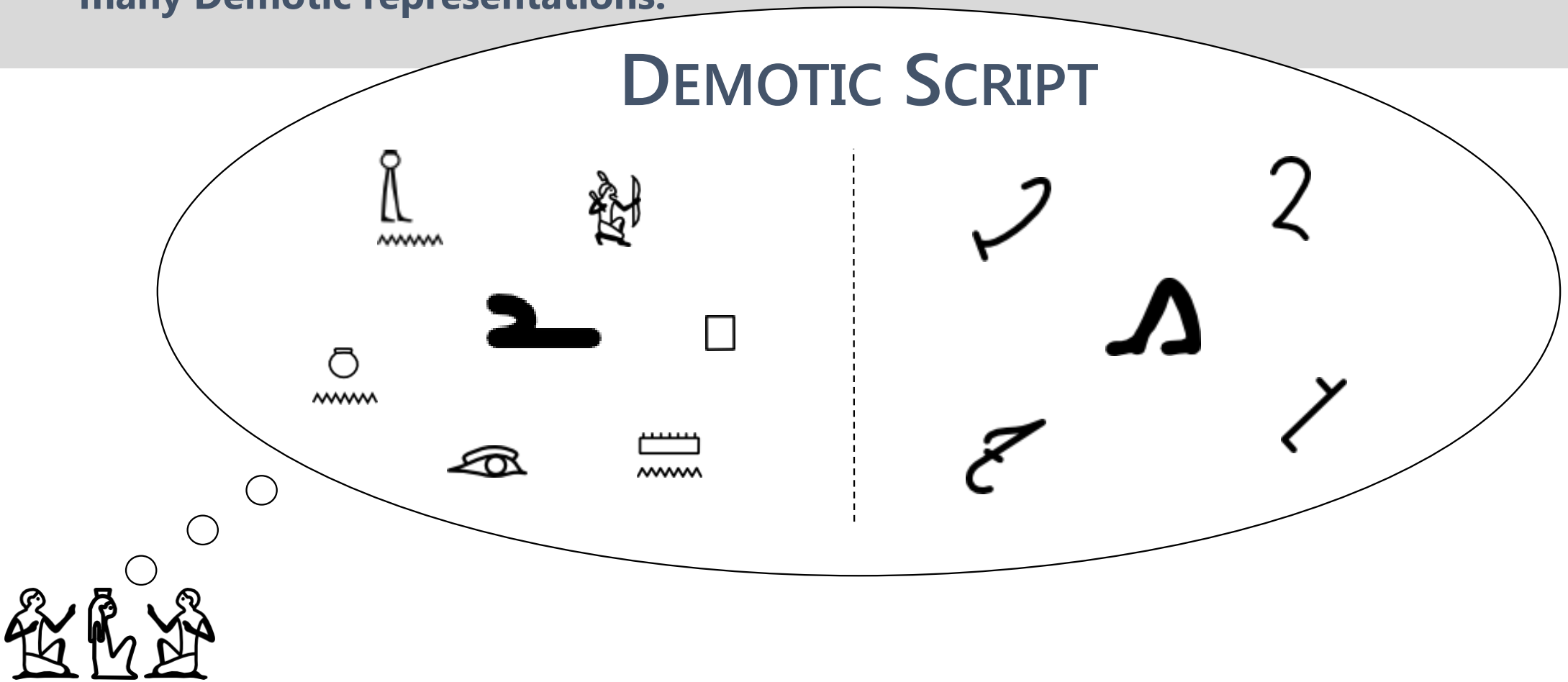
One Demotic sign – many hieroglyphic predecessors. One hieroglyph – many Demotic representations.



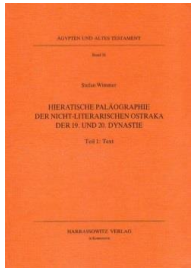
URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

Hieratic vs Demotic published palaeographies.

PALAEOGRAPHIES

HIERATIC

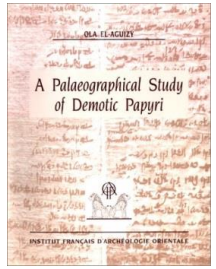
MÖLLER
1927-36



WIMMER
1995

VERHOEVEN
2001

DEMOTIC



EL-AGUIZY
1998

? ?

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towards creating a Demotic palaeography…

WHAT WE WANT…

- UNRESTRICTED CORPUS
- DATA ACQUISITION DOWN TO WORD- AND SIGN LEVEL
- CONFIRMABILITY OF READINGS
- WORD ORTHOGRAPHY
- UPDATABILITY

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towards creating a Demotic palaeography…

WHAT WE ALSO WANT…

- EXTENSIVE SEARCH OPTIONS (DEMOTIC SIGNS, GRAMMAR, COMBINATIONS)
- DYNAMIC FILTERING (TIME, LOCATION, TEXTTYPE)
- BIG ENOUGH CORPUS WHILE SPECIAL FORMS
- RESEARCH OPTIONS: SINGLE TEXT vs CORPUS
- AUTOMATIC MATCHING OF SIGN-REPERTOIRES

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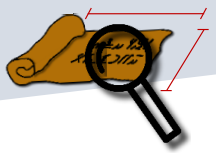
analysis functions

DEMOTIC SIGN-LIST

GLOSSARY OF WORD SPELLINGS

PALAEOGRAPHY

OBJECT-CORPUS



TEXT-CORPUS

OBJECT-EDITOR

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

decipher…

DEMOTIC SIGN-LIST

Look up signs , formal or phonetic equivalences and clusters of signs

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

review...

PAPYRUS-EDITOR

Look up image, transcriptions and transliteration

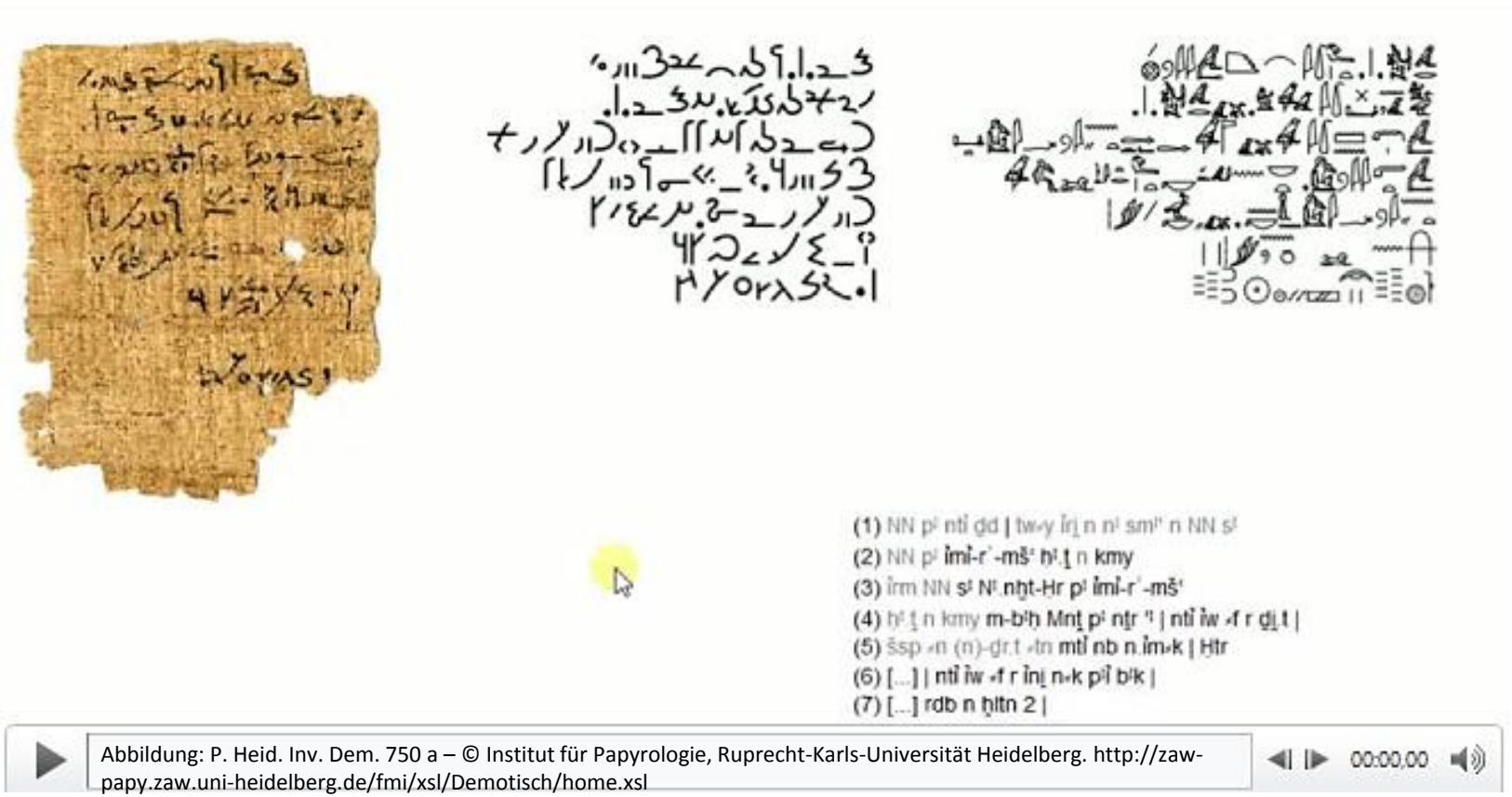


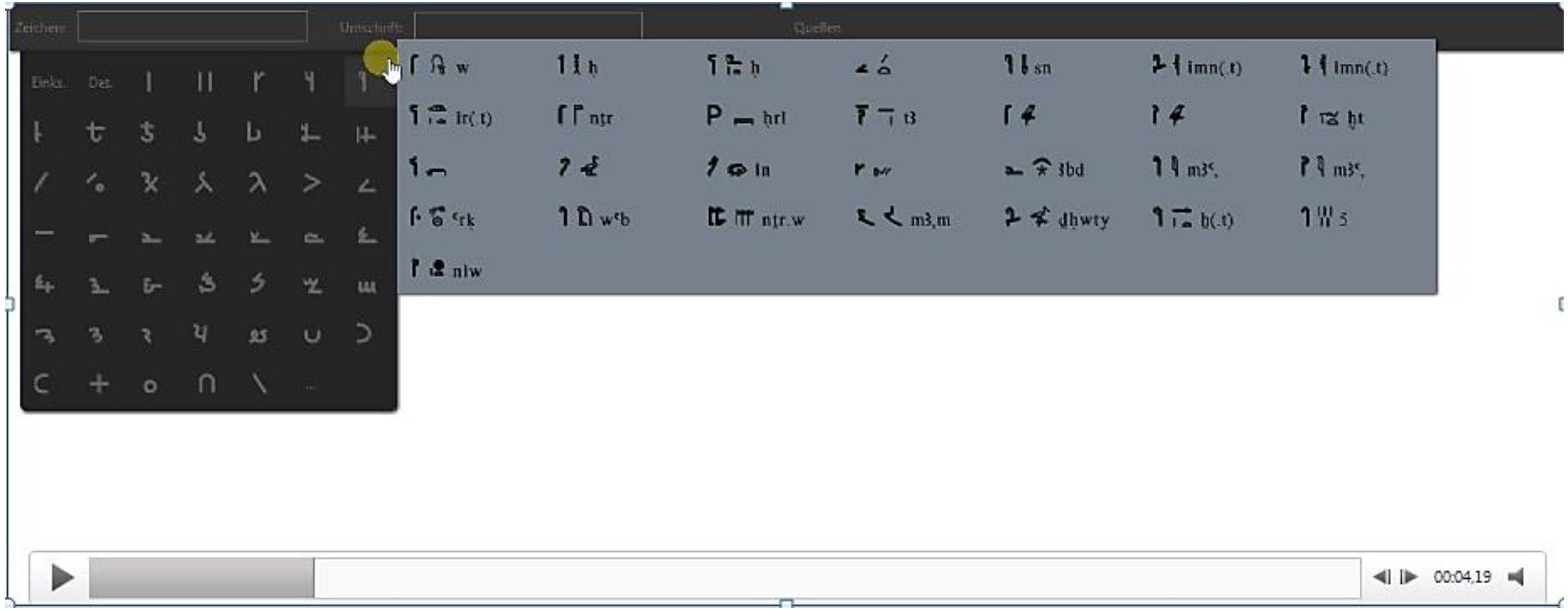
Abbildung: P. Heid. Inv. Dem. 750 a – © Institut für Papyrologie, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. http://zaw-papy.zaw.uni-heidelberg.de/fmi/xsl/Demotisch/home.xsl

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

compare and classify…

PALAEOGRAPHY

Look up shapes of signs; locate a scribal hand in time and space



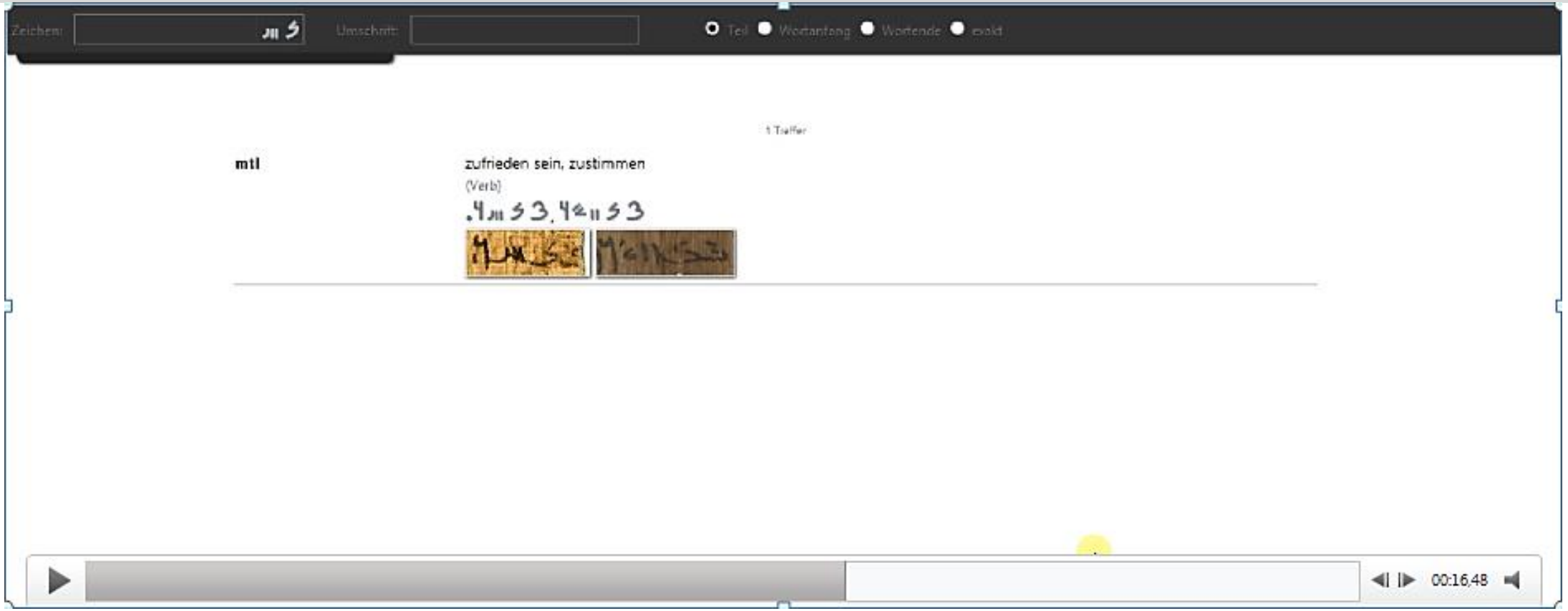
URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

decipher and classify…

GLOSSARY OF SPELLINGS

sḫ3:

Look up spellings of a word and find similar hands



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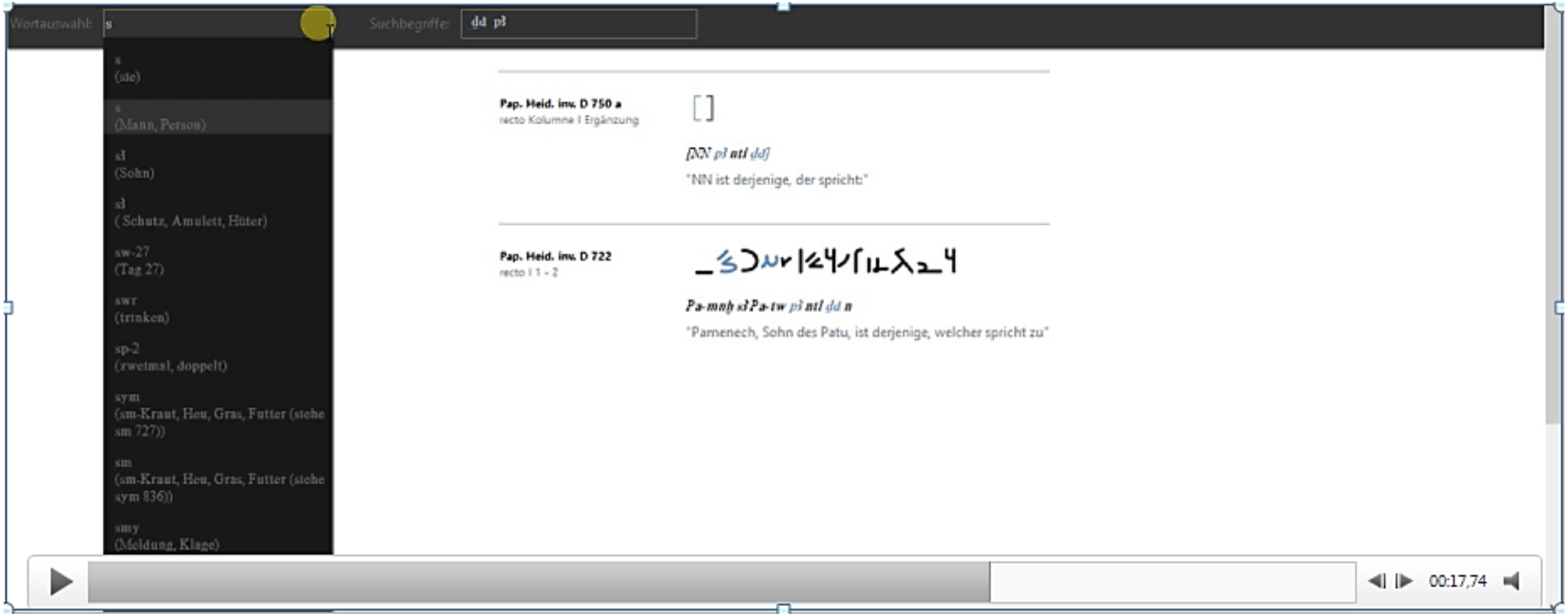
decipher and classify…

TEXT-CORPUS

Look up phrases and find similar constructions



URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

annotate and read…

PAPYRUS-EDITOR

papyri as digital editions

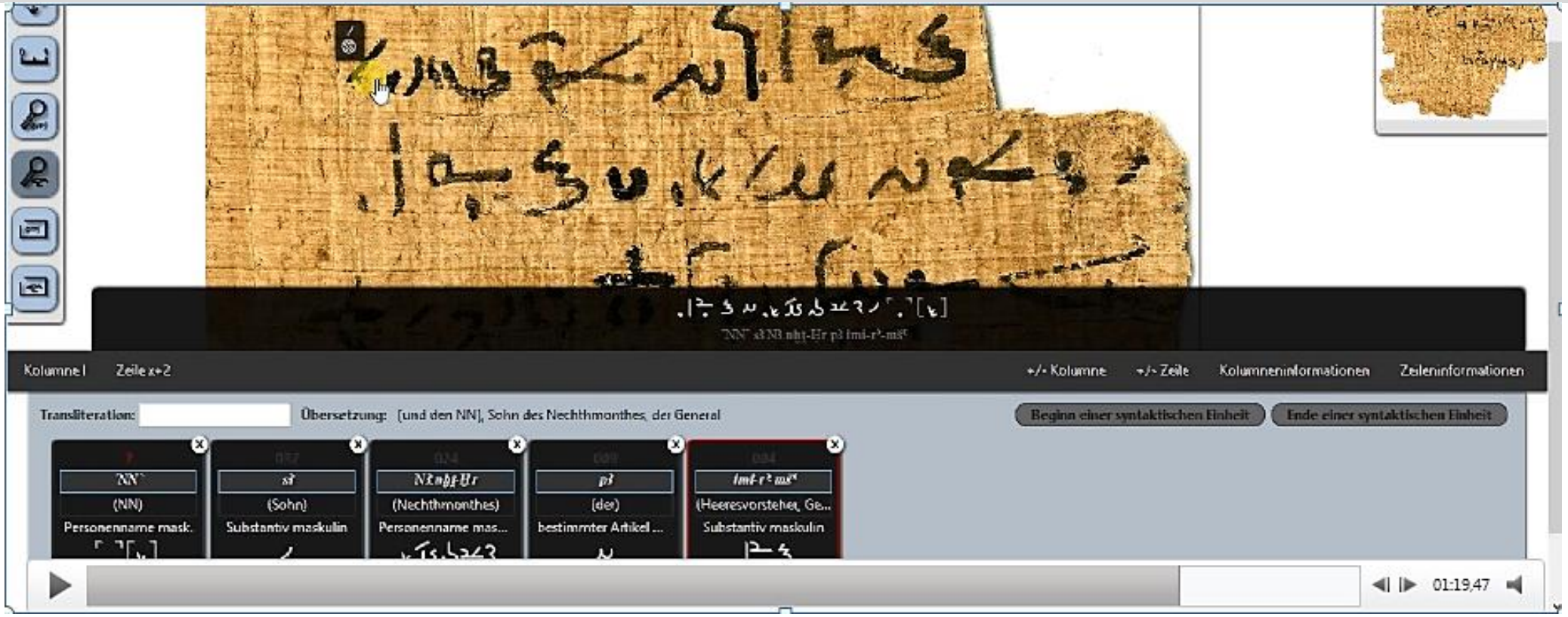


Abbildung: P. Heid. Inv. Dem. 750 a – © Institut für Papyrologie, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. http://zaw-papy.zaw.uni-heidelberg.de/fmi/xsl/Demotisch/home.xsl

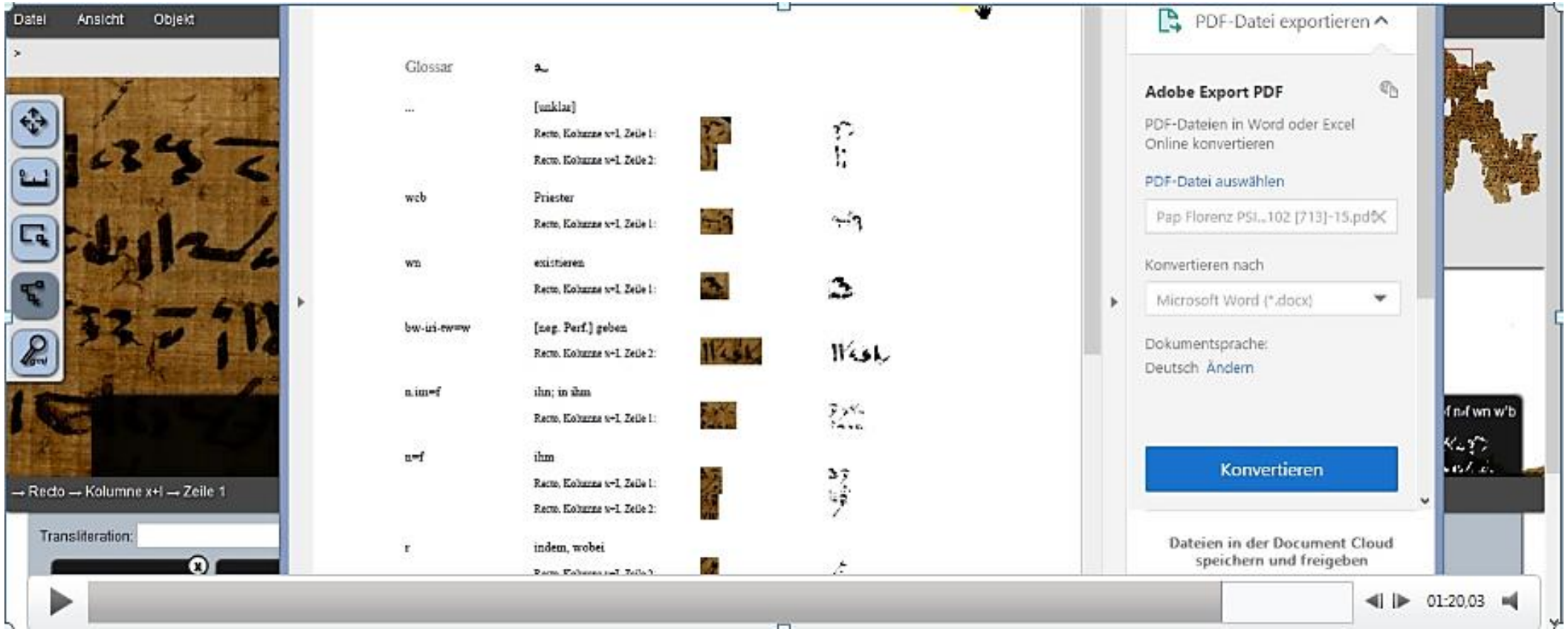
URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

PAPYRUS-EDITOR

create glossaries and facsimiles

create facsimiles

and a glossary



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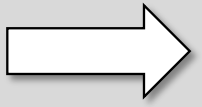
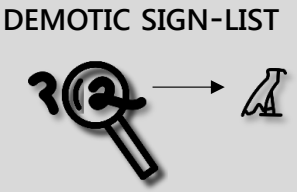
the two essential substructures



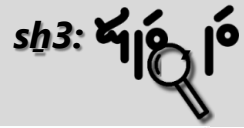


86	047			ʿ3	Logogramm
87	160			ʿn	Mehrkonsonantenzeichen
88	115			ʿn	Logogramm
89	103			nḫ	enklitisches Zeichen [bei Namen]
90	771			ʿnḫ	enklitisches Zeichen
91	753			ʿrḳ	Logogramm
92	752			ʿḥʿ	Mehrkonsonantenzeichen
93	754			ʿš	Mehrkonsonantenzeichen
94	748			ʿš3,	Mehrkonsonantenzeichen, Determinativ [Ex]
95	526			w	Einkonsonantenzeichen [kommen iw-Gruppe]
96	104			w	Logogramm [Plural, Suffix, Qualitativ]

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

the two essential substructures

LIST OF WORD SPELLINGS



wpy.t	Fest, Feststimmung	Substantiv feminin	
wn-n3.w	[Imperfekt]	Konverter Imperfekt	
wn-n3y	[Imperfekt]	Konverter Imperfekt	
wḫ3	suchen, wünschen, verlangen, sich sehnen, lieben, [Inf.:] Wunsch, Verlangen	Verb	
Wsir	Osiris	Substantiv Goettername maskulin	
wḏ3	unversehrt sein, gedeihen, (transitiv) schützen, sichern	Verb	
b3k	Urkunde, Schriftstück	Substantiv maskulin	
bw-irɪ	nicht können, damit nicht [Negation des Aorist]	Negation	

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

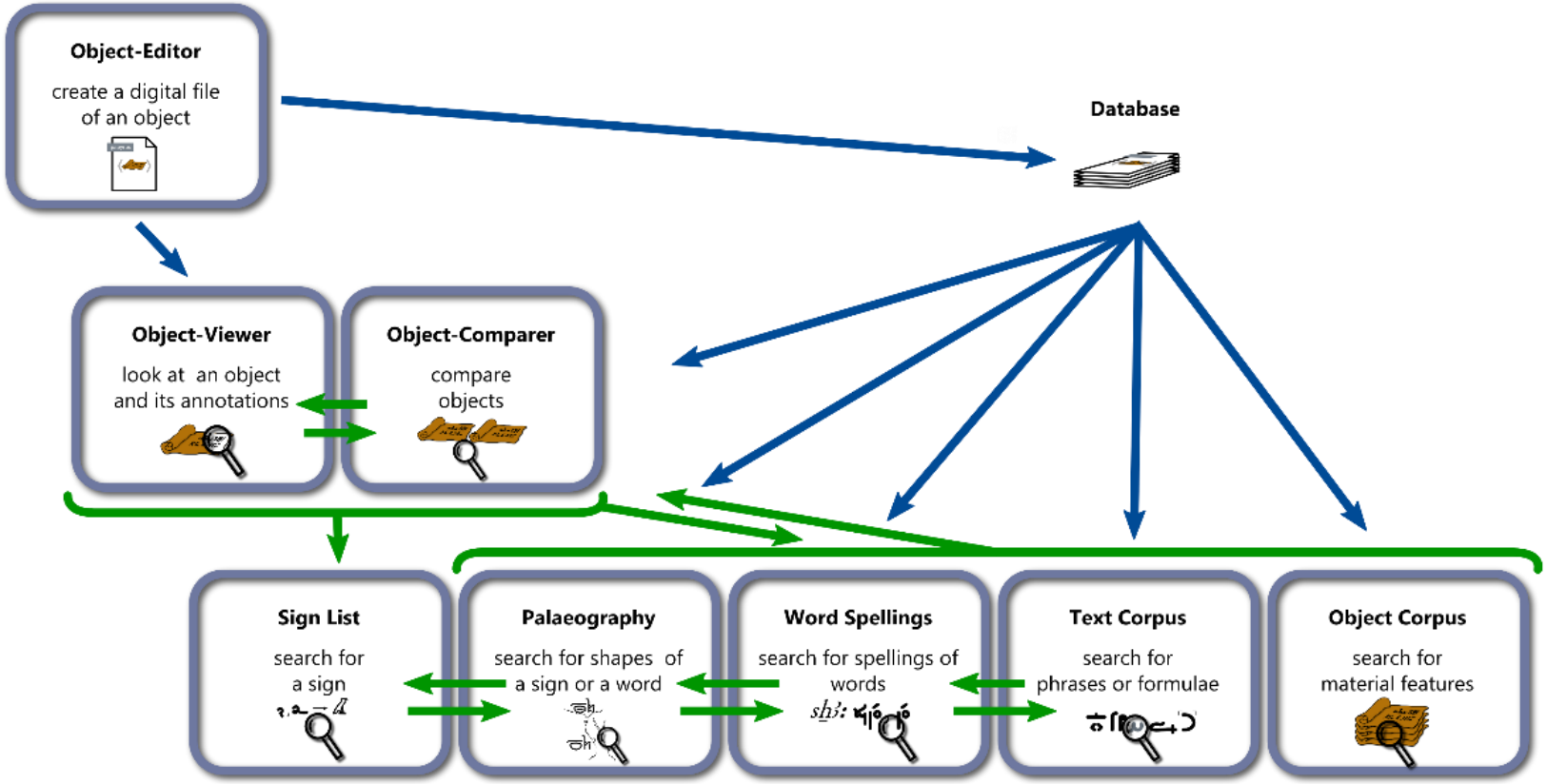
Part III: the conceptual and methodological background

create a dynamic, comprehensive, efficient and interlinked digital tool addressing palaeographical, orthographical, phraseological and material questions which might concern a Demotist working on demotic papyri.

- conceptual framework of the project
- data handling
- methods of collecting and sharing information

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

the concept



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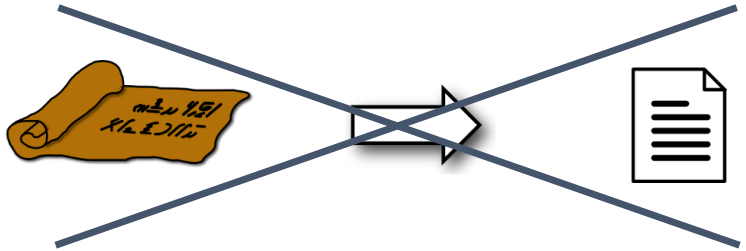
creating digital facsimiles of artefacts

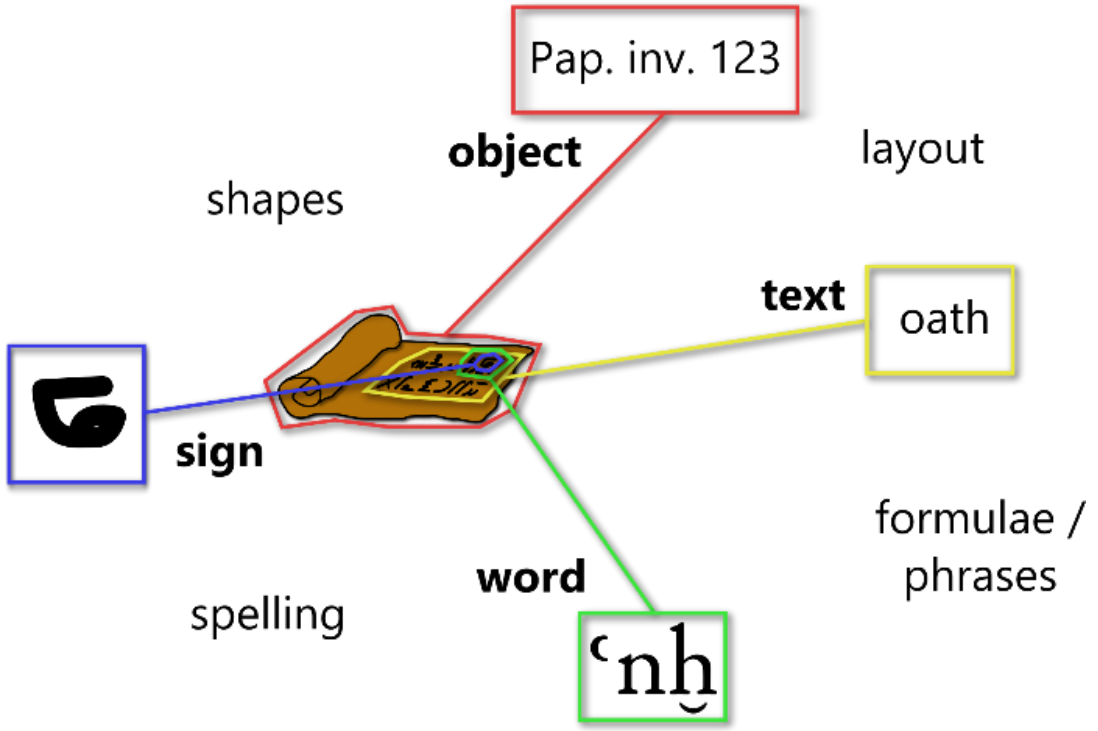
digitisation of texts



digitisation of objects

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

data annotation



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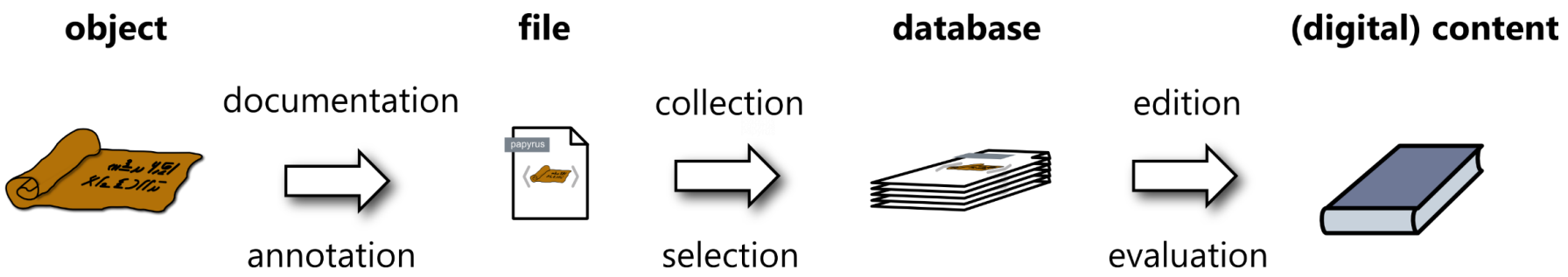
collecting and analysing data



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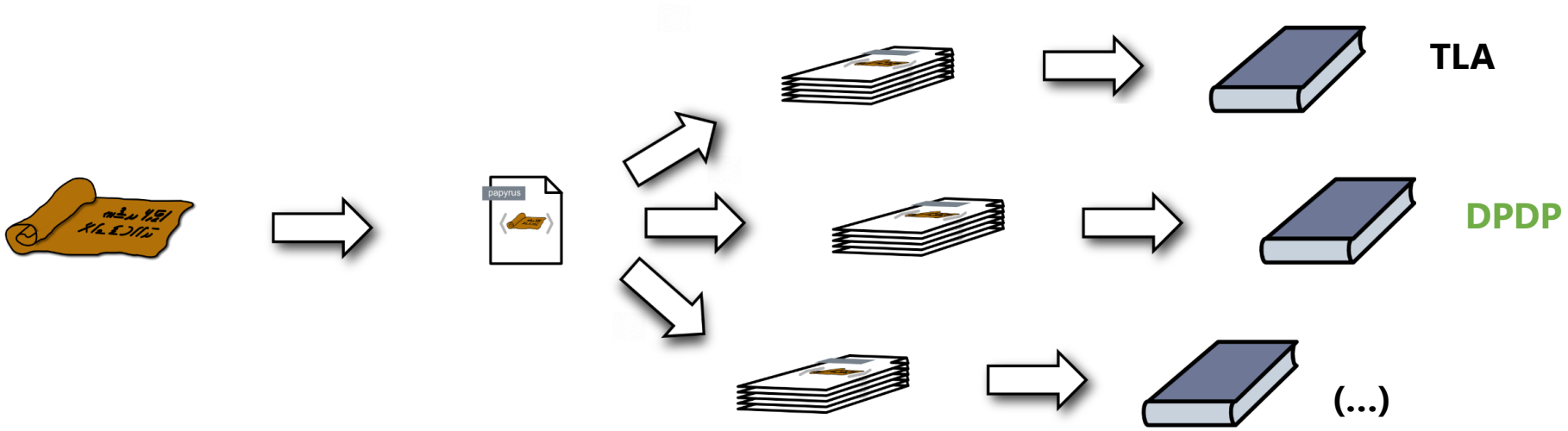
data sharing



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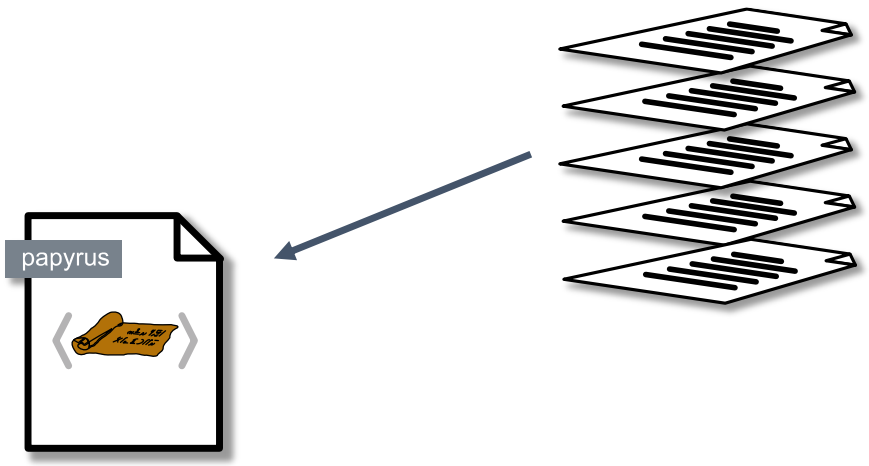
data enrichment



metadata on object ← **Trismegistos**

prosopographical annotations ← **Trismegistos**

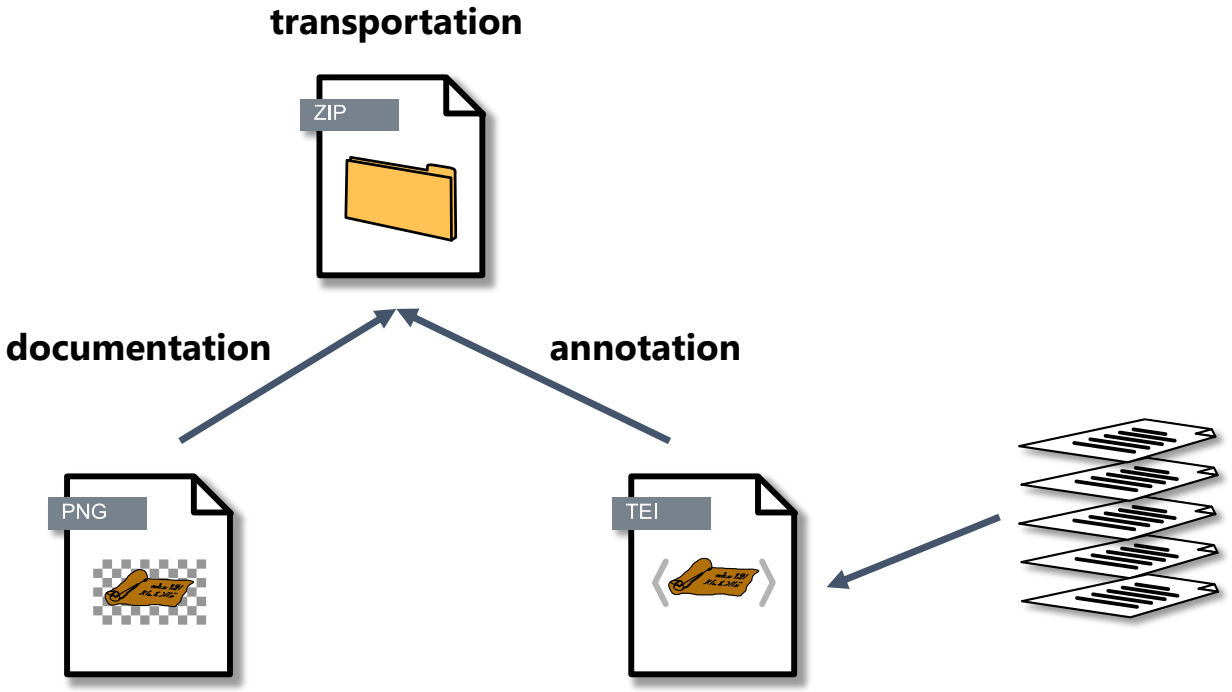
linguistic annotations ← **TLA**

ortho- and palaeographical annotations ← **DPDP**

(...)

URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

one file to rule them all



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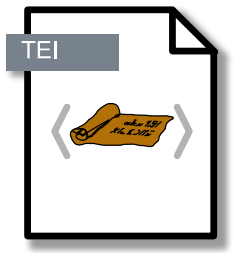
data normalisation

standardisation

form

egyptological TEI



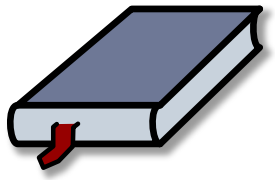
content

egyptological thesauri and identifiers

CDD / DWL / TLA → **lemmata**

DPDP → **signs**

(…)



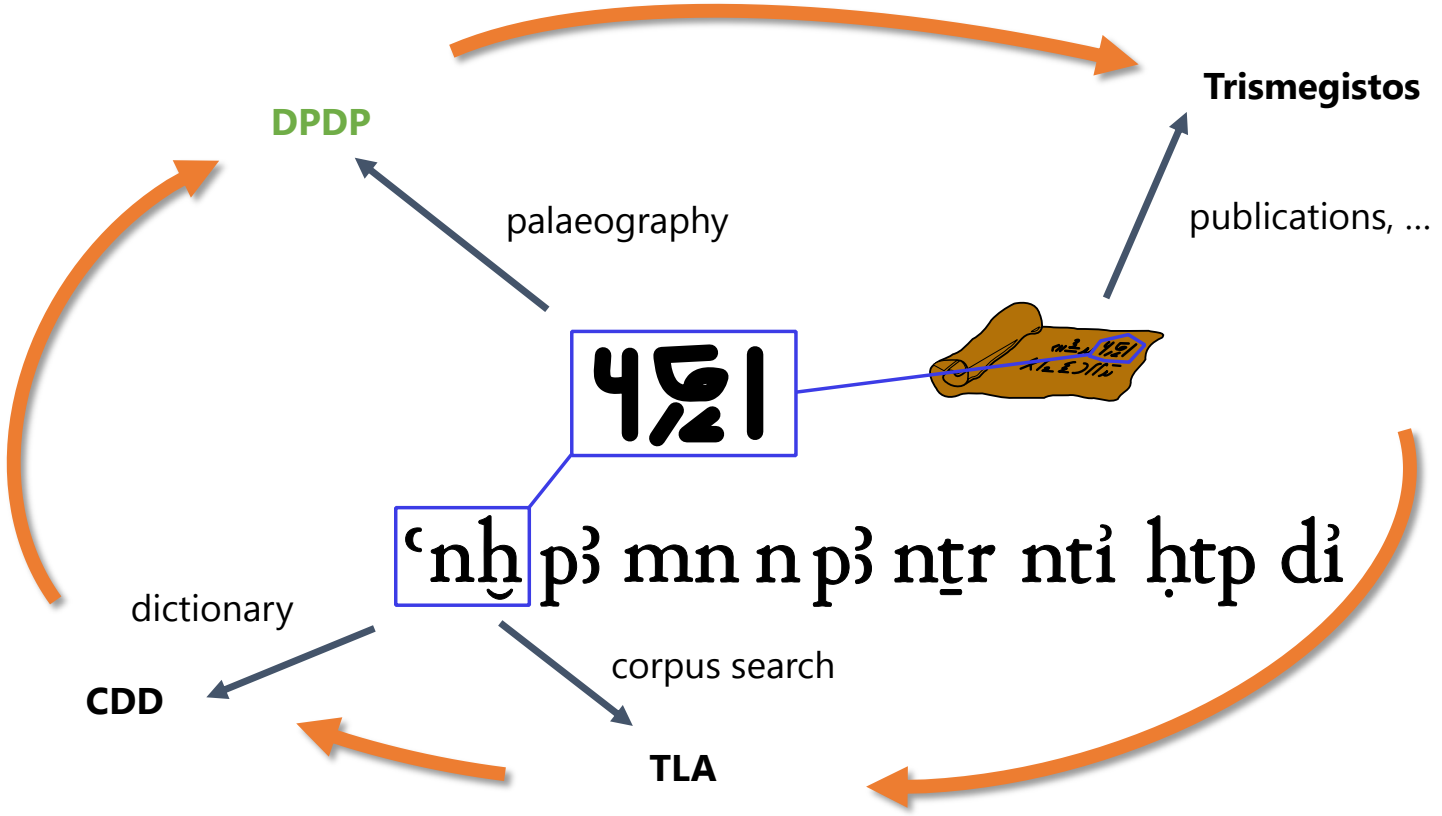
objects **← Trismegistos**

people **← Trismegistos**

places **← Trismegistos**

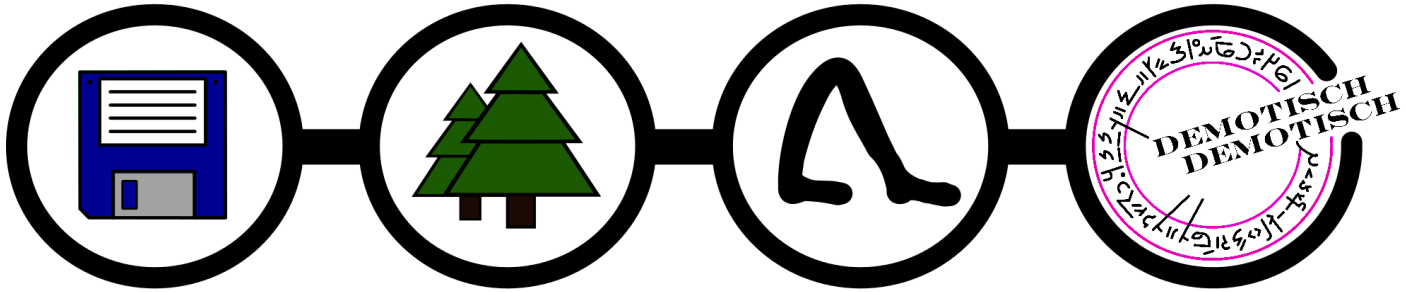
URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

data interlinking



URL: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa-201668

Thank you!



save the forest. go digital.

Demotisch Demotisch