

Making the Stones Speak

Charlotte Roueché
(King's College, London)

The aim of this presentation is to remind us that humanities scholarship and technology have been evolving on parallel lines, with crossovers. Sometimes the scholars make demands which technology cannot yet meet; sometimes the technology offers opportunities which scholars are slow to adopt. When I first considered publishing inscribed texts online, I was driven chiefly by the need to present a large amount of data as richly as possible. I discovered the functionalities provided by XML, and we were concerned with standards as enabling interoperability; but there were not many entities with which to inter-operate. Our first publications appeared in 2004 and 2007 (<http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/>); from 2008 it became possible to exploit Pleiades, which we then set out to do (<http://inslib.kcl.ac.uk/irt2009/>), before Pelagios came to simplify our lives (<http://commons.pelagios.org/>). We have learned to link by place; we are working on linking people (<http://snapdrgn.net/>), manuscripts (<http://www.diktyon.org/>), texts and fragments of texts (<http://www.ancientwisdoms.ac.uk/>). The world of Linked Data, means, not totalising projects/Big Data (however fashionable), but small specialist enterprises, based on a particular expertise, which can talk to one another. This is the new distribution of labour; in deciding who does what, the rule is: *I should do those things that only I can best do*, and render them discoverable to all the people who know more than I do about other things. The overall result ought to be a steady raising of scholarly standards.