"From Dictionary toSuperdocument: XML, the Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary, and the Universe"Steve Tinney, Babylonian Section, University of Pennsylvania Museum(stinney@sas.upenn.edu) The ever-increasing importance of computers ingathering, storing, and presenting knowledge brings with it the need to respondto the challenge of exploiting the potential of electronic informationmanagement to the maximum. But while it is natural to view knowledge managementfrom the viewpoint of eventual delivery or publication, whatever form it maytake, the issue of information reusability is at least as important, andarguably more so. Reusability requires well-structured information as well aspermission to reuse it and the means to access it. One of the promises of XMLand its increasing circle of friends and relatives is the provision of awell-defined means of defining information structure and accessibility, notonly as it relates to publication, but also as it relates to the storage andrelational organization of interconnected datasets. Several aspects andimplications of the above will be discussed in the present paper, particularlyas they relate to the ongoing development of an electronic version of thePennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary (ePSD). A brief orientation to relevantcomponents of the XML world will be followed by a discussion of some keyelements of the ePSD implementation. Some general considerations concerning therelationship between data, knowledge, dissemination and extant structures ofpublication and academia will also be offered. "The Ancient Egyptian DictionaryProject: Data Exchange and Publication on the Internet" Stephan Seidlmayer, Berlin-BrandenburgAcademy of Sciences and Humanities (seidlmayer@bbaw.de) Since 1993 the AncientEgyptian Dictionary project has been housed at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academyof Sciences and Humanities in Berlin. It aims to provide up-to-date lexicalinformation on the Egyptian language, supplementing and replacing the greatWörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache by Adolf Erman and Hermann Grapow, whichappeared in twelve volumes between 1926 and 1963, and which is outdated inimportant respects. As in the Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache, work at theAncient Egyptian Dictionary project is centered on compiling a comprehensivecorpus of Egyptian texts, which in turn provides the basis of the dictionary.Both the corpus of texts and the dictionary are produced as a database and willbe published in due course on the Internet. In this context, encoding Egyptiantexts in XML will play an important part, because this standard supportslong-term system-independent storage of the data, because it offers a commonplatform for the exchange of encoded texts and thus for internationalcooperation in the Ancient Egyptian Dictionary project, and because it opens upnew perspectives for the publication of the material on the Internet. Opendiscussion: "The Current State of Electronic Publication: Problems andPossibilities" Moderated by Charles Jones, Research Archivist andBibliographer, Oriental Institute (ce-jones@uchicago.edu) and John Sanders,Head, Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory (jc-sanders@uchicago.edu), Universityof Chicago Topics to consider include: (1) advantages and disadvantages(!?) ofelectronic publication as compared to traditional print publication; (2) goodand bad examples of electronic publications that are available today; (3) theimportance of cross-platform access based on non-proprietary open standards;(4) the limitations of HTML and the impact of XML/SGML;

(5) the availabilityand effectiveness of software tools for producing XMLbased electronicpublications; (6) the distinction between markup of content or logicalstructure and markup of style or presentation characteristics; (7) the meritsof facsimile reproduction versus transliteration of texts. "Creating,Integrating, and Expanding Electronic Texts in the Perseus Digital Library"Jeffrey Rydberg-Cox, Assistant Editor for Greek Language and Lexicography, ThePerseus Project (jrydberg@perseus.tufts.edu) The Perseus Project(http://www.perseus.tufts.edu) is an evolving digital library of resources forthe study of the ancient world and beyond. Collaborators initially formed theproject to construct a large, heterogeneous collection of materials, textualand visual, on the Archaic and Classical Greek world. Recent expansion intoLatin texts and tools and Renaissance materials has served to add more coveragewithin Perseus and has prompted the project to explore new ways of presentingcomplex resources for electronic publication. In this paper the data entrymethods, archival formats, and initial tagging process used by the PerseusProject will be presented, followed by a description of how tagged informationis used to create "interoperable" primary and secondary sources. Thesesecondary sources include research tools such as lexica, commentaries, andmorphological analyses, and plans are now being developed for the integrationof geographical data and architectural reconstructions as well. Mention willalso be made of the use by the Perseus Project of techniques from the fields ofinformation retrieval and corpus linguistics in combination with structureddata to add value to electronic works. "XML and Digital Imaging Considerationsfor an Interactive Cuneiform Sign Database" Sandra Woolley(s.i.woolley@bham.ac.uk) and Theodoros Arvanitis (t.n.arvanitis@bham.ac.uk),Educational Technology Research Group, School of Electronic and ElectricalEngineering, Tom Davis (t.r.davis@bham.ac.uk), Department of English, andAlasdair Livingstone (a.livingstone@bham.ac.uk), Department of Ancient Historyand Archaeology, University of Birmingham This presentation will summarize thework of a centrally-funded interdisciplinary team project at the University ofBirmingham, working toward an interactive database of cuneiform signs. Theproject team comprises cuneiform specialists from the Department of AncientHistory and Archaeology, digital imaging researchers from the School ofElectronic and Electrical Engineering, and a forensic scientist from theDepartment of English Literature. The presentation will describe the objectivesof the project, the findings of the first 12-month study, work in progress, andplans for future work. There will be a brief description of the basicprinciples of forensic handwriting identification, with examples. A proposeddatabase format, issues relating to XML coding of the data, and plans toimprove digital image representations of cuneiform signs will be presented.From the website of the University of Birmingham Cuneiform Database Project):The usual method of recording and publishing cuneiform material is through thetime-consuming process of copying by hand, and this method is also used in thestandard reference lists of cuneiform signs. Inevitably, the hand of the moderncopyist comes between the hand of the ancient scribe and the eye of the modernscholar who uses the copy. The University of Birmingham Cuneiform DatabaseProject seeks to apply the most recent research on digital representation andcompression to the particular challenges posed by cuneiform texts.

Relevanttechniques include those developed for industrial inspection and medicalimaging. One of the principal challenges involves three-dimensionalvisualization and computation, because a drawback of the traditionalhandcopying method is the fact that a three-dimensional script is representedin two dimensions on paper. A further interdisciplinary aspect of the CuneiformDatabase Project involves the adaptation of existing techniques of handwritinganalysis to the cuneiform writing system, providing a scientific system ofdescription that will enable an objective categorization of scripts and scripttypes. Open discussion: "Editing, Disseminating, and Preserving ElectronicPublications" Moderated by Charles Jones and John Sanders, Oriental Institute,University of Chicago With panelists Patrick Durusau, Interim Manager, InformationTechnology Services, Scholars Press (pdurusau@emory.edu), James Eisenbraun,Publisher, Eisenbrauns Inc. (jeisenbraun@eisenbrauns.com), and Thomas Urban,Senior Editor, Oriental Institute Publications Office, University of Chicago(t-urban@uchicago.edu) Topics to consider include: (1) the ease of"self-publication" on the Web and the role of peer review and editorialoversight; (2) maintenance and upgrading of delivery media, whether opticaldisks or Internet servers; (3) citation of electronic publications and theproblem of permanence; (4) the economics of electronic publication and the fateof traditional publishers; (5) institutional responsibilities for theestablishment of digital monograph series and journals. "The Achaemenid RoyalInscriptions Project" Gene Gragg (g-gragg@uchicago.edu) and Matthew Stolper(m-stolper@uchicago.edu), Oriental Institute, University of Chicago The aim ofthe Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions project) is to create an electronic studyedition of the inscriptions of the Achaemenid Persian kings in all of theirversions: Old Persian, Elamite, Akkadian, and, where appropriate, Aramaic andEgyptian. The edition is to be accompanied by translations, glossaries,grammatical indexes, basic bibliographic apparatus, basic text criticalapparatus, and some graphic apparatus (e.g., plans indicating provenience ofthe inscriptions, images of exemplars); the texts will be available fordownloading and printing. The first stage of the project presents theinscriptions from Persepolis and nearby Naqsh-i Rustam, where the OrientalInstitute of the University of Chicago carried out excavations between 1931 and1939. Close study and accurate use of these texts calls for synopticpresentation of the versions.

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN TEXTS

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