

EGYPTIAN PLACES AND PLACE NAMES IN A DIGITAL WORLD

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A framework for modelling and analysing an ancient space

Digital Infrastructure for Named Entities Data, Leipzig, 12th January 2017

EGYPTIAN PLACES AND PLACE NAMES IN A DIGITAL WORLD OUTLINE

Some background

What do we have? What do we want? How should we proceed?

Ancient Egyptian texts and place names

What is an ancient Egyptian (hieroglyphic) place name?

----- personal name?

Data model

Illustration

SOME BACKGROUND

- Monographs on Tell el-Balamun (master thesis) and Tell Faraun (PhD thesis)
- Digitization of the *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Statues, Reliefs and Paintings*, (aka 'Porter & Moss', one of the main project at the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford (2012-2015))
- Current work on Thot – Thesauri and Ontology for document ancient Egyptian resources



A screenshot of the website 'The Digital Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Statues, Reliefs, and Paintings'. The website features a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'THE PUBLISHED VOLUMES', 'THE DIGITAL TOPBIB', 'THE PROJECT', and 'FEEDBACK'. The main content area includes a 'News' section with a post from 14 July 2014 and a 'Shortcuts' section with links to 'Case-studies' and 'Tech corner'. There are also two featured sections: 'The published volumes' and 'The Digital TopBib'.

A screenshot of the website 'THOT - THESAURI & ONTOLOGY for documenting Ancient Egyptian Resources'. The website features a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'THESAURI', 'TEI INTERCHANGE FORMAT', and 'ABOUT THIS WEBSITE'. The main content area includes a 'Thanks to the Anneliese Maier Research Award' section, a 'Thesauri' section, and a 'TEI exchange format' section. There are also two featured sections: 'The published volumes' and 'The Digital TopBib'.

<http://topbib.griffith.ox.ac.uk/>

<http://thot.philo.ulg.ac.be/>

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

1. Place names occurring in (ancient) texts, which...

- a) simply mention them
- b) or give more or less extended descriptions of the place in question;

2. Archaeological entities

- a) Spottable on a map, or not;
- b) Designated by name(s) used by locals, administration or archaeologists
- c) Which can be, furthermore, place of provenance of texts

WHAT DO WE WANT?

1. (Digital) repositories of
 - A. Ancient Places
 - B. Modern Places
 - C. Ancient place names
 - D. Actors and agents linked to these places
2. Links between these resources in order to model the ancient space

HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?

1. Identifying names in texts

A. Corpus analysis

- I. Corpus of 'geographical texts'

- II. 'General' corpus
 - Use of the Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae (TLA)

B. Name analysis

- I. Annotation
- II. Spottable on a map, or not
- III. Identifiable by one or multiple names

C. Actors and agents who...

- ... populate places
- ... and create places.

2. Identifying sites

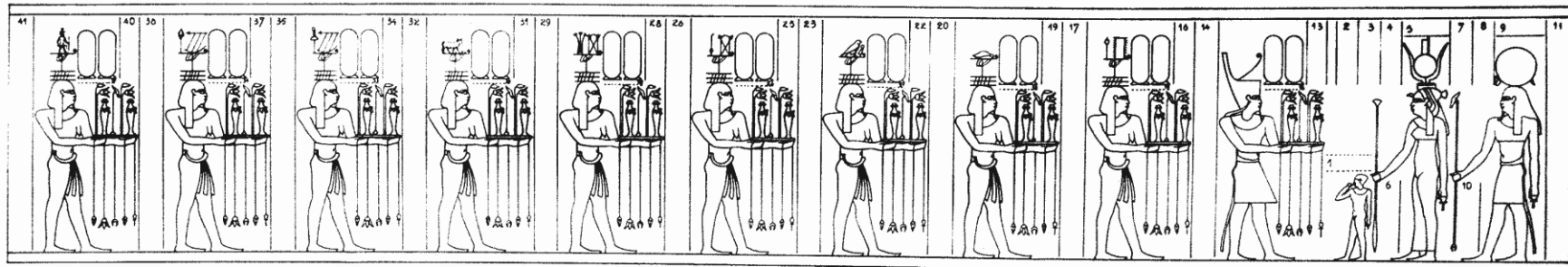
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PLACE NAMES & TEXT CORPUS

1. Corpus of geographical texts
 - A. The “soubassement” procession’s texts from ancient Egyptian temples

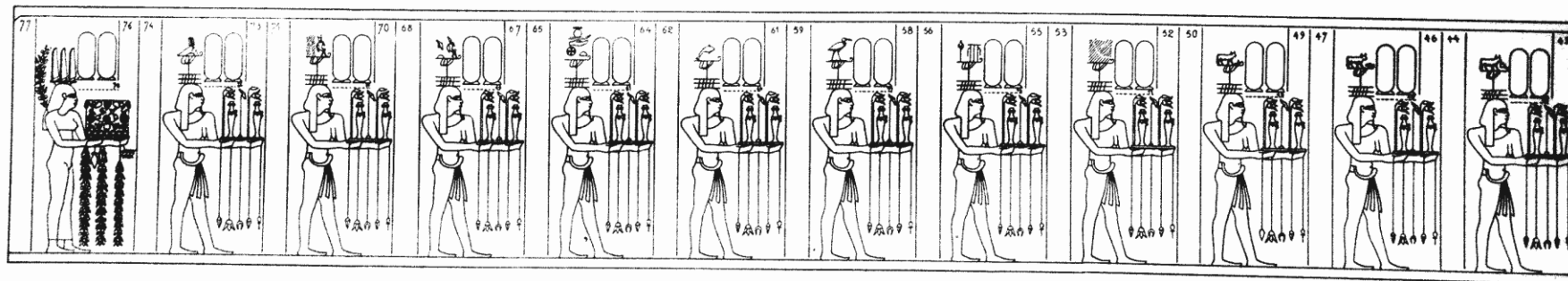
LOCATION OF PROCESSIONS



OVERVIEW OF A PROCESSION



Paroi Ouest



Paroi Ouest [suite]

B. A. EL-MALEK



TYPES OF PROCESIONS

1) Geographical processions

- forty-two Nile-Gods, each representing one *sepat* (province)
- the so-called 'quadripartite processions' in which each *sepat* is represented by 4 fecundity figures (hence 42 x 4 figures):
 - *Sepat* itself;
 - Canal-*mr*;
 - *Ou*-territory;
 - *Pehu*-territory

2) Hydrological processions

- give the various names of the Nile flood

3) Processions of couples made of floods & campaigns

4) Economic processions

- Presenting products from everywhere in Egypt

Text structure

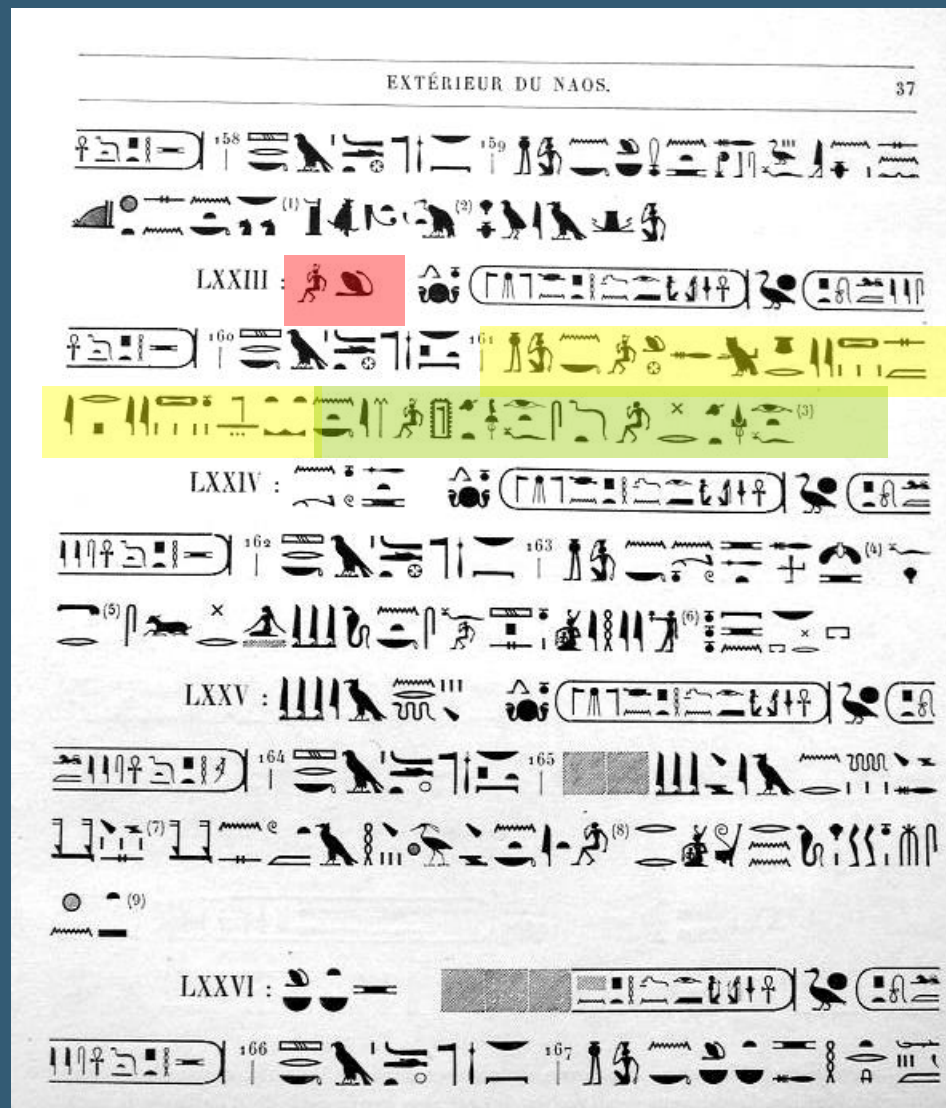


Text on standard

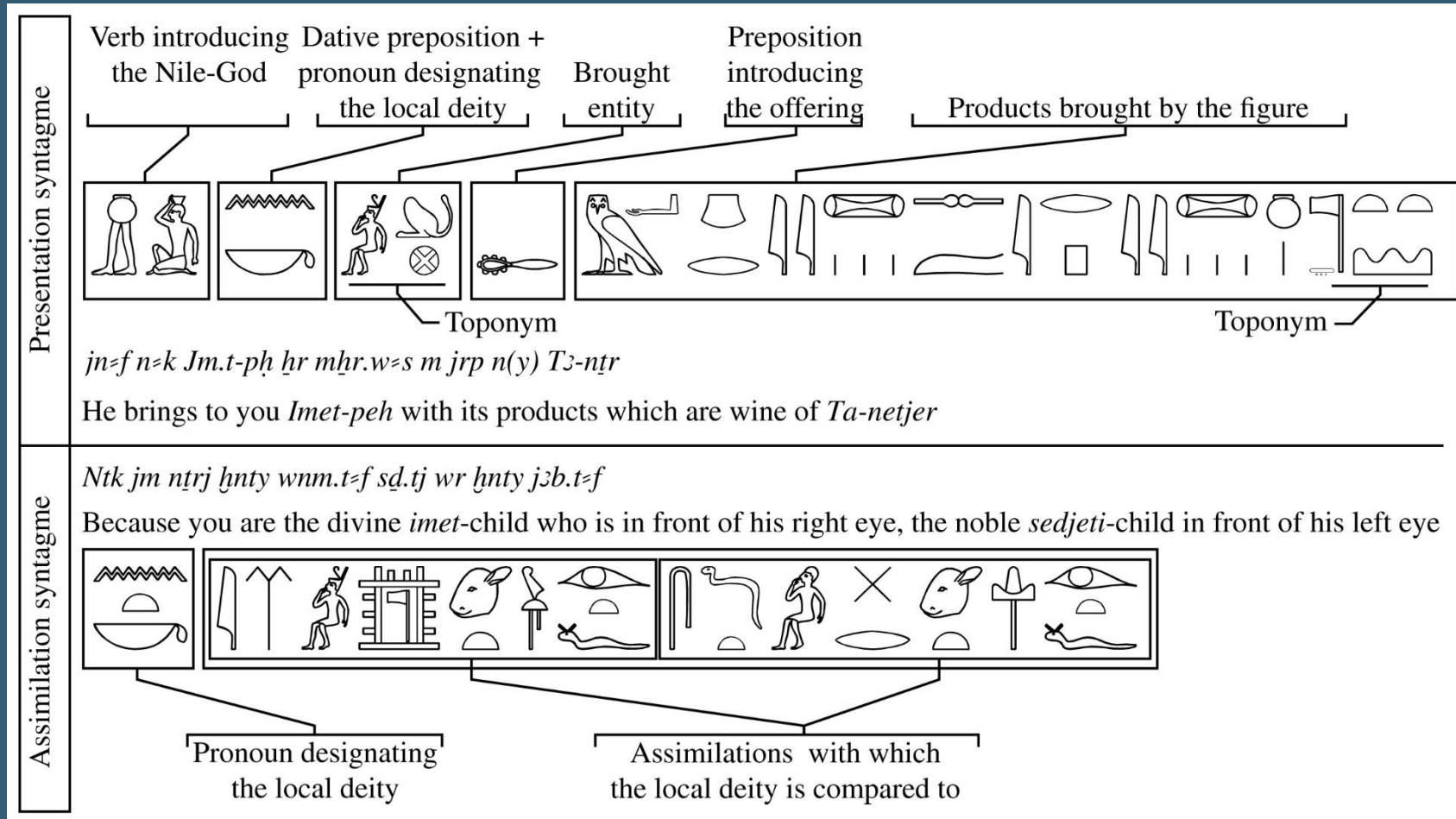
The Entity & what it brings

Assimilation gloss

Example of a published text
Edfou IV, 37



TEXT CONTENT



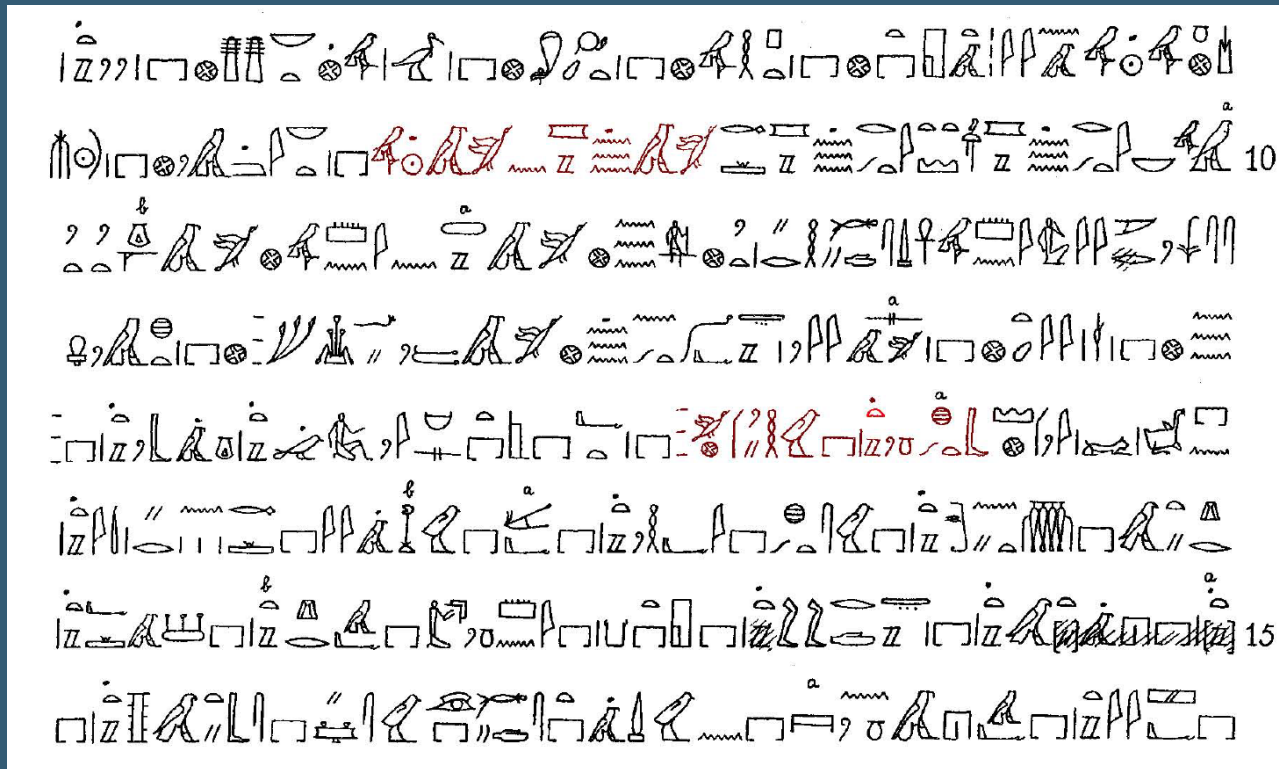
Quadripartite Procession, External Corridor, Horus temple in Edfou. 19th sept. Texts dealing with the sepat itself

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PLACE NAMES & TEXT CORPUS

1. Corpus of geographical texts
 - A. The “soubassement” procession’s texts from ancient Egyptian temples
 - B. Onomastica and topographically arranged texts

Handwritten Coptic text in a single column, featuring various diacritics and some red ink corrections. The text is organized into approximately 15 horizontal lines, with line numbers 5, 10, and 15 visible on the right side. The script is a form of Coptic, likely from the late antique or early medieval period. The text appears to be a list or a collection of names, consistent with the title 'Onomasticon of Amenemope'.

Onomasticon of Amenemope



Onomasticon of Amenemope, 5, 9-13

Pa-mu-en-pa-Ra ‘The-Water-of-Ra’

Per-nebet-Imet ‘House-of-the-Lady-of-Imet’

Per-Ramessu-mery-Imen, Pi-Ramsse

Shedeheru

Anedjet Busiris

Pa-iou-en-Imen ‘The-Island-of-Amun’

Pa-Khasuu Xoïs

Per-Uadjet Bouto

Per-say-ta, Psito

Djanet Tanis

Patjufy

Pa-khetem-en-Tjaru, ‘The-Fortress-of-Sile’



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PLACE NAMES & TEXT CORPUS

1. Corpus of geographical texts
 - A. The “soubassement” procession’s texts from ancient Egyptian temples
 - B. Onomastica and topographically sorted texts
2. General corpus of ancient Egyptian texts

THESAURUS LINGUAE AEGYPTIAE

The *Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae* is a publication platform made available on the Internet by the Project *Structure and Transformation in the Vocabulary of the Egyptian Language* (former *Ancient Egyptian Dictionary Project*) at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

First released for general use on the 31st of October 2004, with the aim to provide access to Ancient Egyptian texts in transliteration (ca. 1 400 000 occurrences; from OEG to Dem. and Ptol.).

Strukturen und Transformationen des Wortschatzes der ägyptischen Sprache

Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae

Einführung: Das virtuelle Wörterbuch und die Textdatenbank im Internet • Kontakt und Abonnement der mailinglist • Impressum

im Aufbau des digitalen Corpus altägyptischer Texte kooperieren die folgenden Institutionen und Projekte:
Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Strukturen und Transformationen des Wortschatzes der ägyptischen Sprache • Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig, Strukturen und Transformationen des Wortschatzes der ägyptischen Sprache • Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur – Mainz, Demotische Textdatenbank • Nordrhein-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Totenbuchprojekt • Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven online index of Ptolemaic and Roman Hieroglyphic Texts • Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Edfu-Projekt

Der Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae wirkt im philologisch-linguistischen Forschungsbereich des Exzellenzclusters TOPOI mit und dankt für vielfache Unterstützung in diesem Kontext.

für die Unterstützung der Arbeit am Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae danken wir den folgenden Institutionen:
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft • Hermann und Elise geborene Heckmann Wentzel-Stiftung • Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

für die Erlaubnis zur Benutzung von Bildmaterial danken wir den folgenden Institutionen:
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Wien) • Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (Abteilung Kairo)

weiter danken wir für vielfältige Unterstützung
Jochen Hallof • Daniel Wernig

Stand der Datenbanken: 31. Oktober 2014, Version des Anzeigeprogramms: 31. Oktober 2014

<http://aaw.bbaw.de/tla/index.html>

THESAURUS LINGVAE AEGYPTIAE

Lemmatization and morphological annotation of the text material allow for specific research from lexical, philological, linguistic, and historico-cultural points of view. All texts come with running translations.

Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae, pPetersburg 1115, Die Geschichte des Schiffbrüchigen

[\[detailed information for text\]](#) [\[position in hierarchical tree of objects and texts\]](#)

[\[first\]](#) [\[prior\]](#) [\[next\]](#) [\[last\]](#)

nn [8] *nhw n(j) mSa =n*

es gibt keinen Verlust für unsere Truppe.

pH.n =n [9] *pH,wj wAwA,t sni.n =n* [10] *snm,t*

Nachdem wir die Grenze von Wawat erreicht hatten,
sind wir an Bigge vorbeigezogen.

m =k r =f n jy =((n)) [11] *m-Htp*

Sieh uns doch, wir sind in Frieden zurückgekehrt;

tA =n pH =n sw

(und) unser Land haben wir erreicht.

[12] (Rubrum: *sDm r =k n =j :*) *HA,t(j)-a*

Höre mir zu, Fürst!

jnk Swi <m> [13] *HAW*

Ich bin einer, der nicht übertreibt (lit. der frei ist von Übertreibung).

jai tw

Wasche dich,

jmi [14] *mw Hr DbA.(Pl.) =k*

gib Wasser auf deine Finger!

jx wSb =k [15] *wSd.t(w) =k*

Du sollst (nur) antworten, wenn du angesprochen wurdest.

mdwi =k n [16] *nswt jb =k m-a =k*

Du sollst mutig (wörtl.: indem dein Herz in deiner Hand ist) zum König sprechen;

[\[first\]](#) [\[prior\]](#) [\[next\]](#) [\[last\]](#)

P. Dils und H. Felber, Altägyptisches Wörterbuch / Strukturen und Transformationen des Wortschatzes der ägyptischen Sprache, Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Leipzig

[top of page](#)

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PLACE NAMES & TEXT CORPUS

1. Corpus of geographical texts

- A. The “soubassement” procession’s texts from ancient Egyptian temples
- B. Onomastica and topographically sorted texts

2. General corpus of ancient Egyptian texts

→ These corpora will be half-automatically processed in order to annotate bits of texts relating to space (place names, locative terms)

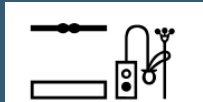
→ Corpus 1 will give a way to approach how ancient Egyptian place names were understood by ancient Egyptians

→ Corpus 2 will provide place names in context of use

→ This dichotomy will enable comparisons between ‘official’ (actually religious) toponymy and toponyms as experienced by ‘people’

WHAT IS AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN (HIEROGLYPHIC) PLACE NAME?

Ancient Egyptian words are basically made of a phonemic skeleton + (generally) 1 or multiple semantic signs (classifiers/determinatives)

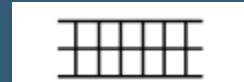


sesh “to write”

“scribe”

“piece of writing”

Some classifiers related to space



Waset, Thebes

Pa-iou-en-imen, Tell el-Balamun

WHAT IS AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN (HIEROGLYPHIC) PERSONAL NAME?

Ancient Egyptian words are basically made of a phonemic skeleton + (generally) 1 or multiple semantic signs (classifiers/determinatives)



sesh “to write”



“scribe”

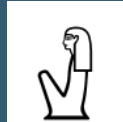


“piece of writing”

Main classifiers related to people



Man



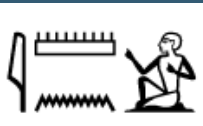
Woman



Kings



Deity



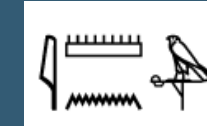
Imen



Mesnu



Ramsès II



Amun

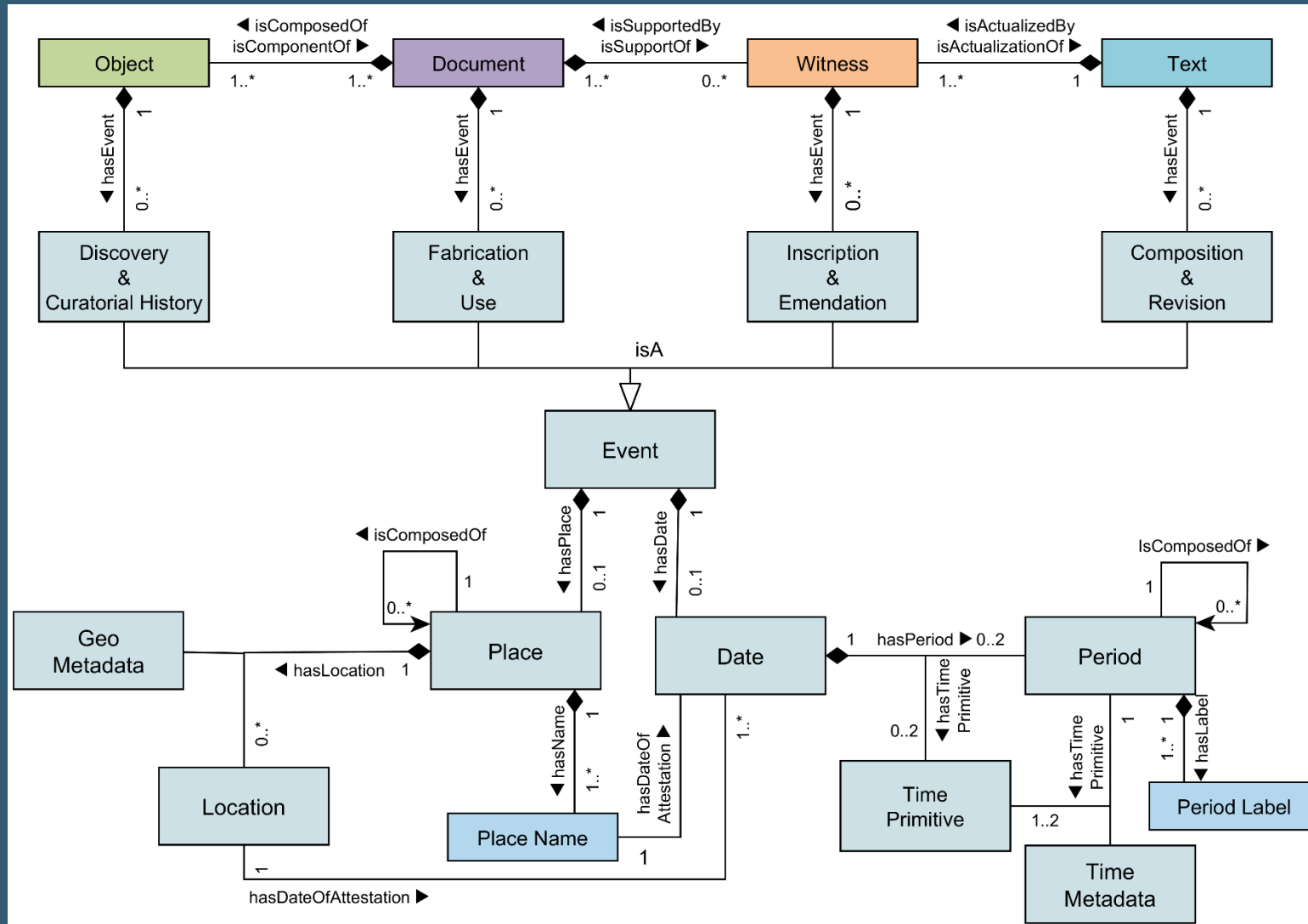
WHAT DO WE WANT?

1. (Digital) repositories of
 - A. Ancient Places
 - B. Modern Places
 - C. Ancient place names
 - D. Actors and agents linked to these places
2. Links between these resources in order to model the ancient space

DATA MODEL

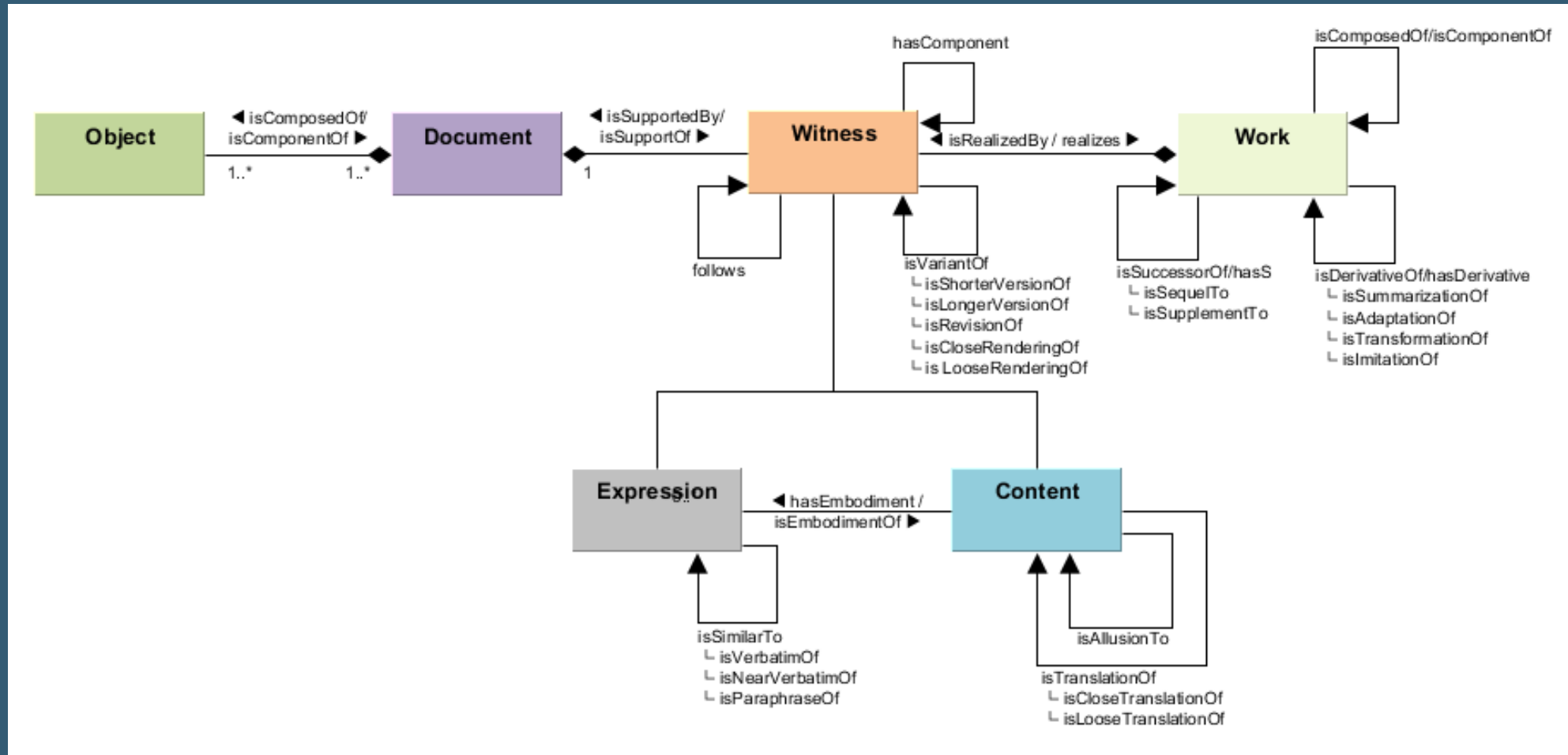
- Is required for fully capture place names and places in their context
- It helps putting metadata on our objects of research at the right place
- And thus making data more interoperable
- Is unavoidable to precisely represent the ancient space

THE THOT DATA MODEL (TDM) – MATERIAL PHILOLOGY



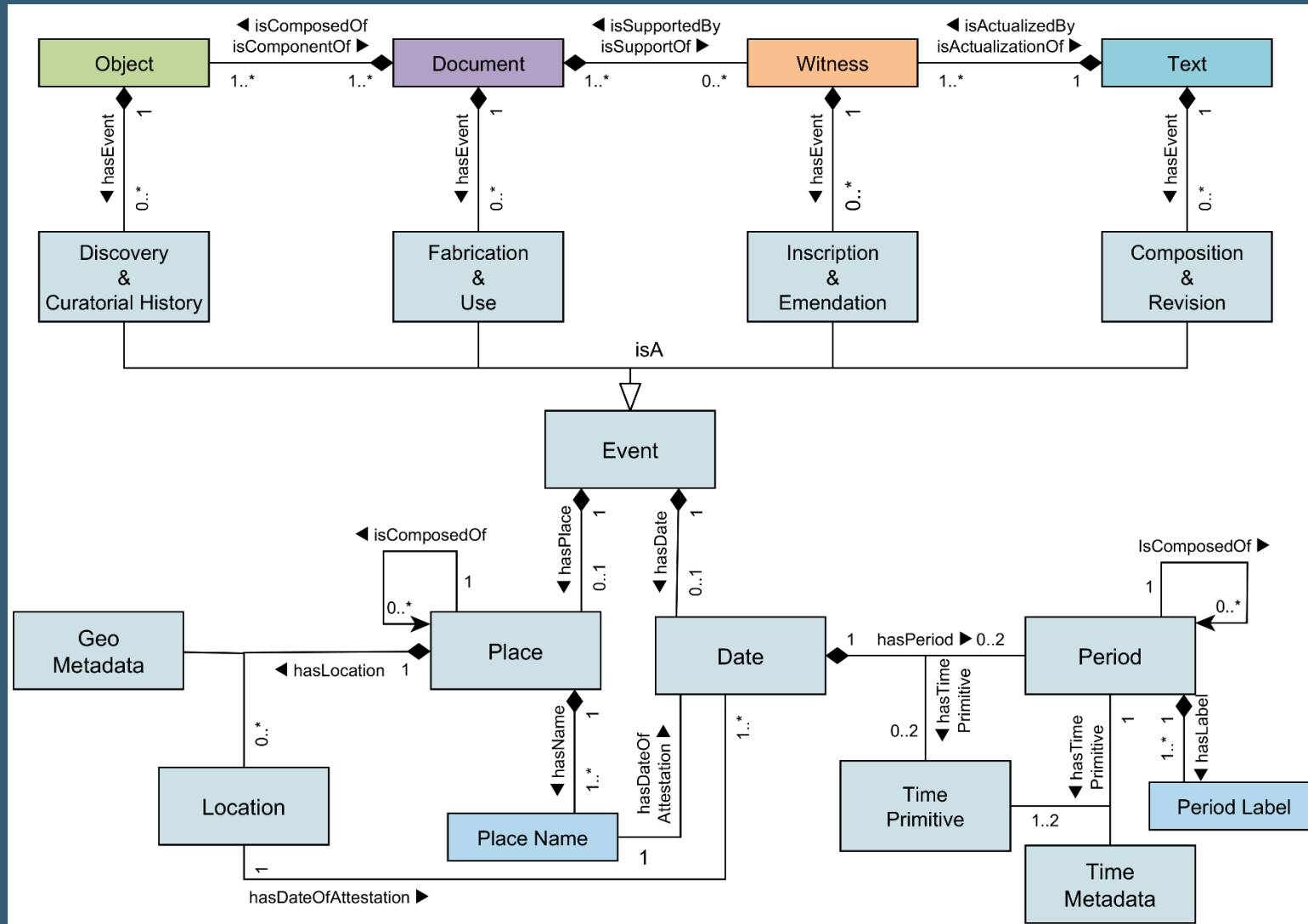
S. Polis & V. Razanajao, “Ancient Egyptian texts in contexts. Towards a conceptual data model (the Thot Data Model - TDM)”, *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 59/2, 2016, p. 24-41.

THE THOT DATA MODEL (TDM) – EXTENSION 1 – TEXT CONTENT



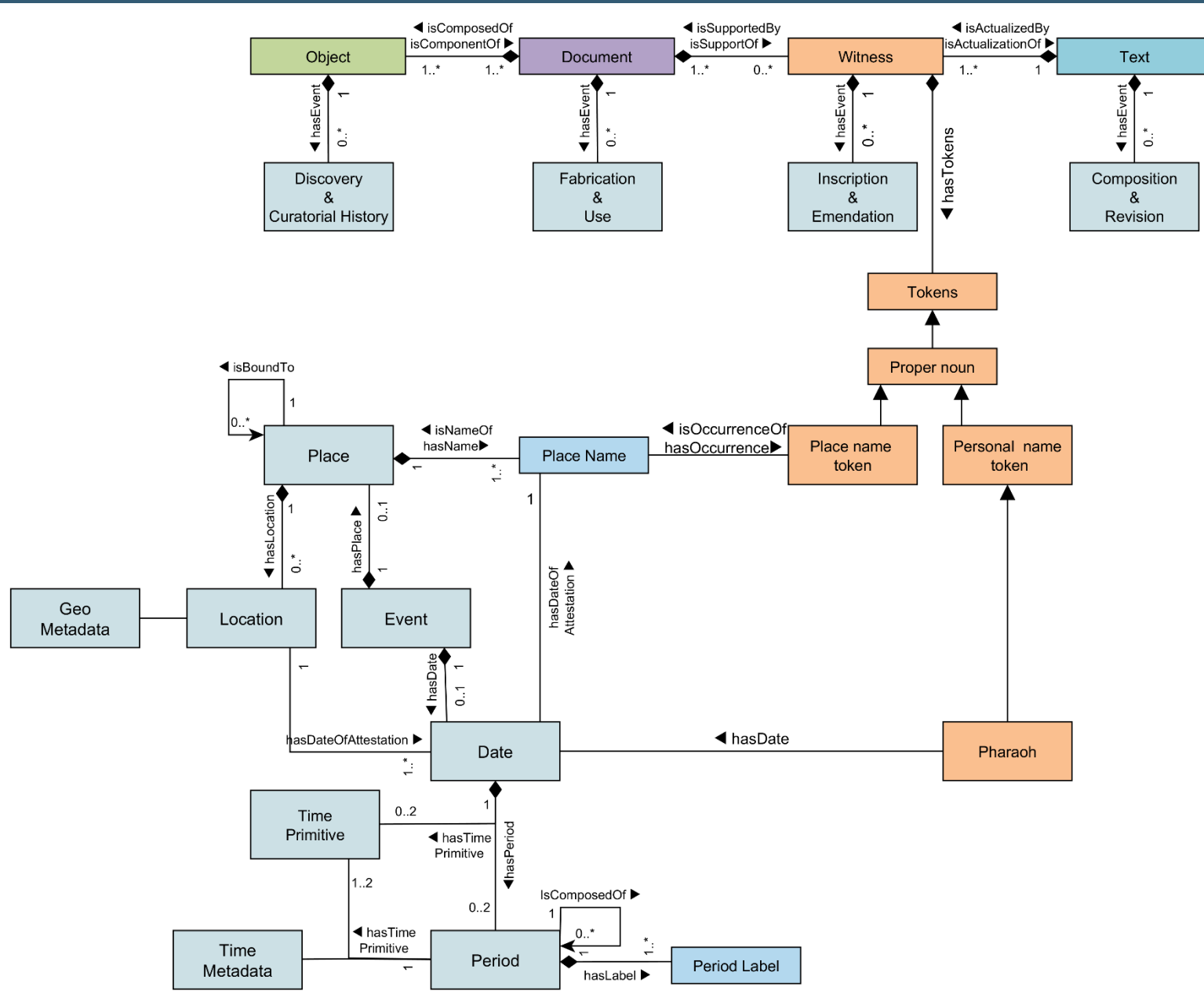
S. Polis, N. Sojic & V. Razanajao, “Towards a data model for (inter)textual relationships. Connecting Ancient Egyptian texts and understanding scribal practices”, *Digital Scholarly Editing: Theory, Practice, Methods* (ESTS 13 - DiXiT 3), 5-7 October 2016.

THE THOT DATA MODEL (TDM) – MATERIAL PHILOLOGY



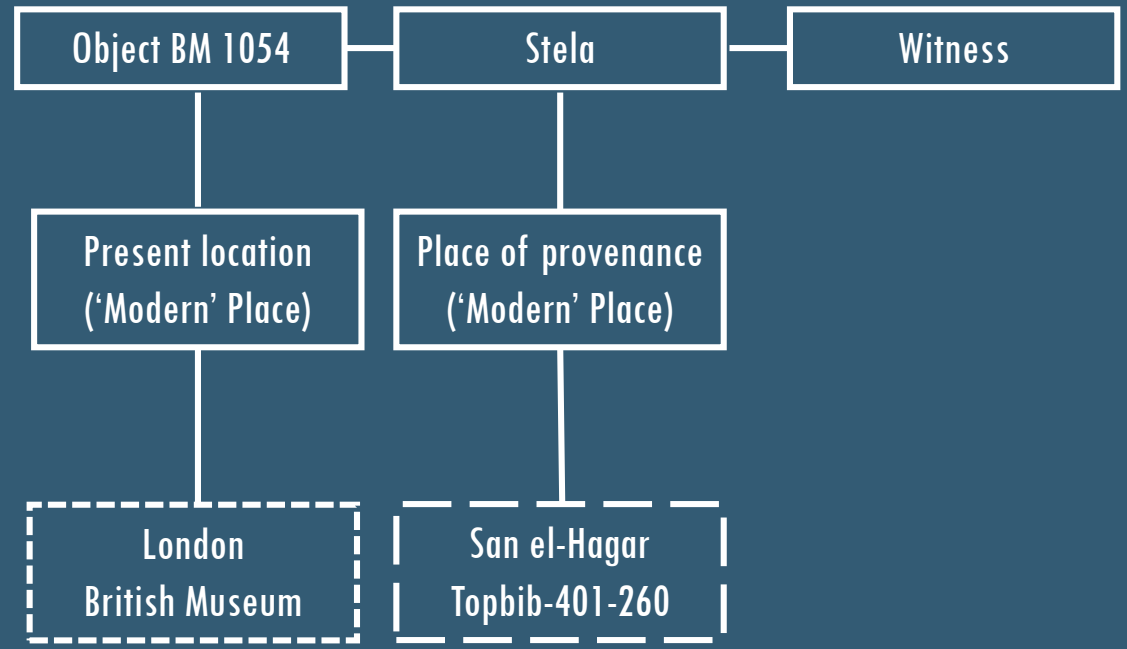
S. Polis & V. Razanajao, “Ancient Egyptian texts in contexts. Towards a conceptual data model (the Thot Data Model - TDM)”, *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 59/2, 2016, p. 24-41.

THE THOT DATA MODEL (TDM) – EXTENSION 2 – PLACE (PROVISIONAL!)





Stela British Museum EA 1054
(Ptolemy IV Philopator, 221-204 av. J.-C..)



'MODERN' PLACES

Available and almost available resources providing URIs

Present locations



<http://www.trismegistos.org/coll/>



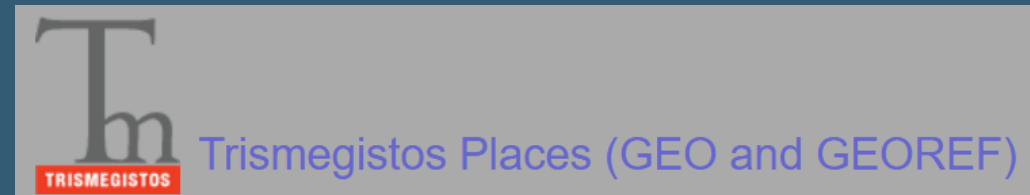
THOT - THESAURI & ONTOLOGY

for documenting Ancient Egyptian Resources

BETA

<http://thot.philo.ulg.ac.be/concept/thot-6197>

Places of provenance



<http://www.trismegistos.org/geo/>

Archaeological sites and their content
(fine granularity)



THE DIGITAL TOPOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Statues, Reliefs, and Paintings

<http://topbib.griffith.ox.ac.uk/>



- Tell Tennis [401-250]
- **San el-Hagar [401-260]**
 - Great Temple [401-260-010]
 - Subsidiary Buildings [401-260-020]
 - Ptolemaic Chapel [401-260-020-010]
 - Temple of Anta [401-260-020-020]
 - Building of Ptolemy IV Philopator [401-260-020-030]
 - South Gate [401-260-020-040]
 - Private Houses, north-east of South Gate [401-260-020-050]
 - South Temple [401-260-020-060]
 - East Temple [401-260-020-070]

San el-Hagar

[TopBib 401-260]



Site info

Published in PM IV, p. 13-26 [Access the PDF](#)

Associated place name

Standardized form: San el-Hagar TM Geo-ID no. 2252

Other forms: Şān el-Ḥagar (Tanis).

Ancient place

This site or group of sites is related to the ancient place *Tanis* (TopBib [901-119-004](#))

GREAT TEMPLE

[TopBib 401-260-010]



SUBSIDIARY BUILDINGS

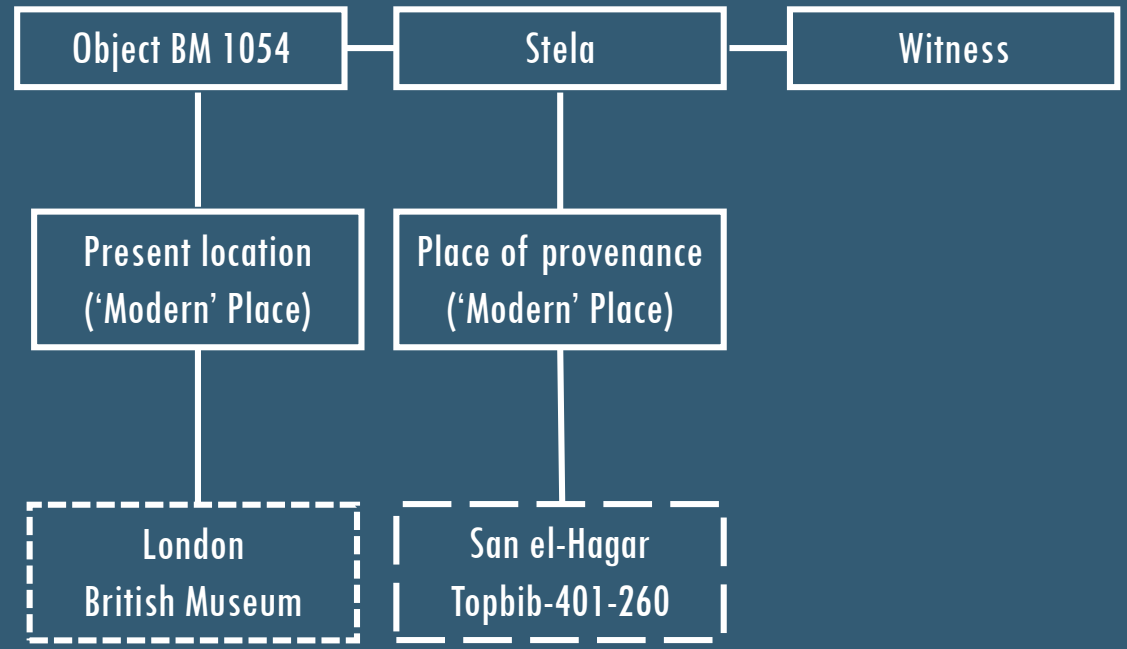
[TopBib 401-260-020]



<http://topbib.griffith.ox.ac.uk//dtb.html?topbib=401-260>

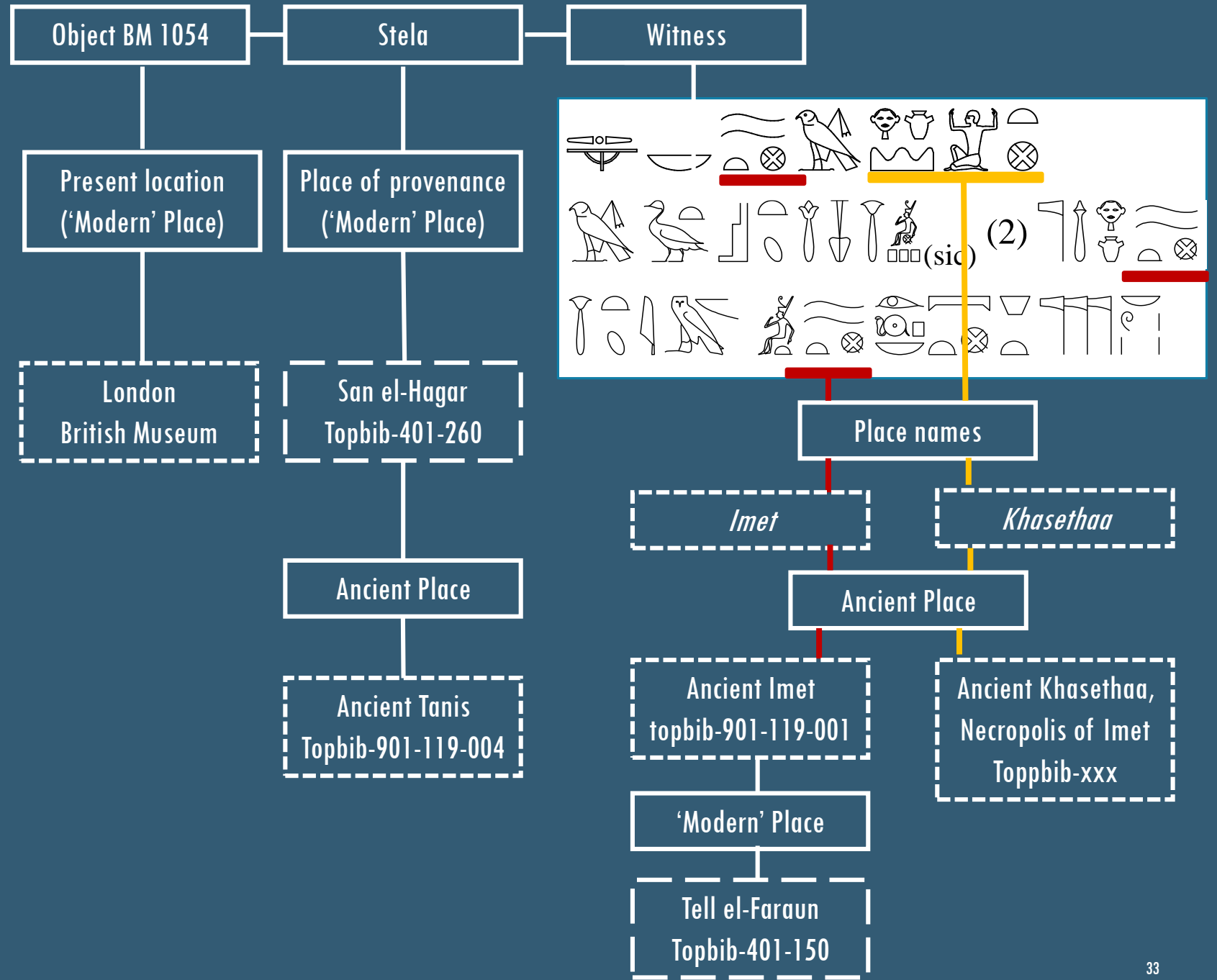


Stela British Museum EA 1054
(Ptolemy IV Philopator, 221-204 av. J.-C..)



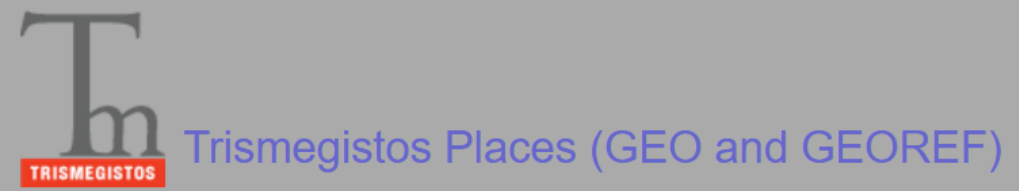


Stela British Museum EA 1054
(Ptolemy IV Philopator, 221-204 av. J.-C..)



'ANCIENT' PLACES

Available and almost available resources providing URIs



<http://www.trismegistos.org/geo/>

PLEIADES

<https://pleiades.stoa.org/>



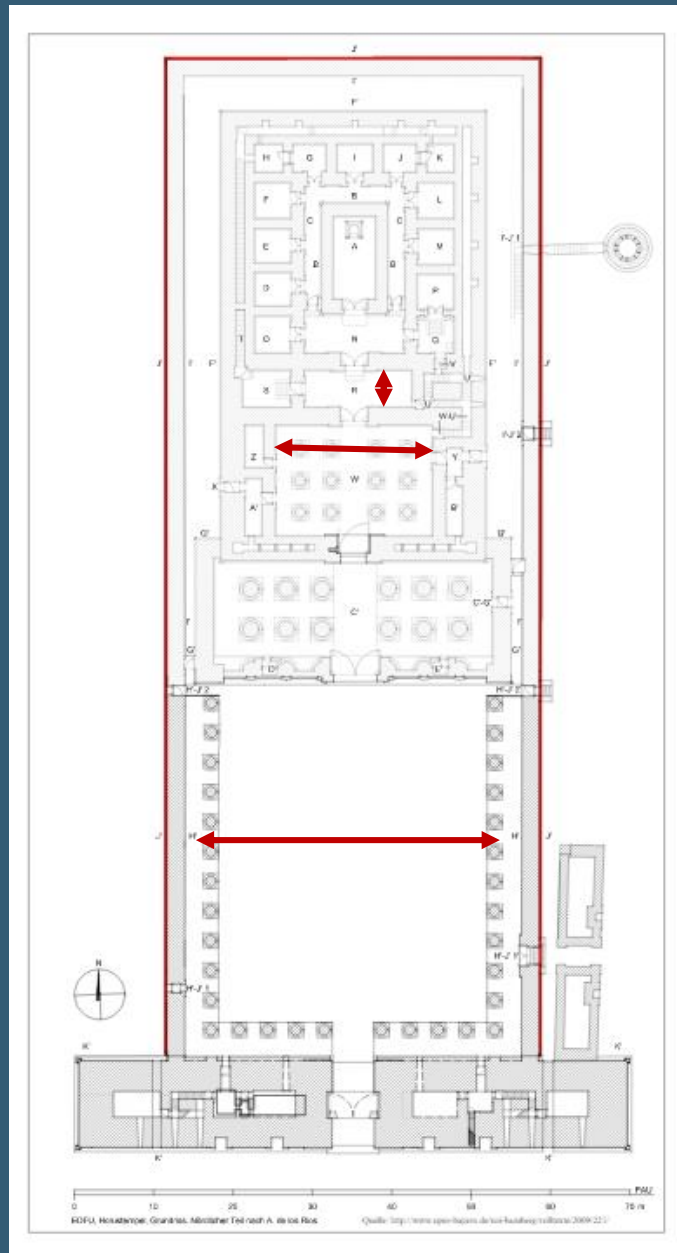
THE DIGITAL TOPOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Statues, Reliefs, and Paintings

<http://topbib.griffith.ox.ac.uk/>

Map occurrences of
place names

Compare to present
day place names





WHAT DO WE WANT (MORE DETAILS)?

1. (Digital) repositories of

A. Ancient Places

I. definable as **concrete**

- These places will enable to build bridges (or not) between ancient place names and archaeological entities;
- And will provide settings for placing events in space.

II. definable as fictitious

- These places will enable to build bridges between place names and settings of fictional events
- And might serve as a referent for concrete places

B. Modern Places

- A. Spatial objects of any size (countries, regions, towns, parts of towns, buildings, part of building, etc.)
- B. Spottable on a map, or not
- C. Identifiable by one or multiple names

C. Ancient place names

- A. To be linked to attestations in texts
- B. To be linked to ancient places

D. Actors and agents who...

- ... populate places
- ... and create places.

2. Links between these resources in order to model the ancient space

NEED OF A SPECIFIC FRAMEWORK FOR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MATERIAL

- Due to language complexity, place names in texts cannot be easily marked-up
- Study of place names in itself can say a lot about space
- Fact that texts can cover large monuments, there is a clear need of a fine granularity reference system
- Need of an ontology to characterize links between:
 - place names and places
 - between 'modern' and 'ancient' places
 - As well as between different ancient places

All this has to be thought in a pragmatical manner, but aim is to have high quality data (by the way, shouldn't a 6th ★ be added to Tim Berners-Lee's rules?)

