SAK 2019









# Basel CROSSING BOUNDARIES

## Understanding Complex Scribal Practices in Ancient Egypt



Crossing Boundaries targets a contextualised and interdisciplinary approach to the written material produced by the community of Deir el-Medina. Its goal is to enhance our understanding of the complex scribal practices by studying 'heterogeneous' papyri. These papyri bear texts that belong to various genres. We aim to cross the boundaries between archaeology, papyrology, and prosopography and to bridge the gap between traditional philology, digital humanities, and cultural heritage.



# Material

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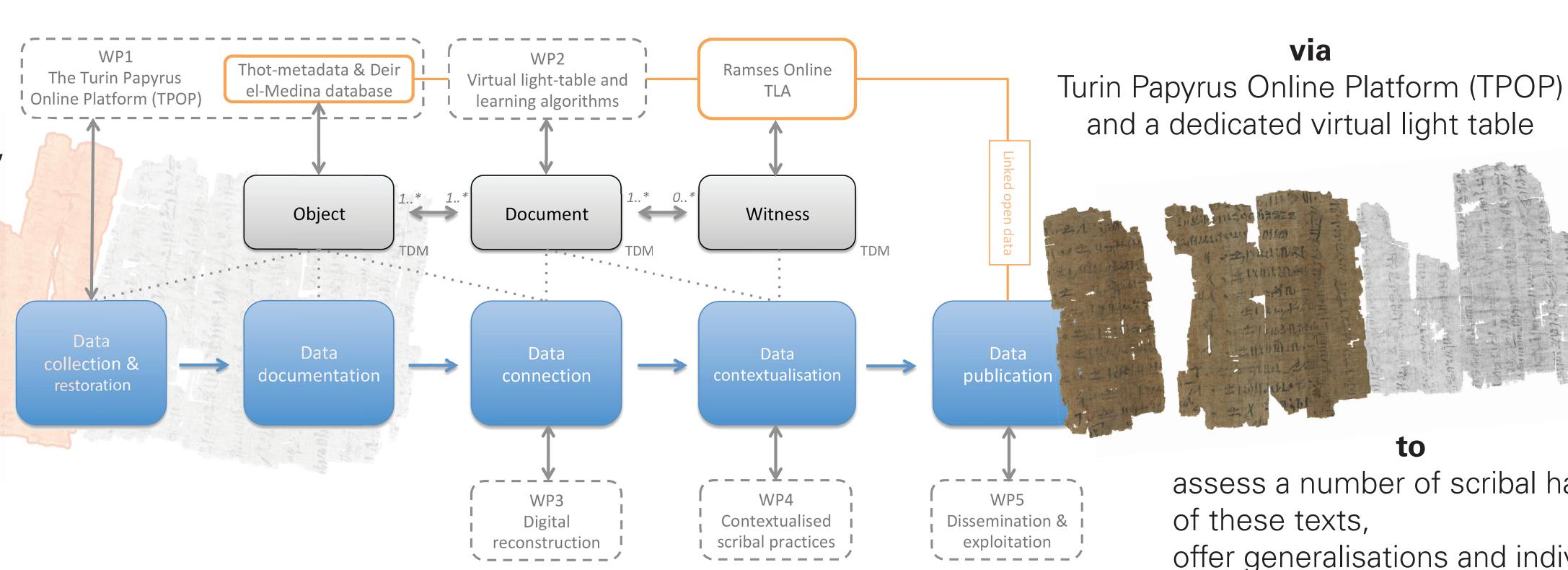


The Museo Egizio houses about 9,000 pieces of papyri from the New Kingdom. The texts are written in hieratic and usually composed in Late Egyptian. Besides more or less complete manuscripts, numerous fragments kept in folders may belong either to some of the already documented and inventoried ensembles or to yet unidentified texts. Despite forming part of the Turin collection for almost two centuries, this material has remained largely undocumented and unpublished. The published documents have mostly been edited in the form of hieroglyphic transcriptions.

### Goals & Methods

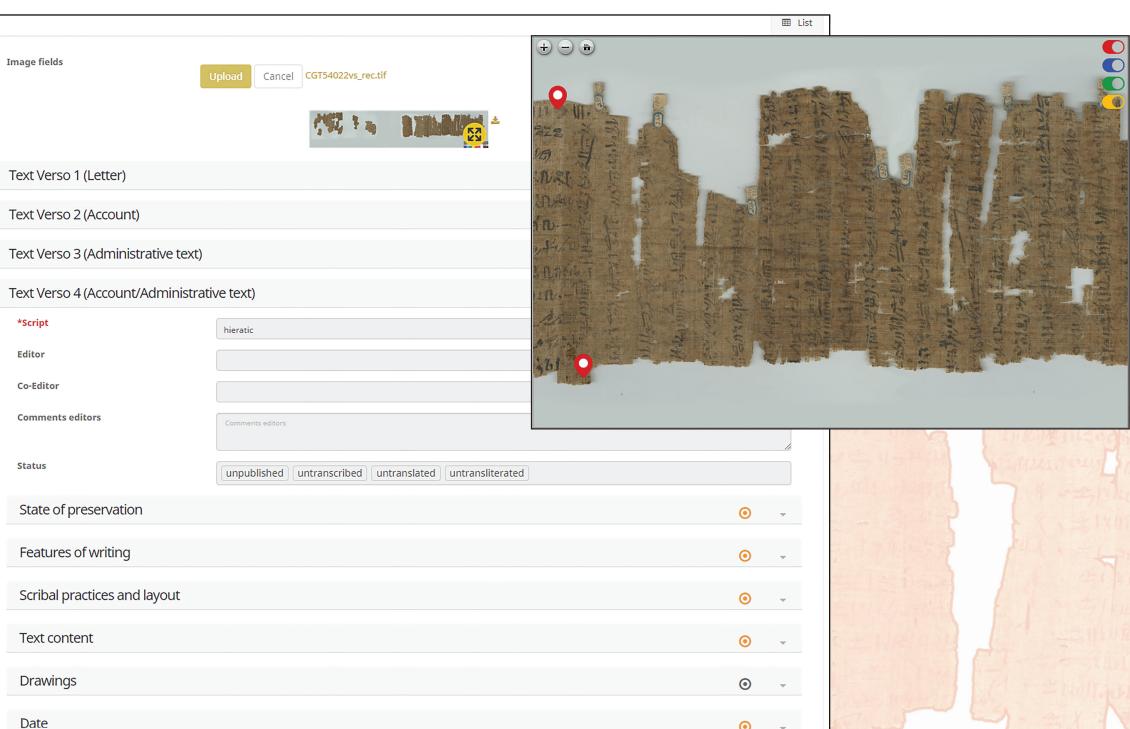
Consolidation, documentation, identification, joining, digital reconstruction, and publication of fragments

- Egyptological approach (palaeography, philology, materiality)
- Preservation, documentation, and contextualisation (cultural heritage)
- Digital technology (machine learning algorithms)



assess a number of scribal hands of these texts, offer generalisations and individual scenarios for the history of these

Publication

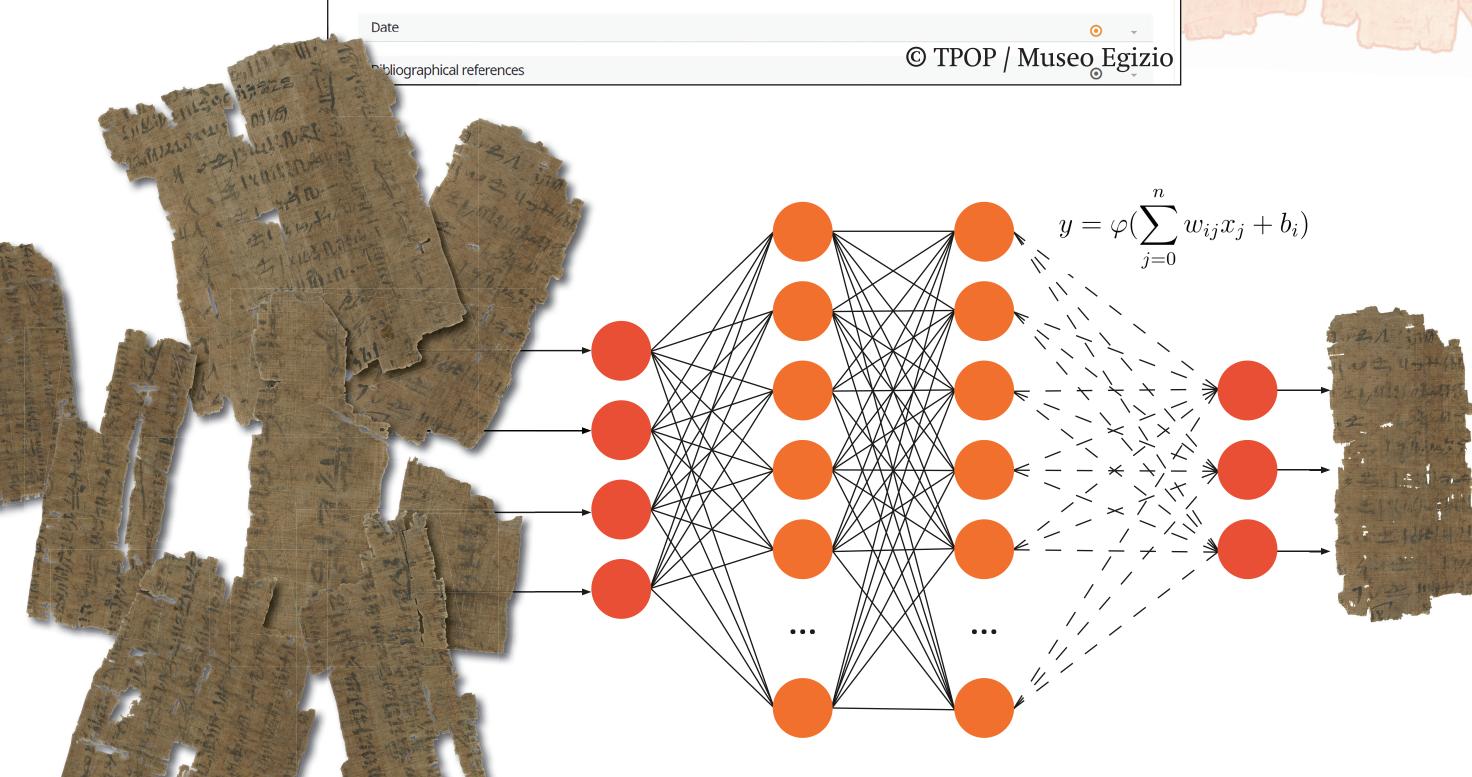


New software solutions that we develop for this project will be made available open-source, and the publications that stem from our research will be accessible via open access repositories, such as the Turin Papyrus Online Platform and the Rivista del Museo Egizio.

documents

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Digital Reconstruction









