The Etruscan Texts Project presents at "Markup for Museums: Scripts, Artefacts, and XML (An EpiDoc Workshop)" at Brown University

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Online databases have become an invaluable means of publishing—and publicizing—ancient manuscripts and inscriptions. The digital format is a simple way to make texts and inscriptions available to the scholarly community. The emerging standard for publishing texts online is EpiDoc, a set of editing conventions in the XML markup language. But the publication of inscriptions electronically is a new field and there has not been enough discussion about how to tailor EpiDoc to the needs of the growing number of projects that currently publish texts online.

John Bodel (Brown University) and Charlotte Roueche (University of London) hosted an international workshop at Brown University on November 12-13 "to examine the development and potential uses of Extensible Markup Language (XML) and, more particularly, a set of editing conventions for marking up epigraphic texts (EpiDoc) in the electronic publication of inscribed materials in museum collections and in non-standard scripts." The purpose of the workshop was to present the final products of digital initiatives, to examine their usefulness to the scholarly community, and to discuss the problems associated with the emerging digital format. The program included the following papers:

Charlotte Roueche (King's College, London), *Digitising Aphrodisias*
Thomas Elliot (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), *The current state of Epidoc*
Neel Smith (College of the Holy Cross), *Digital Incunabula and the Classical Text Services protocol*
Rex Wallace, Michael Shamgochian, and James Patterson (University of Massachusetts Amherst), *The current state of the Etruscan Texts Project*
Stephen Houston (Brown University), *Maya epigraphy*
Gina Borromeo and Lisa Anderson, *Rhode Island School of Design Art Museum*
Annewies van der Hoek and Sarolta Takacs, *Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*
Christopher Lightfoot, *Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*

Sebastian Heath, *The current state of the American Numismatic Society collections*

John Bodel, Elli Mylonas, and Lisa Anderson (Brown University), *The current state of the U.S. Epigraphy Project*

Charlotte Roueche and Gabriel Bodard (King's College, London), *The current state of Inscriptions of Aphrodisias*

Professor Rex Wallace, programmer Michael Shamgochian, and research assistant James Patterson were invited to the workshop to report on the status of Etruscan Texts Project (ETP), an initiative to publish online all Etruscan inscriptions recovered and made public after 1990. Wallace, Shamgochian, and Patterson reported on the progress of the project (339 inscriptions online!), its successes, and its shortcomings. In addition to discussing the issues associated with the use of EpiDoc to 'markup' languages such as Etruscan, Wallace, Shamgochian, and Patterson highlighted the obstacles that academics who wish to undertake digital projects generally face: lack of funding, time, and reliable technical support. Despite these obstacles, it was clear from the lively give and take at the workshop that the scholarly community has much to gain from the publication of texts in an electronic format.