

THE EPIGRAPHIC PROJECT OF THE LABORATORY
OF EPIGRAPHY (EPILAB), DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES
(TRIESTE UNIVERSITY)

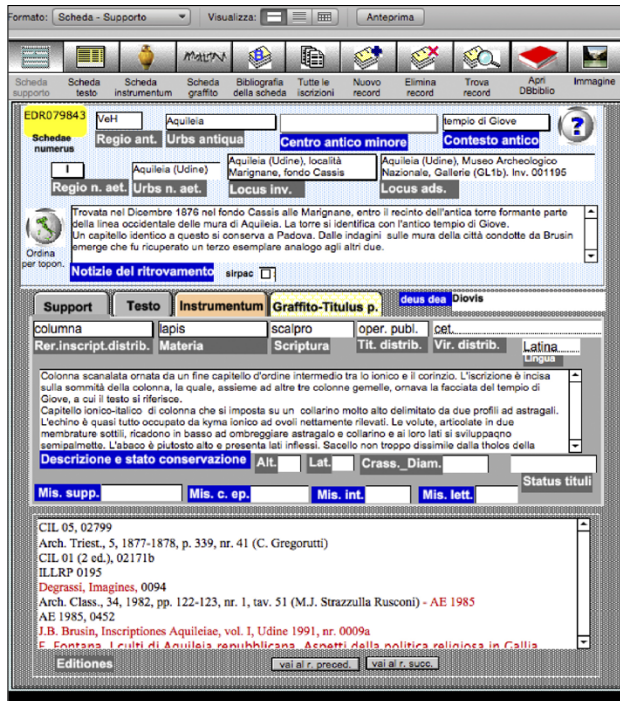
The first trials by C. Zaccaria to use a database (P.E.T.R.A.E created by Centre Ausonius of Bordeaux University, France) for recording and studying the epigraphic heritage of Friuli-Venezia Giulia date back to the late 1980s. This body of material consists of approximately 5,300 Greek and Latin inscriptions belonging to the Roman cities of *Aquileia*, *Tergeste*, *Iulium Carnicum* and *Forum Iulii* in the eastern part of *Regio X, Venetia et Histria*. In the mid-90s the need arose to use a locally manageable database, oriented towards a closed source, but guaranteeing flexibility, in a cross-platform environment (Windows and Mac), and easy data exportation (XML) with Unicode characters.

Using FileMaker™, I developed a large relational database management system (RDBM) for epigraphic evidence, including *instrumentum*, which is also connected to a photo database. The RDBM allows considering all aspects related to inscriptions: discovery and current conservation, monument and iconography, text, and bibliography. The RDBM is structured to record multiple and duplicate inscriptions and graffiti on the *instrumentum* and can display variants of the same stamp. Text search (e.g. onomastic one) can be performed simultaneously in the texts of the lapidary inscriptions and in those of the *instrumentum*. The next step will be to participate in a portal built by different projects within existing *instrumentum inscriptum*.

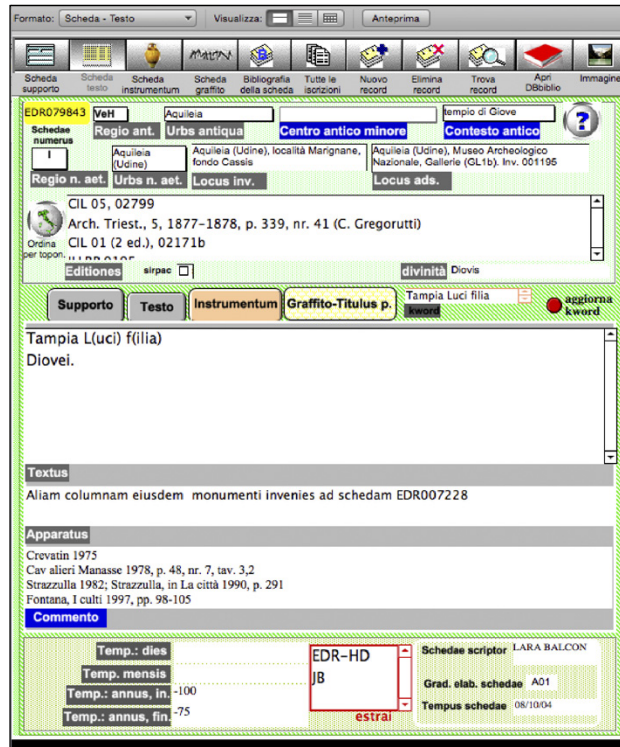
The participation, since 2003, in the EDR project (EAGLE - Europea-na), with a contribution to date of approximately 2,600 inscriptions, did not reduce the validity of the local RDBM. Thanks to a web data access reserved to the contributors (with an app for a mobile), the local RDBM remains the essential basis for any future research. It is an indispensable tool in order to relate to other datasets, which may share only a few fields with the original dataset, thus preserving data not necessarily shown by joint online queries.

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a



b

Fig. 1 – (a) Database screenshot of “monument”; (b) Database screenshots of “text”.