Release Notes: papyri.info v. 26.07

We are proud to announce the release of significant changes to papyri.info, the first of several. Changes are extensive (user-interface changes are ubiquitous) and profound (affecting some basic conceptual features of the site).

What are our goals?

Last year, on the occasion of the university's centennial, Duke University Libraries digitized the books in its Papyrology Room. This was part of a wider effort to celebrate distinctive Libraries collections. Accessibility has long been central to the institution's papyrological mission and the project offered an opportunity to share the rich harvest of the discipline even more widely. So, we set ourselves the goal of hosting a PDF snippet of the transcription (and app. crit.) of every text that we scanned, since these fall outside copyright. Many thousands of those texts have no presence in papyri.info. Some have been superseded or deprecated; some are in languages that the site supports less well or not at all. But every one of them is of potential interest to a papyrologist and ought to be accessible via papyri.info (most, if not all, are already known to TM). With the same goal of accessibility in mind, we decided also to provide more robust support for translations on the platform. The upcoming release lays the groundwork for these two objectives.

What have we done in the past?

Meeting these goals entails a departure from past practice. The DDbDP has always presented only one edition of a given text. A user would find, e.g., *P.Tebt*. I 5, but not *Chrest.Wilck*. 65, 260, 307, 339, *Chrest.Mitt*. 1, 36, *Jur. Pap*. 69, 75, and *C.Ord.Ptol*. 53. This has been partly a concession to convenience: to enter every edition would have made an already huge job of data-entry even more imposing; to develop search capabilities that could de-duplicate results would have been difficult. The DDbDP also curates editions by incorporating changes that were recorded in series *corrigenda*, the *Berichtigungliste* (now online), other sources, and changes that are made directly via papyri.info (aggregated in the Bulletin of Online Emendations to Papyri) or suggested in scholarship but not yet picked up by the *BL*. The benefits of this longstanding editorial practice are real, and include easy, unambiguous search of (variably) updated texts. But there are costs too. In the past, papyri.info has not allowed a user to compare *P.Tebt*. I 5 with, say, *C.Ord.Ptol*. 53; neither did it present a user with a more-or-less faithful representation of *P.Tebt*. I 5 itself. Instead, the site presented a text called *P.Tebt*. I 5, but anyone who collated that text against the print publication that goes by the same handle would find many differences. First, there were the common DDbDP 'normalizations' that are a concession to searchability. More important, there were dozens of corrections, as recorded in *BL*. The DDbDP called the text after the book but what it signified with "*P.Tebt*. I 5" was "A representation of the text found in *P.Tebt*. I 5, plus some of the corrections noted in the *BL* under *P.Tebt*. I 5, but not those noted under *C.Ord.Ptol*. 53, which is a different edition of the same document." It would be fair to say that the DDbDP did not feature a text of *P.Tebt*. I 5 at all, but rather a different edition, which it misleadingly called *P.Tebt*. I 5. The state of affairs is more confusing where translations are concerned. Papyri.info has an APIS translation for *P.Tebt*. I 5. Collation shows–encoding does not–that this is a lightly altered version of the print edition, without BL corrections. Thus, it is a translation of *P.Tebt.* I 5 as it appears in print, but not as it

appears in the DDbDP. If one were to add the translation from *C.Ord.Ptol*. 53 or someone else's translation of the same it might more accurately reflect the DDbDP text, but it would not be a translation of the bibliographic object called "*P.Tebt*. I 5." Experienced papyrologists will figure things out with effort, but beginners or colleagues from other disciplines might not be able to, no user should have to, and machines cannot act on such ambiguous signifiers to a degree of accuracy, reliability, and utility that scholarship requires.

What will we do in the future?

In order to (1) solve the problem of ambiguous references to editions and translations and (2) accommodate the thousands of previously excluded text transcriptions, papyri.info is shifting to a hybrid presentation of texts. Henceforth, DDbDP and DCLP will contain "Historical" and "Current" texts. Historical texts are more-or-less faithful representations of published editions, as they originally appeared (plus normalization, expansion, and similar); these are not editable (except to correct typos or similar; to be supported in subsequent release), but are searchable and may have translations and PDF snippets associated with them; they look like current DDbDP texts that have not incorporated emendations. Current texts, on the other hand, are dynamic and curatable, as texts were in the prior version of papyri.info. These too are searchable and may have translations and PDF snippets associated with them; they look like current DDbDP texts that have incorporated emendations. Historical and Current texts are flagged with an H or C icon; the search interface allows users to search Current, Historical, or both. With this rollout, (1) all DDbDP texts that had not contained emendations have an Historical text and a Current text; these are identical to each other, until a user emends the Current text, at which point they diverge, but users will always be able to compare the two easily. And (2) all DDbDP texts that had contained emendations have a stub for an Historical text (which users are welcome to add) and a Current text.

Every text features a header with a kind of 'lemma' containing the Historical (one or more, insofar as HGV and TM know) and Current (only one) texts associated with it. In that lemma, Historical texts are linked to DDbDP representations of the text or stubs, to which users may add Historical texts in order to render them searchable (in the initial release some Historical texts do not have stubs or links to stubs; these will be added in a subsequent release). Over time, we hope to extract the Greek texts from the scans and provide reasonably accurate 'drafts' of Historical texts to expedite their entry. To take *P.Tebt*. I 5 as an example, under the new release, the DDbDP presents a stub, where a Historical text for *P.Tebt*. I 5 may someday be entered. There are also stubs or pointers for other Historical texts: *Chrest.Wilck*. 65, 260, 307, 339, *Chrest.Mitt*. 1, 36, *Sel. Pap*. II 210, *Jur. Pap*. 69, 75, and *C.Ord.Ptol*. 53 (some of these may not appear yet; lemma processing is ongoing), and a Current, curatable text named "DDbDP 2938 (P.Tebt. 1 5)," where "2938" is the HGV/TM number and "P.Tebt. 1 5" is the edition from which the Current version descends.

In order to illustrate the new model, the upcoming release features a (more complete than normal) representation of texts and translations that are associated with HGV 11853 (=TM 11853): Historical texts for *BGU* I 337, *BGU* I 1, *Chrest.Wilck*. 92, *P.Louvre* I 4, Capron, *ZPE* 165 (2008) 150-156, *C.Clergé* II 116 (translations will later be aligned with Historical editions), and a

Current text called "DDbDP 11853." That Current text is displayed in search results as "[C] *P.Louvre* I 4," since this is the edition from which it derives, but the filename and identifier signals that this is the Current DDbDP representation of the text whose TM/HGV/DDbDP number is 11853. Historical texts are similarly flagged, e.g. "[H] *P.Louvre* I 4." Users who browse to any one of the Historical texts will find themselves one click away from any other text associated with that TM/HGV/DDbDP number, whether Current or Historical; likewise anyone viewing the Current text is one click away from any of the Historical texts. To create similarly complete clusters corpus-wide would be the work of years, but this papyrus (11853) illustrates what the new model of text representation and alignment is meant to do.

This new model applies to transcriptions only and not to HGV metadata, which will continue to represent the most current view of texts, as endorsed by the project's editors.

An important note on searching and browsing: One can search Current texts, Historical texts or both, but one browses only by Historical texts. These have intuitive bibliographic names such as *P.Louvre* I 4; the name for the current version of that text is DDbDP 11853 (note URL: /current/11853). Most users will not have the latter number to hand (anyone who does can use the TM browse feature; TM and HGV/DDbDP numbers are almost always identical). To browse to the Current version of *P.Louvre* I 4 a user will simply navigate to *P.Louvre* I 4 (note URL: editions/p.louvre/1/4) as usual, and from there will be one click away from the Current version. A user who is tracking down a citation to, say, *Chrest.Wilck*. 92 and does not know the subsequent publication history can browse to *Chrest.Wilck*. 92 and also be one click away from the Current version of *P.Louvre* I 4. So long as a user has a bibliographic reference to one part of a text's publication history, they can browse to that item and be one click away from the Current version (lemma processing is still in progress and will become more comprehensive over time).

What appears in the July, 2026 release?

The first release (26.07) features the new hybrid text model: every text in the DDbDP has a Current version; many thousands have Historical versions; thousands of Historical texts have stubs (where text may one day be entered).

This release also features substantial user-interface changes to the presentation of Current texts as well as improved function to the range of facets on the Search page. See below for detailed, illustrated descriptions.

What will appear in subsequent releases?

A series of subsequent releases will feature batches of PDF snippets of transcriptions (this is slow, computationally intensive work), more robust syntax/forms for encoding translation target texts and authors, many more translations, and enhanced Papyrological Editor support/workflows to accommodate the hybrid text model.

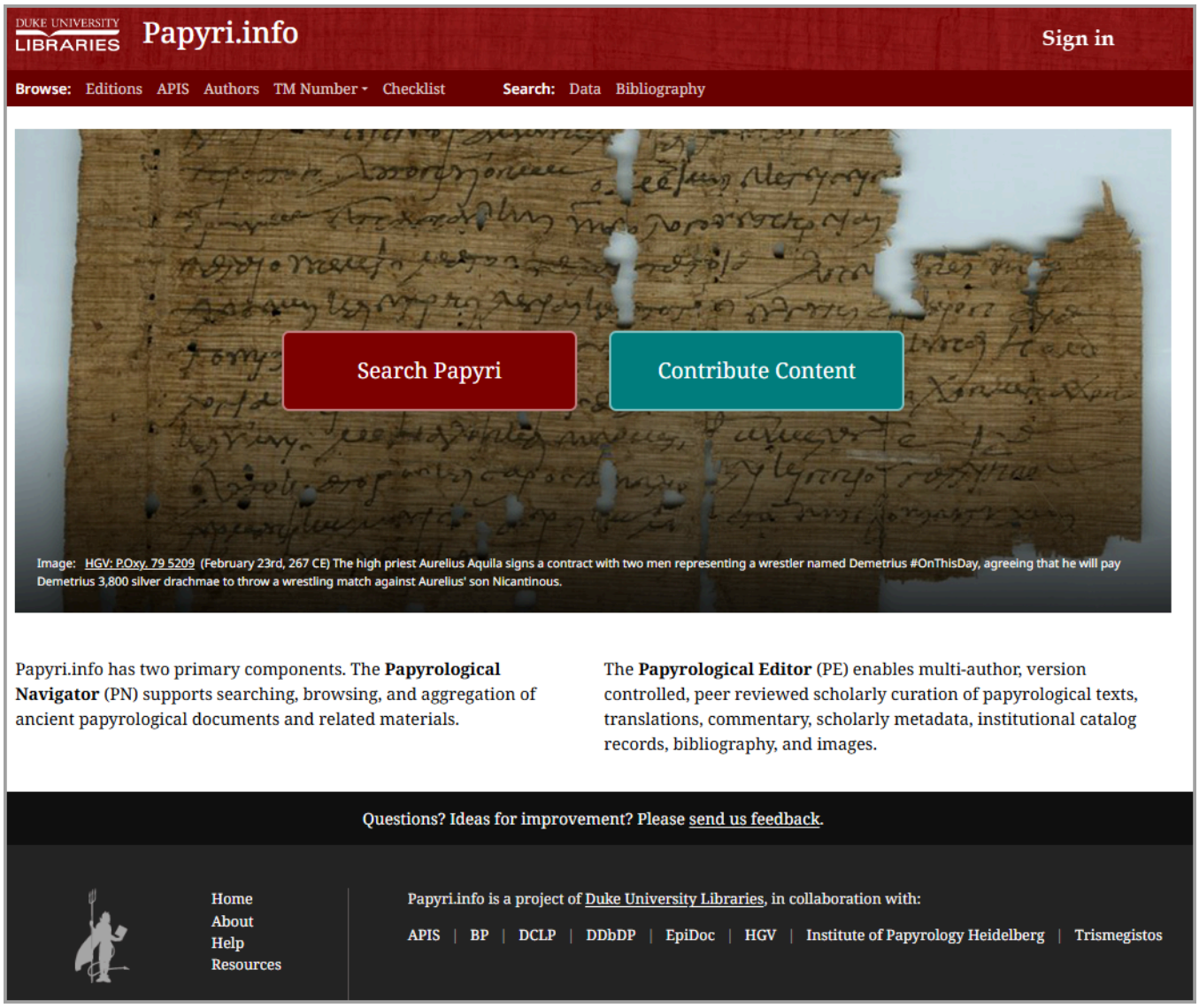
What can you do?

Please send general comments to papyri@duke.edu. If something is confusing, does not work, removes/diminishes functionality present in the old site, or in any way seems like a *bug* please fill out this form: https://duke.is/papyribug. The development team relies on users to flag problems. *Please* let us know when you encounter one.

On the next page, we run through some illustrated examples of the site's changed look and function.

HOMEPAGE

A redesigned homepage welcomes you to papyri.info with rotating image content, two prominent navigation buttons, and an updated top menu bar.



Navigation Buttons

Search Papyri => Papyrological **Navigator** search

Contribute Content => Papyrological **Editor** sign in

Menu Bar
The menu bar consists of two groupings: Browse and Search.



Browse

- *New:* Select **Editions** to browse DDbDP, HGV, and DCLP collections which were formerly browsed separately. Their references are now harmonized. Here, “edition” refers to the historical publication of a text, from which the current text can be accessed. See the **Historical Edition** page below.
- **APIS** opens the list of 29 APIS collections.
- **Authors** opens the Authors and Works list.
- **TM Number** is redesigned to display a search input field with **Go** action to return search results based on TM number.
- *New:* Select **Checklist** to browse the Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic, and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca, and Tablets where you’ll find links to texts in papyri.info.

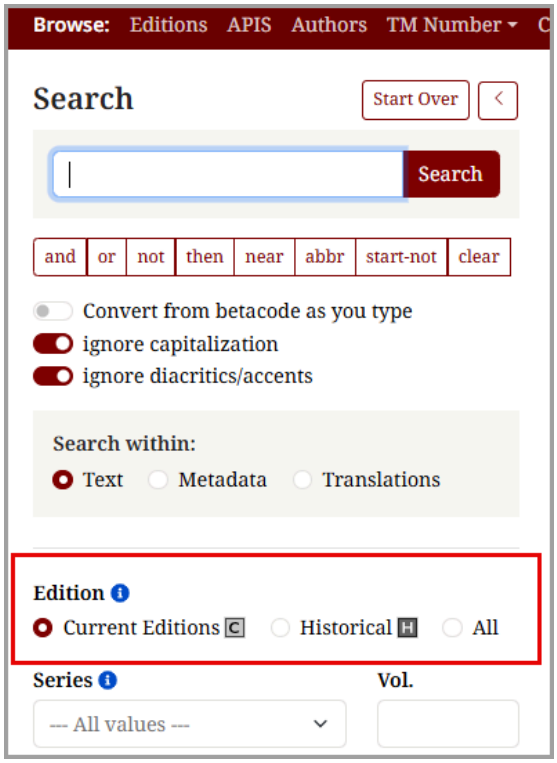
Search
Navigation for the two Search options are unchanged from the prior release of papryi.info:

- **Data** opens the Papyrological Navigator search page.
- **Bibliography** opens the Bibliography search page.

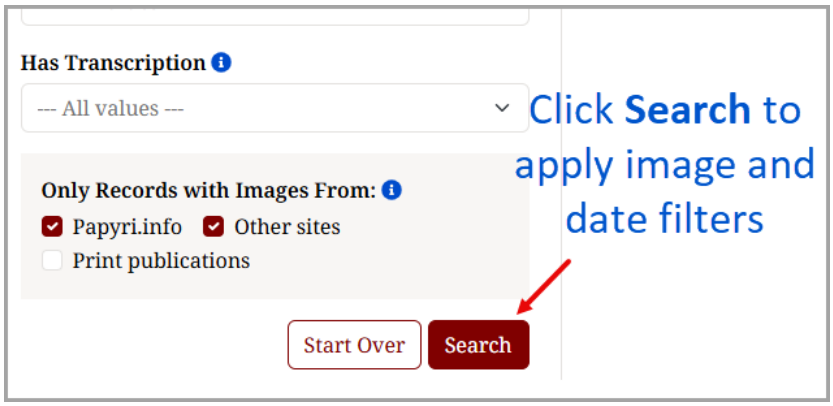
On the next page, we look at changes to the Papyrological Navigator search interface.

PAPYROLOGICAL NAVIGATOR SEARCH

There are several changes to the PN Search page in this release of papyri.info. The new **Edition** filter dynamically refines the result set to display **Current Editions**, **Historical**, or both (**All**). In the search results, items are distinguished by the “C” and “H” icons.



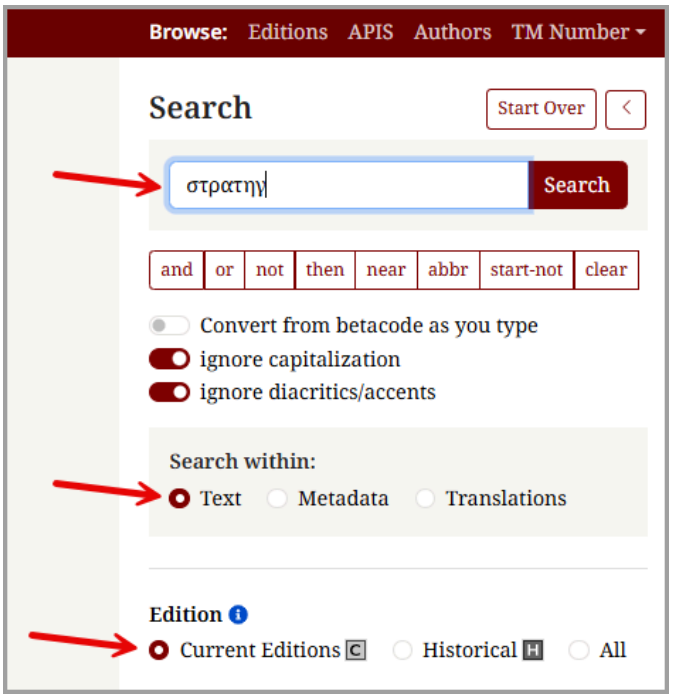
All filters except **Only Records with Images From** and **Dates** update the results automatically. For images and dates, select the checkbox(es) and then click **Search** to apply the filter.



On the next page, we look at an example search.

Search Results

An example search illustrates some of the new behavior on this page.

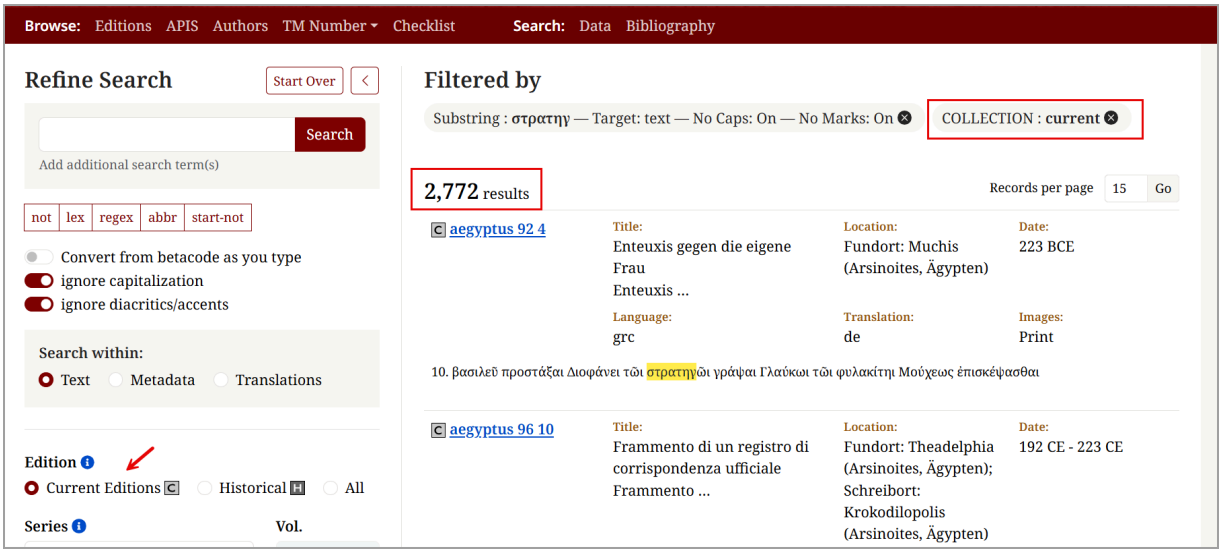


In this string search for ‘στρατηγ,’ **Search within text** and **Current Editions** are selected by default.

Click **Search** to view the list of 2,772 results.

Filtered by, in the image below, displays the search string and “current” editions filter are active.

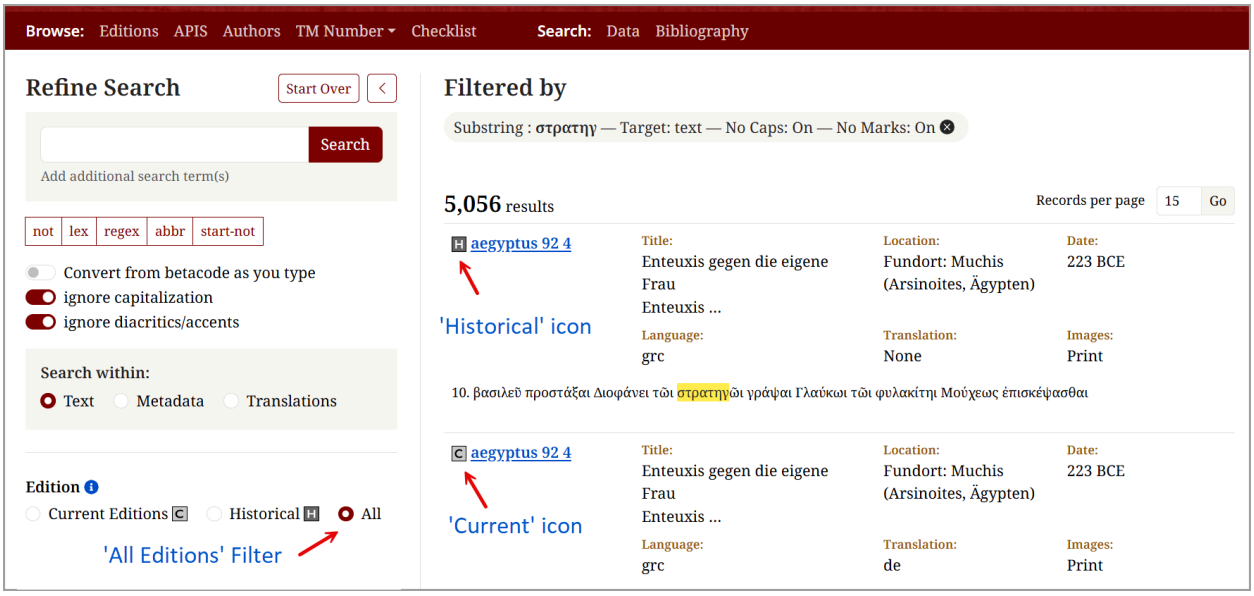
- To further filter the results, use the string search entry box to add additional search terms or apply additional filters.
- To remove individual values from your search criteria and broaden your search results, click on the 'x' to the right of the term when it appears in the "Filtered by" list.
- To remove all values and start again, click **Start Over**.



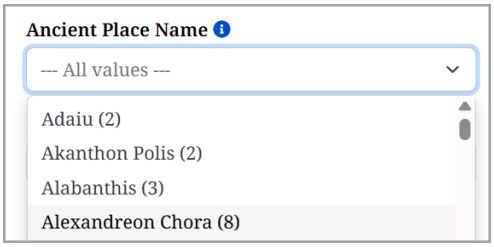
Under **Edition**, select the **Historical** radio button to display 2,284 historical edition results:



Select the **Editions > All** toggle to view the list of 5,056 current and historical editions. Notice the C and H icons to distinguish between them:



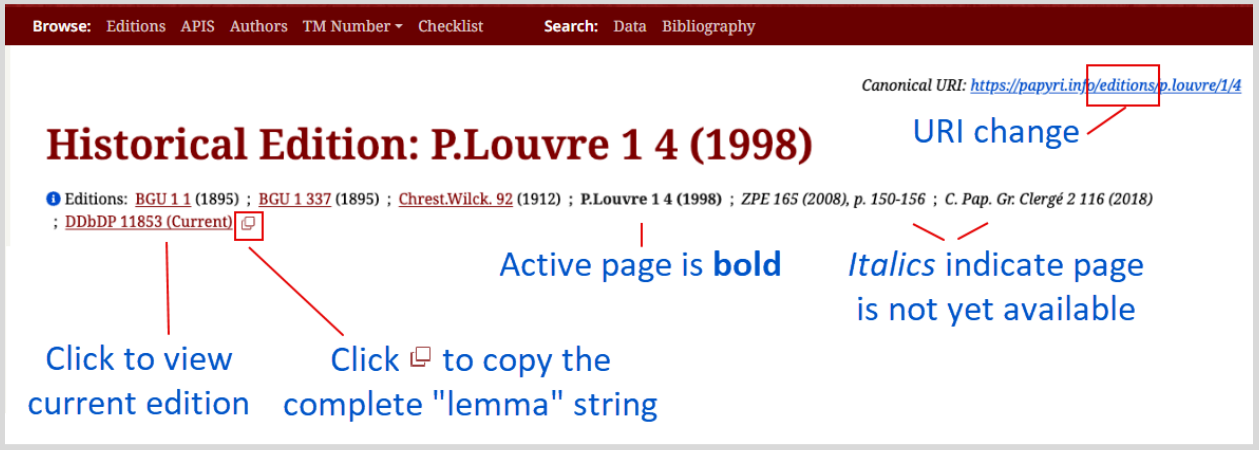
This release also includes a new facet, **Ancient Place Name**, which replaces Provenance to display a more consolidated list of drop-down values.



Note: Search facet behavior and formatting have been improved in numerous small ways; frequent users will adjust easily. If any particular capability is diminished, please let us know.

HISTORICAL EDITION PAGE

Use **Browse > Editions** or **Search** to navigate to the historical page view of a text. Using P.Louvre 1 4 as an example, these are key elements to notice on the new **Historical Edition** page:



Top right - URI: Note that in this release the canonical URI changes to https://papyri.info/editions/p.louvre/1/4.

- In the prior release of papyri.info, the URI for this example was http://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.louvre;1;4.
- The former URI continues to function and resolves to the new URI for the historical text. Important: in some cases, former URIs will resolve for now to a stub; from there, the user will be only one click away from the "Current" text.

Middle - "Lemma": This string of identifiers lists all known editions of a given text that are recorded in the Duke Data Bank (DDbDP) and Trismegistos (TM), arranged chronologically by publication date. In some cases, HGV has publication information that TM lacks; this will be processed and added to lemmata in a later release.

- Each edition listed in the lemma links either to an existing transcription or to a placeholder page where a transcription can be added.
- *Italicized* edition names in the lemma indicate pages that are not yet available.
- The active edition page that you're currently reviewing is indicated in **Bold.**
- The lemma concludes with a hyperlinked identifier "DDbDP 11853 (Current)**"** where 11853 is the HGV identifier and links to the **Current Edition** page.
- Use the copy icon at the end to save the entire list to your clipboard.

HISTORICAL EDITION PAGE continued…

Additional information may be included on the **Historical Edition** page:

- **Text transcription**
- **Translations**: Historical editions listed in the lemma may have translations attached to them. For example, there could be a translation attached to BGU 1 1, and so on.
- **Print edition image**: When available, an image of the print edition of the text segment and *apparatus criticus* are shown here. Copyrighted content is redacted.

Not included on the **Historical Edition** page are APIS and HGV data, which may be found on the associated **Current Edition** page.

CURRENT EDITION PAGE

The **Current Edition** page aggregates, when available, HGV and TM metadata, transcription with apparatus, translations, APIS data, object image, and commentary. As described for the **Historical Edition** page view above, the canonical URI and "lemma" are modified in this release.



CURRENT EDITION PAGE continued…

Trismegistos: 105713 [source]

Publications	O. Berenike 2 121 (Bagnall, Roger S. / Helms, Christina / Verhoogt, Arthur M. F. W.) 2005, SEG 55 1814 (Chaniotis, Angelos / Corsten, Thomas / Stroud, Ronald S. / Tybout, R. A.) 2005 [2009], Année épigraphique 2005 1631 (Corbier, Mireille / e.a.) 2005 [2008]
Inv. No.	Qift, Archaeological storeroom BE00-37-4709u
Date	AD 113
Provenance	Berenike (Bender el-Kebir) [found & written]

Catalog Record: berenike.apis.121 xml

Title	Dedication by an interpreter
Summary	Inscribed dedication to Zeus.
Citations	O. Ber. II 121
	O.Berenike:2:121
Inv. Id	Inv. BE00 4709-U-121, 37.015
Support/Dimensions	1 inscribed block of local gypsum/anhydrite, 0.68 m x 0.225 m x 0.26 m.
Origin	This document was discovered reused in a substantial structure of the fourth or fifth cent. AD in the eastern part of the site. More from This document was discovered reused in a substantial structure of the fourth or fifth cent. AD in the eastern part of the site.
Language	Greek
Date	A.D. 113 - 117 More from the period between 113 CE and 117 CE
Note (general)	4 lines of text, badly eroded on left side. Letter height: ca. 4 cm., diminishing to 3 cm at bottom.
Note (general)	Dedication to Isis on behalf of Trajan and the imperial familia by Papiris, interpreter and secretary during the prefecture of M. Rutilius Lupus.
Note (general)	This block was reused in the same wall of a substantial structure from the late fourth to fifth cent. A.D. as O.Ber. II 118 and 119.
Subjects	Inscriptions; Dedication; Prefect; Interpreter; Grammateus
License	This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 License.

Image



DDbDP transcription xml

[ὑπερ Αὐτο]κράτορος Καίσαρος Νέρουα Τ[ραιανοῦ Σεβαστοῦ Γερμανικοῦ
Δακικοῦ τύχης]
[καὶ τοῦ σύμπ]αντος αὐτοῦ οἴκου Ἴσιδι θε[ᾷ μεγίστῃ ˙ ca.28 ˙]
[˙ ..... ˙]... Παπείρεος ἑρμηνεὺς καὶ γρα[μματεὺς ˙ ca.30 ˙]
[˙ ca.14 ˙]˙αιου ἐπὶ Μάρκο[υ Ῥουτιλίου Λούπου ἐπάρχου Αἰγύπτου]
5 -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

105713-1 Translation (English) xml

On behalf of the fortune of Imperator Caesar Nerva Trajan Augustus Germanicus Dacicus and all his house, to Isis the very great goddess . . . (son of?) Papiris, interpreter and secretary . . . under Marcus Rutilius Lupus, prefect of Egypt.

History

Editorial History

All History

Detailed history

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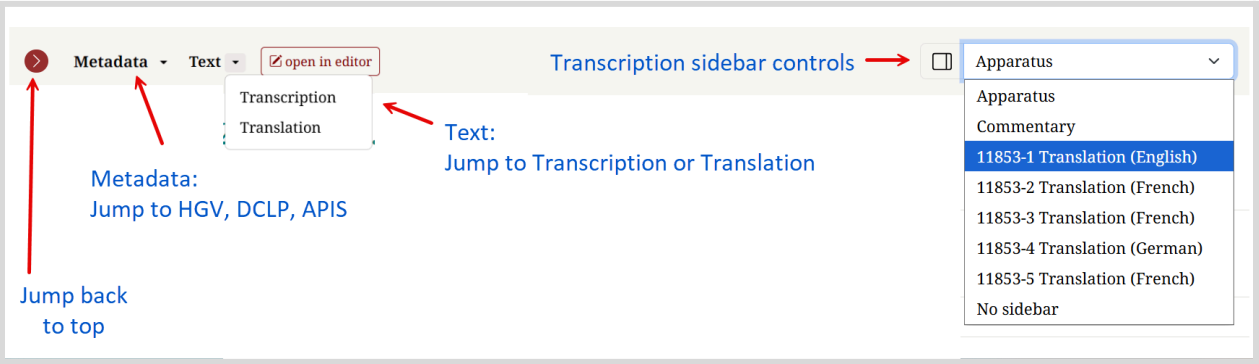
Linked Data

RDF/XML | Turtle | N-Triples | JSON | Graph Visualization

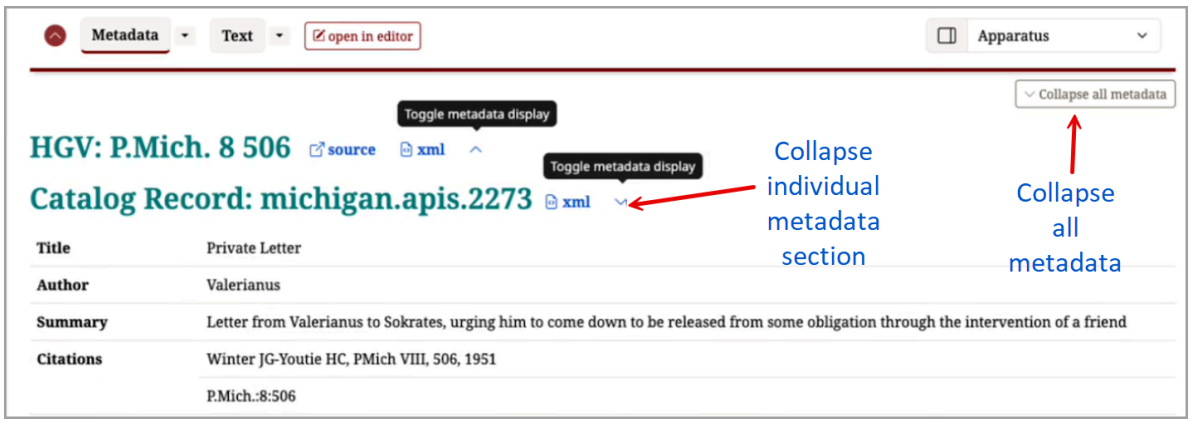
CURRENT EDITION PAGE continued…

A new sticky menu bar includes options for navigation and information display on the page:

- On the left side of the menu bar, select the red circle to jump back to top. Select **Metadata** to jump up to the top Metadata section of the page and select the downward arrow beside **Text** to jump to Transcription or Translations, as available.
- On the right side of the menu bar, a dropdown list of sidebar controls lets you customize the display of information. The selected item appears to the right of the transcription while unselected items appear below the transcription.The **No sidebar** option removes the transcription sidebar and displays all information in a single vertical stack.

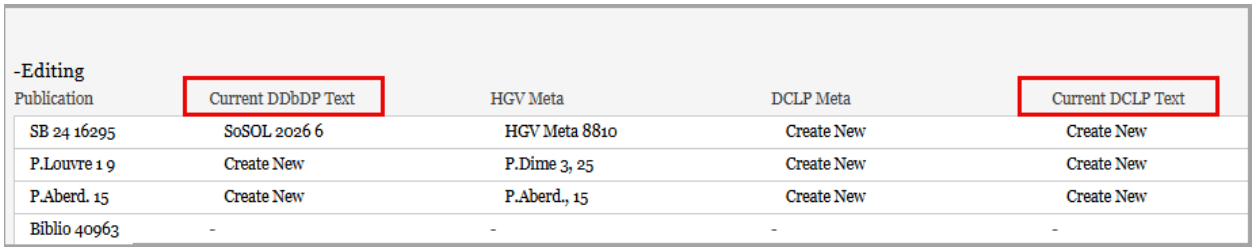


To reduce scrolling, use the "**Collapse all metadata**" button under the menu bar on the right side or collapse individual sections using the metadata display toggle beside each metadata header



PAPYROLOGICAL EDITOR

There are minimal changes to the Papyrological Editor user interface in this release. Two dashboard column names have been changed: **DDbDP Text** becomes **Current DDbDP Text** and **DCLP Text** becomes **Current DCLP Text.**



-Editing

Publication	Current DDbDP Text	HGV Meta	DCLP Meta	Current DCLP Text
SB 24 16295	SoSOL 2026 6	HGV Meta 8810	Create New	Create New
P.Louvre 1 9	Create New	P.Dime 3, 25	Create New	Create New
P.Aberd. 15	Create New	P.Aberd., 15	Create New	Create New
Biblio 40963	-	-	-	-

THE TEAM

This effort has been a collaboration of many individuals, at Duke and beyond.

James Cowey	Institute for Papyrology, University of Heidelberg
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Joshua Sosin	Duke University, Classical Studies

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Ryan Baumann	Developer
Julie Brannon	Project Manager
Annie Brown	User Experience Researcher
Hugh Cayless	Developer
Candice Clarke	Materials Management
Isaiah Coleman	DevOps
Michael Daul	UI Developer
Kate Dickson	Copyright & Info Policy Librarian
Will Sexton	Project Sponsor