Acknowledgments

I owe my first acquaintance with Digital Papyrology to Professor Isabella Andorlini, who admittedly has been a pioneer in the systematic application of electronic resources to papyrological scholarship, from the effective use of textual databases to virtual restoration of fragmentary documents[1], up to the digitization of the Greek medical papyri[2]. I still remember her passion in describing functionalities and advantages of the digital tools, and her skilfulness in using them. My previous interests in information technologies did the rest[3]. I would like to dedicate this work to Her, in memory of all this.

My grateful thoughts then go to Fabian Reiter, who allowed me to hold a class of Digital Papyrology at the University of Trier during the Winter Semester 2016/17, which gave me really many useful and interesting suggestions about the topics discussed here. He also supported this publication, for which I wish to thank also Mirko Vonderstein and my other contact people at De Gruyter (Katrin Hofmann, Florian Ruppenstein), who have been so kind, patient and efficient in following all the publishing steps. I am grateful also to the students who actively took part into the Trier seminar (Julius Bergau, Spyridoula Bounta, Pia Geißel, Sara Marmai) for all the fruitful discussions we had together.

I would like to mention also the Digital Papyrology seminars conducted by Rodney Ast, James Cowey and Lajos Berkes at the Institute of Papyrology of the Heidelberg University directed by Prof. Andrea Jördens, the attendance of which has proven helpful for improving my experience in this rising field, as well as my participation in the digital classes of the "SunoikisisDC" programme (Leipzig University), coordinated by Monica Berti. I also thank my colleagues and friends Davide Astori, Francesca Bertonazzi and Isabella Bonati, with whom I shared several phases of my research.

I wish this thank-list were longer, because I would have loved to discuss all the topics and resources with more people. Unfortunately, unpredictable tragic circumstances slightly affected the conclusion of the ERC DIGMEDTEXT project, from

---

1 Cf. ANDORLINI 2008; ANDORLINI – REGGIANI 2012.
2 Cf. ANDORLINI 2017a; see below, esp. §§ 8.6–7.
3 REGGIANI 2012 represents the first outcome of my experience in this field, being the product of my involvement in a Digital Humanities seminar coordinated by Professor Anna Maria Tammaro at the University of Parma and stemming from the Digital Papyrology introductory seminars I held for Professor Andorlini's classes.

which this work stems (see Appendix 2), and bureaucratic demands forced me to complete the publication in too short a time. I hope that my benevolent readers will take what follows for what it is – a preliminary survey and a tentative theoretical, methodological, and epistemological arrangement of a rising and ever-changing subject, probably presented in too an Italianized English, for which I express all my sorrowful apologies – and will kindly agree to send me back advice, suggestions, remarks, criticism, so that a sharper manual can be envisaged in the near future of Digital Papyrology[4].

The present work is not exactly a handbook – most of the digital tools do already offer detailed instructions and help guides, to which I gladly refer –, nor just a list of tools. Recent detailed surveys of the digital papyrological scenario already exist[5] and they do not deserve to be updated or replaced. My aim is to analyse the electronic papyrological resources in details in order to pinpoint common trends, to sketch methodological outlines and to envisage an epistemology of Digital Papyrology, in view of the possible future developments[6].

Isabella Andorlini and Nicola Reggiani at the SoSOL Training Session,
Duke University (Durham, NC), July 2010.

---

4 An update web page is prospected at http://www.papirologia.unipr.it/dp/update.html.
5 BABEU 2011, 141–57; DELATTRE – HEILPORN 2014; QUENOUILLE 2016 (more Leipzig-focused). RUFFING 2000 and CAPASSO 2005, 227–35 are slightly outdated but are nice snapshots of past situations.
6 I must also anticipate that I will deal mostly with Greek and Latin Papyrology. Demotic will not be forgotten, since it constitutes a fundamental linguistic and cultural source for Graeco-Roman Egypt. Conversely, egyptological digital resources, though very promising and Egypt-related as well, will not be taken into consideration; for a recent survey of them, see WOUTER – VAN KEER 2014.