Scholarly and Technical Standards for Map-based Digital Works

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Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative

www.ecai.org
ePublication and the ECAI Vision

“The mission of ECAI is to advance scholarship through increased attention to place and time”
The ECAI ePublication Program:

- Initiated two years ago in collaboration with eScholarship division of California Digital Library
- To integrate ECAI with the academic publication processes
- And research solutions to problems of persistence for complex digital objects
- Our first publication has just been released!
ECAI ePublications have traditional scholarly qualities

• Articulating and illustrating a hypothesis
• Integrity of information
  – Content is comprehensive and well documented
• Multiple reviews and assessments, including:
  – internal review, peer review, persistence review, and technical summary
• Archived and persistent
…but are also functional and interactive

- www.ecai.org/sasanianweb
- Incorporates a text based browser interface for the publication.
- Provides access to scholarly articles, bibliographies and technical documentation that relate to the seal stones.
…and integrate maps, text and web resources

- Map-based component includes:
  - GIS data
  - Historic maps
  - Navigation to images and text
  - Gazetteer and other attribute data
- Registered as MapSpaces with rendering decisions made by the author.
- Available through TMView and TMJava
The Sasanian publication map page

On the horizon...

• More emphasis on TMJava
• Better integration of maps and text
• Incorporation of multiple maps in a single publication
Review structure: a technical and scholarly collaboration

• Technical
  – Internal assessment by publication task force

• Persistence
  – Evaluation of each publication component by publication task force

• Peer
  – Solicited review by content expert

• Editorial board
  – Assessment of navigation, content, map usability, etc.
Digital Persistence Methodology

- Component Inventory database
- Documentation of all components of the publication
  - screen shots, technical documentation
  - content in archival formats
  - content as delivered
- Rate the persistence potential of each component
- Distributed responsibility for persistence
  - Rely on institutions with a mandate to provide archival services
A partnership for archiving and persistence

- Distributed data access and management (author and ECAI)
- Archiving content, documentation, and high quality originals (CDL)
  …a blueprint of the publication and its functionality
- Functional persistence responsibility shared by ECAI, CDL, and the author
  • Making sure the content stays the same as published
  • Making sure it continues to function
Visit our publication sites

• http://escholarship.cdlib.org/ecai
  – The live publication site
• http://ecai.org/projects/publications.html
  – For information about standards
• http://ecai.org/sasanianweb
  – The first publication website

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