



**Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative**

# Scholarly and Technical Standards for Map-based Digital Works

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Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative

[www.ecai.org](http://www.ecai.org)



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## ePublication and the ECAI Vision

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



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## 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!



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# 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



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...but are also functional and interactive

- [www.ecai.org/sasanianweb](http://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.

Sasanian Seals Collection and Sasanian Empire Project - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Search Favorites History

Address <http://ecai.org/sasanianweb/>

### The Near East in Late Antiquity The Sasanian Empire

[Sasanian Seals](#)  
from the Collection of the Late Edward Gans at the University of California, Berkeley

[Table of Contents](#)  
[PDF version](#)

[Search the Sasanian Seals Collection](#)

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[The Sasanian Empire](#)

[Sasanian Sites - Photos and Text](#)

[Maps of the Sasanian Empire](#)

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[The Sasanian Seals Exemplar Project](#)

[ECAI Sasanian Electronic Publication](#)

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[Creation of the Sasanian Seals Archive](#)

[The Sasanian Empire Project - Technical Summary](#)





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# ...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 screenshot shows the TimeMap Viewer 3.0.1.105 application. The title bar reads "TimeMap Viewer 3.0.1.105 - TimeMap Project - University of Sydney". The main window title is "The Sasanian Empire ECAI Publication". The interface includes a "MapSpace Manager", "Layer Control", and "Add Data" buttons. A map of the Sasanian Empire is displayed with various colored markers. A "Data" window is open, showing a table with columns: ID, LATITUDE, LONGITUDE, PLACEEX, PLACELO, NAMEQU, and SASANIANNA. The table contains 11 rows of data, with the last row highlighted in red.

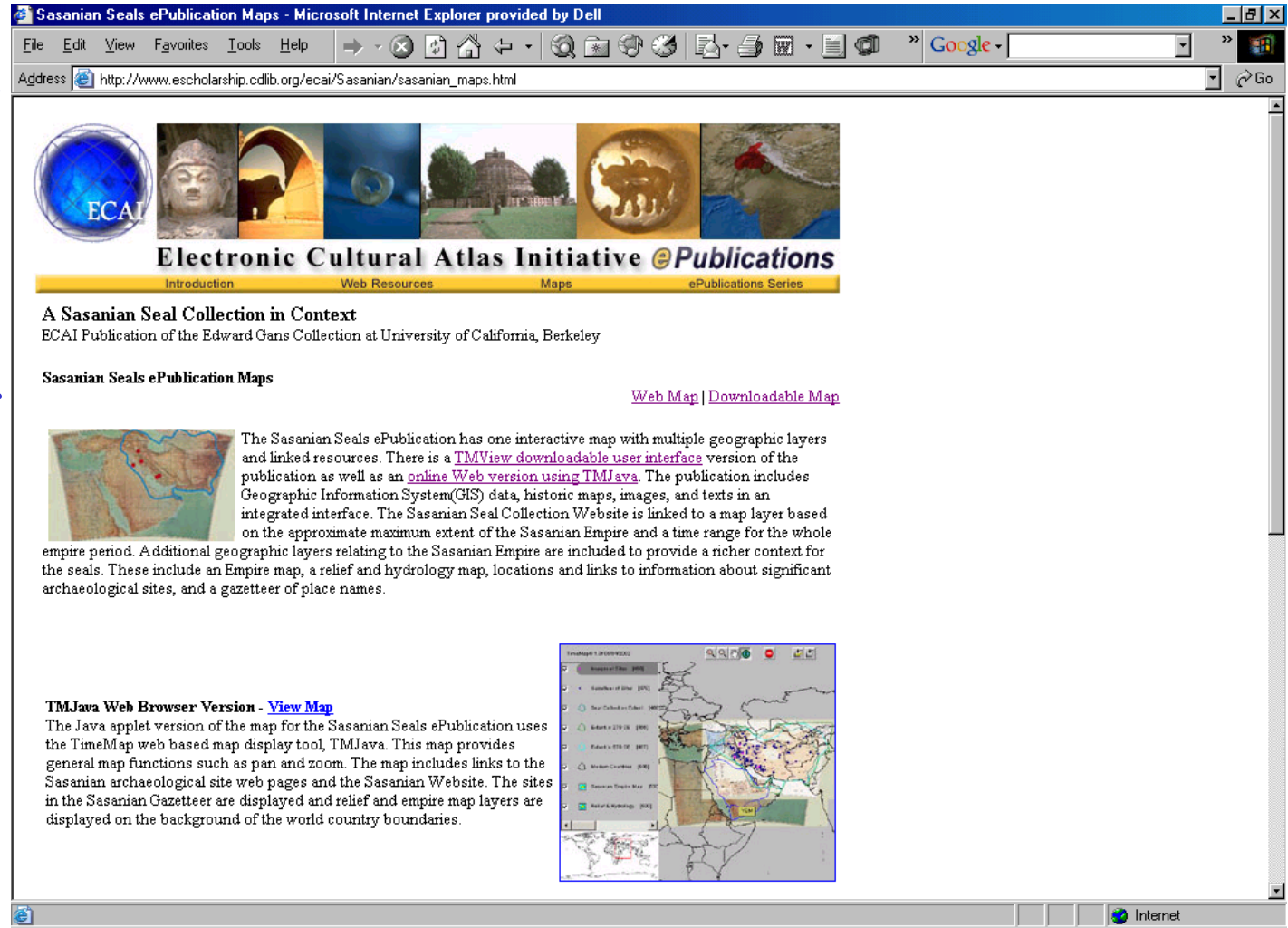
ID	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	PLACEEX	PLACELO	NAMEQU	SASANIANNA
29	35.6	63.4	Certain	Certain	Certain	Marv-rot
30	34.3	62.2	Certain	Certain	Certain	Hariy
31	31.1	61.7	Certain	Supposed	Certain	Zarang
32	32.8	59	Certain	Certain	Certain	Ger-Ardasir
33	34.4	61.7	Certain	Certain	Certain	Pusang
34	33.7	59.2	Certain	Certain	Certain	Ka(y)en
108	29.8	52.5	Certain	Certain	Certain	Gor
110	31.8	49.9	Certain	Certain	Certain	Malamir
44	31.9	54.4	Certain	Certain	Certain	Yazd

The status bar at the bottom shows the file path: "D:\users\TimeMapDemo\Resources\sasanian\sasanian\_gazetteer.htm".

# 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*



**Sasanian Seals ePublication Maps**

[Web Map](#) | [Downloadable Map](#)

The Sasanian Seals ePublication has one interactive map with multiple geographic layers and linked resources. There is a [TMView downloadable user interface](#) version of the publication as well as an [online Web version using TMJava](#). The publication includes Geographic Information System(GIS) data, historic maps, images, and texts in an integrated interface. The Sasanian Seal Collection Website is linked to a map layer based on the approximate maximum extent of the Sasanian Empire and a time range for the whole empire period. A additional geographic layers relating to the Sasanian Empire are included to provide a richer context for the seals. These include an Empire map, a relief and hydrology map, locations and links to information about significant archaeological sites, and a gazetteer of place names.

**TMJava Web Browser Version - [View Map](#)**

The Java applet version of the map for the Sasanian Seals ePublication uses the TimeMap web based map display tool, TMJava. This map provides general map functions such as pan and zoom. The map includes links to the Sasanian archaeological site web pages and the Sasanian Website. The sites in the Sasanian Gazetteer are displayed and relief and empire map layers are displayed on the background of the world country boundaries.



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## 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.





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# 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

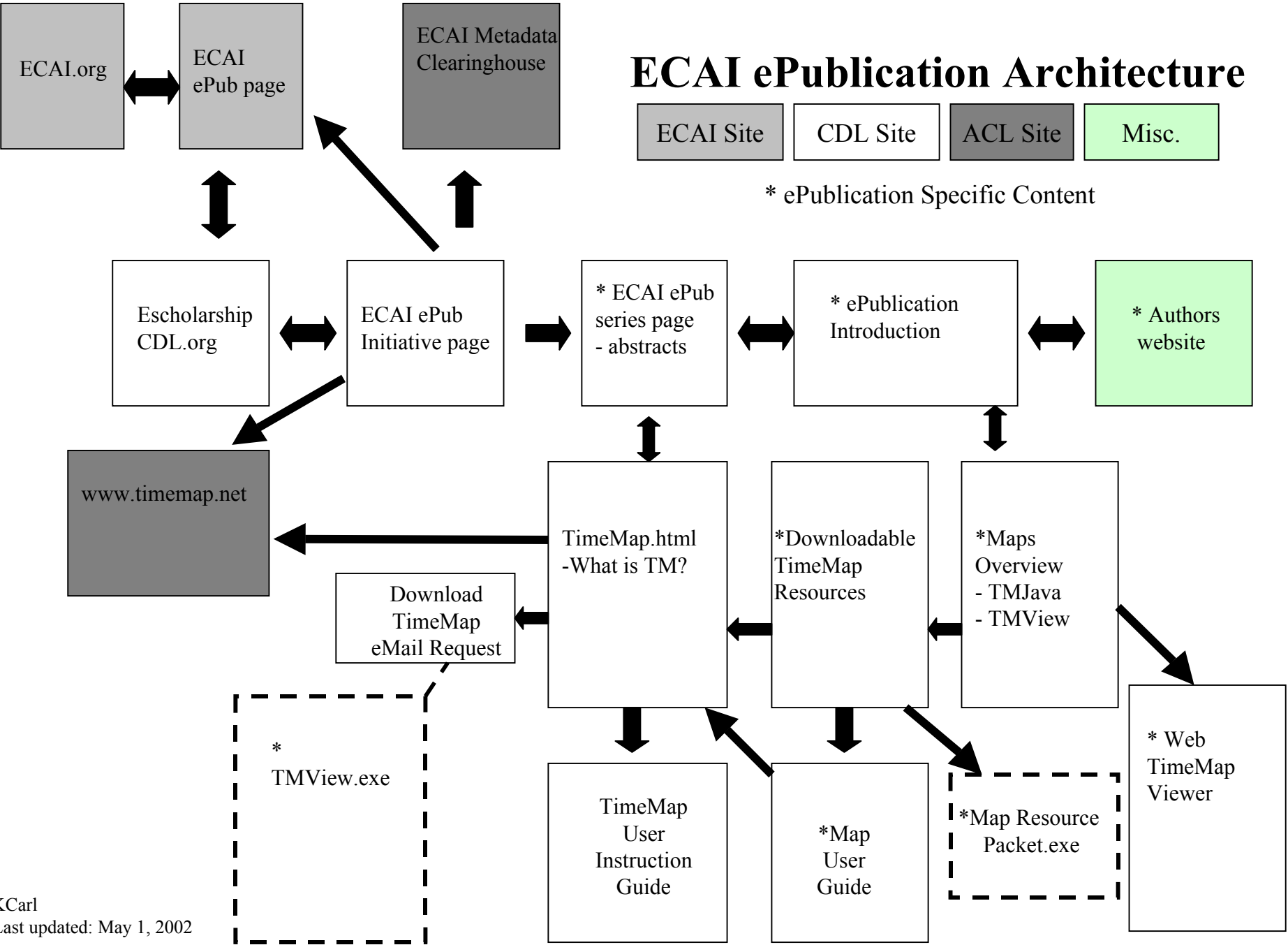


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## A partnership for archiving and persistence

- 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

# ECAI ePublication Architecture





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# 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

**FOR MORE INFO...**

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