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I am interested in issues of collaborative geodata creation and maintenance, and interoperability of geoservices for humanistic research and teaching. I am particularly interested in the tension between new community-based approaches to content creation and well-founded traditional concerns about accuracy, citation and verifiability. Two other areas of concern are: cross-project collation and georeferencing of toponymic gazetteers, and feature extraction and georeferencing from historical maps and artifacts that cannot be rubbersheeted usefully.

As the director of the Ancient World Mapping Center's Pleiades project, I preside over an effort to build a collaborative, web-based system for the perpetual update and diversification of a complex geo-historical dataset for Greek and Roman antiquity. The dataset itself derives from the work of the Classical Atlas Project (1988-2000). Comprising more than 50,000 named and unnamed geographic features, it was compiled and vetted by a 200-person international team of scholars and professional cartographers. Their initial goal was the creation of a scholarly reference atlas in print, and this goal was realized in 2000 with the publication of the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World* (R. Talbert, ed., Princeton; see www.unc.edu/depts/cl_atlas). The Center's core mission, from its foundation in 2000, has been the perpetual update, diversification and dissemination of this legacy.

With initial funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2006-2008), Pleiades combines open, community-based content development approaches with rigorous editorial review. Pleiades will soon enable anyone — from scholars to casual students of antiquity — to suggest updates to geographic names, descriptive essays, bibliographic references and geographic coordinates. Once vetted for accuracy and pertinence, these suggestions will become a permanent, author-attributed part of future publications and data services. These will include OGC-compliant Web Mapping and Feature Services (WMS/WFS), as well as a geocoding/gazetteer service sensitive to the full range challenges posed by our toponyms: fragmentary witnesses, scholarly hesitation in assignment, variant orthographies and scripts, etc.

To support the Pleiades “community of practice” we are customizing an enterprise-quality content management system (plone.org) by adding custom “content types” to handle structured spatial, toponymic and bibliographic records (beta site with early results: icon.stoa.org/pleiades-beta). Robust version control, document history and threaded comment-and-review mechanisms will facilitate not only granular and incremental updating of individual records, but also large-scale expansion and diversification of our holdings. A flexible, dynamic mapping tool will permit on-the-fly visualization of arbitrary subsets of the dataset (including query results). Working groups will facilitate collaboration on topics of group interest.

Plans are now in preparation for a multi-year, collaborative effort to leverage this dataset and its maintenance environment to establish a reliable digital infrastructure for Greek and Roman geography. This effort will involve a number of major digital projects that are cataloging and publishing documentary and archaeological resources (e.g., for inscriptions, papyrus documents, coins), as well as critical reference resources (e.g., for personal names and prosopography). Most such projects in the field of Greek and Roman history have limited budgets and staff and therefore

cannot undertake to implement and maintain dynamic mapping and spatial query capabilities. Instead, in order to make best use of the planned Pleiades web services outlined above, other projects will need to upgrade their toponymic thesauri to include Pleiades ID references as foreign keys. Through an automated/supervised collation process, we will work with these projects to match their records against ours for each geographic feature of interest.