

FACULTY OF CLASSICS
OXFORD ROMAN ECONOMY PROJECT



A database for the Roman Economy

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The Oxford Roman Economy Project (OxREP)

- AHRC funded first phase (2005-2010), continuing until end 2012 at least.
- Studying economic history of the Roman world through large, quantifiable datasets.
- Aims:
 - Understanding economic geography
 - Understanding change over time (growth and decline)
 - Studying local phenomena to greater depth
- Using known (and published) archaeological and textual data

The OxREP databases, an inventory:

- Roman Shipwrecks
- Roman mines
- Roman villas with multiple sets of wine and olive presses
- (all) Roman cities
- A complete inventory of the Karanis Tax Rolls
- Land property lists
- Alimenta lists
- An inventory of machines mentioned in literature
- An inventory of canals in the Roman world
- Roman coins found in India

... and (many) more to be added in the future

What we needed

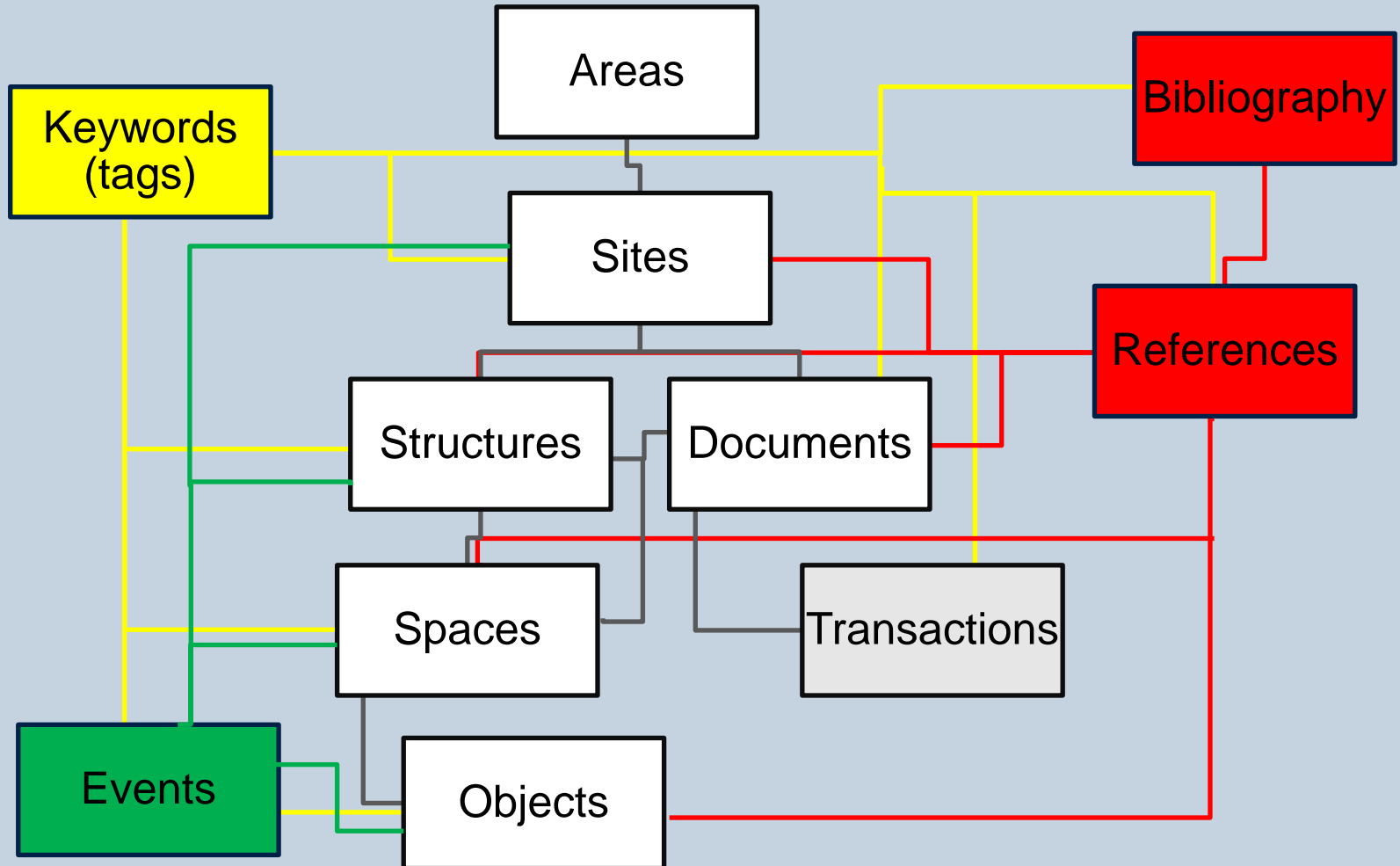
- A powerful, flexible database
- A good back-end website for updating the database
- A user-friendly front-end website for browsing, searching and querying the database, including:
 - Mapping facility
 - Chart facility
 - Facility to store queries
 - References to scholarly literature

Database design: what we had...

... a quantity of databases:

- made by different people, some of whom had already left Oxford
- In different file format (access, excel)
- With different levels of detail, complexity and accuracy
- Sometimes with internal inconsistencies
- High reliance on text fields (and thus, inevitably, many typo's)
- Different ways of referencing

Database design





General

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[Map](#)

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Databases

[Roman Mines](#)

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Data Browser

Select Site

Browse by Keyword



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

The Oxford Roman Economy Project Database Server

As part of the AHRC-funded first phase of the Oxford Roman Economy Project, several large databases were compiled, including databases of the Karanis Tax Rolls, of places where coinage metals were mined, of Roman wine- and olive presses, of Roman shipwrecks, of Roman coins in India, and of several other datasets. These databases are currently being made available in online form for scholars, partially as a way to make sure that the the project results are falsifiable to a detailed level, but mostly as a research device for scholars working on issues related to the Roman economy themselves. In the future, more OXREP generated databases will be added, and we also intend to provide a possibility to host databases related to the theme of the project generated by other scholars.

Work in Progress

At this moment, the site is in its first stages of development; things may change rapidly over the next few months. Databases currently searchable include the Karanis Tax Rolls database, the Mines Database, and the Presses Database. The shipwrecks database and the Roman Coins in India database are online, but as search and browse engines are currently being written, they are only visible on the map until further notice. We do, of course, welcome any suggestions, additions and corrections from people using the database for their research; scholars interested in our project may contact Miko Flohr, assistant director of the Oxford Roman Economy Project ([contact details](#)).

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