

Chronique des fouilles en ligne / Archaeology in Greece Online in the era of archaeological Big Data

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Abstract :

The platform many of us know as Chronique des fouilles en ligne/Archaeology in Greece Online (<https://chronique.efa.gr>) is a recent digital version of an archaeological project that has a much longer history. Its principal aim from the very beginning has always been to synthesise and communicate to the scientific community recent archaeological activity from all over Greece.

In French, recent archaeological discoveries were first synthesised for print in an article entitled *Chronique des fouilles et découvertes en Grèce* and appeared in the *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*, the review of the French School at Athens, in 1920. In English, similar reviews first appeared in 1954 as *Archaeology in Greece* in the journal *Archaeological Reports*. In the late 2000s, as archaeological activity intensified and the amount of published material increased, both Schools saw the need to migrate the information presented thus far in print format to a digital tool, which would offer the same information in a more searchable way. In 2009, the first version of Chronique des fouilles en ligne/Archaeology in Greece Online launched, offering a database of archaeological reports organised by year of activity and by site name, each report being tied to a toponym.

Since then, the platform has evolved. In November 2018, a completely revised version was released, and further improvements are still in development. The search tool is more powerful: one can make more complex requests, visualize results on the map, or view the images that illustrate the reports. We have also worked on a semantic level: the content of most fields has been linked to standards and thesauri such as [Getty's AAT](#), [Pactols](#), [IdRef](#), [PeriodO](#), whereas toponyms are related to [Pleiades](#) and will eventually connect to the [Pelagios Network](#). Through toponyms, the platform is linked to another digital tool for ancient sources, [Topos Text](#). Furthermore, the development of API has allowed us to take the first steps on linking Chroniques des fouilles with Fasti Online: we are working to make Chronique des fouilles/AG Online visible both through the Fasti Online platform, and, eventually, through the portal of [Aridane+](#).

This paper will not only provide an overview of the history of *Chronique des fouilles/AG Online* and the challenges faced so far in performing the semantic links, but it will also discuss our ambitions to bring the platform and its content to the wider Big Data community. Even though *Chronique des fouilles/AG Online* does not produce archaeological Big Data *per se*, by linking our platform to myriad other networks and datasets we aim to make Data on the archaeology of Greece that is readily available to the scholarly community much Bigger.

