

Simple Quotation of Ancient Texts using CTS Services

The Perseus Project, the Homer Multitext, and other digital classics initiatives are making electronic editions of Greek and Latin texts available online using Canonical Text Services (CTS). This workshop will show how any scholar can use these CTS texts, easily and efficiently, in online publications.

For example, for a course in New Testament Greek, an instructor might want to provide a selection of passages for students to read, an online course-pack. This process would, traditionally, be a laborious process of looking up texts, copying, pasting, and formatting them into an HTML file.

It would be easier simply to type a list of citations into an HTML file, and let the students' web-browsers do the work of pulling the cited texts into the page and formatting them. This is what CTS offers: citations that can automatically turn into quotations.

Another example: A scholar writing an essay on the *Iliad*, basing an argument on specific passages of text. In traditional publication, the author may cite, or cite and quote a text, doing all the work herself. With texts available through CTS, only a citation is necessary, and the CTS technology can generate a formatted quotation in place.

CTS Citations can look like URLs; they are canonical, and can be general (“The *Iliad*”), specific to the level of a particular edition or translation, and can point to citable units at any level (“Book”, “Book and line”, etc.). Their rigorously defined format makes them “machine actionable”, which is their main benefit.

So... an author can include in an HTML document a citation that looks like this:

<http://folio.furman.edu/cts/urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0020.tlg001.fu01:1-4>

And it will appear on the rendered page like this:

Hesiod, *Theogony*: 1-4

Greek text (Evelyn-White, 1914)

(= urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0020.tlg001.fu01:1-4)

- 1 μουσάων Ἑλικωνιάδων ἀρχώμεθ' αἰίδειν,
- 2 αἴθ' Ἑλικῶνος ἔχουσιν ὄρος μέγα τε ζάθεόν τε
- 3 καί τε περὶ κρήνην ἰοειδέα πόσς' ἀπαλοῖσιν
- 4 ὀρχεῦνται καὶ βωμὸν ἐρισθενέος Κρονίωνος.

This workshop will teach how to find CTS texts online, how to discover and understand the scheme of citation, and how to use a simple template file to create HTML documents that draw on CTS texts. The necessary technology is a modern web-browser and access to space on a server that can host basic HTML files. Participation is not restricted to graduate students. Basic knowledge of HTML is encouraged, but not required.