

The Perseids Platform: A Collaborative Online Teaching Environment

The past two decades have seen the emergence of powerful digital tools to handle large collections of texts and artifacts and increasingly effective support for teaching. As the technologies evolved, Humanists have become more familiar and comfortable with digital tools, and the superiority of the digital medium is widely recognized for providing broad access to texts and images and an easily updatable format. Yet, it has remained difficult for many Humanists to move their scholarly and pedagogical activities to a digital environment, because few electronic platforms can host entire workflows that meet the scholarly and pedagogical standards of today's academy while producing data that is accessible, interoperable, and sustainable.

With these challenges in mind, the Perseus Digital Library created the Perseids platform, an online collaborative editing environment which offers students and scholars an opportunity to work together in the creation and dissemination of knowledge, thereby integrating teaching and research activities. The platform allows users to produce narrative commentaries of documents hosted in the Perseus Digital Library, morpho-syntactic analyses (treebanking), and also allows for the edition and publication of new documents, such as manuscripts and inscriptions, which then become integrated to the digital library. The data produced is curated using the best practices currently available in the fields of computer and library sciences to ensure its longevity and accessibility.

To design this multifaceted interactive environment, our team has required the participation of academics, library professionals, and software developers. This panel will showcase the Perseids platform from each team member's point of view, and each paper will detail the needs and challenges we faced and the results obtained in the areas of teaching, software integration, and conservancy.