Interim Project Report
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This report covers the period 1 November 2012 - 28 April 2013

The Pleiades Project team is pleased to report a range of developments that continue to affirm NEH's investment and that extend the project's value to scholars, students, and the general public worldwide.

During the reporting period, we welcomed the creation of 1,001 new Pleiades information resources (places, locations and names) as well as many thousands of updates. All of these changes were carried out by individual contributors working through our website interface and editorial workflow. An additional 986 information resources (some new, some revised) are currently queued for editorial action.

The Pleiades community of users continues to expand, and we remain engaged in enabling their volunteer efforts around Pleiades content and services.

We were pleased to welcome Adam Rabinowitz (University of Texas, Classics) to join the Pleiades editorial board. He also engaged his students in an undergraduate classical archaeology class in working with and creating new Pleiades content. We will have results and feedback from this on-going pedagogical experiment in our next report.

We also conducted several on-line "mapping parties" during which members of the community scheduled time to work together on particular tasks, and communicated questions and answers to each other and to members of the editorial board via the Pleiades Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channel. One example outcome of such a mapping party are the "connections" (described in previous reports and on our site at http://pleiades.stoa.org/help/what-are-connections) that now link many of our place resources for settlements and other cultural features on the island of Sardinia with the place resource for the island itself: http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/472014.

The editorial board also undertook a major re-organization of the Pleiades help documentation (http://pleiades.stoa.org/help). Contents were grouped into new, more intuitive categories developed in response to community feedback, and many new help topics created and updated. We also added a new "Citation Guide" to help users in constructing bibliographic references (http://pleiades.stoa.org/help/citation-guide), as well as a new "Reviewers' Guide" that serves as a checklist for reviewers and editors in vetting content, and for all community members as they prepare their content for review (http://pleiades.stoa.org/help/reviewers-guide).

The most important new feature added to Pleiades software during the reporting period is integration with OpenStreetMap (OSM). It is now possible for our users to create a new Pleiades location resource by simply entering a node identification number from OSM. Our software then uses the OSM Application Programming Interface (API) to pull title, coordinates, and other information from the OSM database and construct a corresponding Pleiades location resource that is then presented to the user for review, modification, and enhancement as necessary. We automatically record the provenance of the data, and include a citation that not only leads subsequent users back to the original data in OSM, but also conforms to the

licensing and fair-play expectations of the OSM community. See further: http://pleiades.stoa.org/help/linking-pleiades-to-openstreetmap.

We have spent a significant amount of time during this reporting period trying to manage and improve site performance and reliability. We believe we are reaching the scale limits of the Plone content management system platform that underpins Pleiades. We submitted a proposal to the NEH Office of Digital Humanities Phase 2 Startup Grants program in hopes of securing funds beginning in fall 2013 to build a next-generation production system that can meet the expanding demands of our community and the growth of our content.

Tom Elliott, the principal investigator, undertook Pleiades-related travel three times during the period of performance. Sean Gillies traveled once in support of the project.

Elliott and Gillies participated in the first trip together: to attend and present at the Joint Annual Meetings of the American Classical Association and the Archaeological Institute of America (Seattle, January 2013). On the day after the joint meetings closed they conducted an open, half-day workshop on "getting started" with Pleiades, which was attended by 8 people representing a variety of interests and several key digital projects in Classical Studies that are now working toward use of Pleiades and participation in the Pelagios network.

Elliott's second trip was in February 2013 to present at a workshop on the future of the Stanford ORBIS project, which uses Pleiades content and participates in the Pelagios network (described in our previous report). Elliott also traveled to the Digital Classics Association conference in April 2013 to present Pleiades and Pelagios. Both of these trips were largely funded by the host programs.

In February 2013 we initiated a no-cost extension for the present grant, and this was approved at the institutional level in accordance with NEH policy and acknowledged by the NEH on 4/1/2013. The project's end date has been extended to 4/30/2014 and we have scaled back the percentage of Gillies' monthly time devoted to the project. The rationale for this extension is to continue to provide technical support at a modest level to the Pleiades community during the period in which we are seeking follow-on funding for the next phase of the project.