

A web portal for the inventory of coin finds

6th Joint Meeting of Nomisma.org and ECFN
Copenhagen, May 4th – 6th 2017

Scope of work

Personal need of finding an efficient solution for the archiving of data related to finds of medieval and modern Italian coins dispersed in publications of various kinds (books, journals, newspapers, personal communications, world wide web)

- *Portable & easy to be updated → access to data in any moment, anywhere*
- *Flexible & scalable → data entry and maintenance to be done on a «best effort» basis*
- *Cheap & chic → being a private project, it cannot count on public funds*

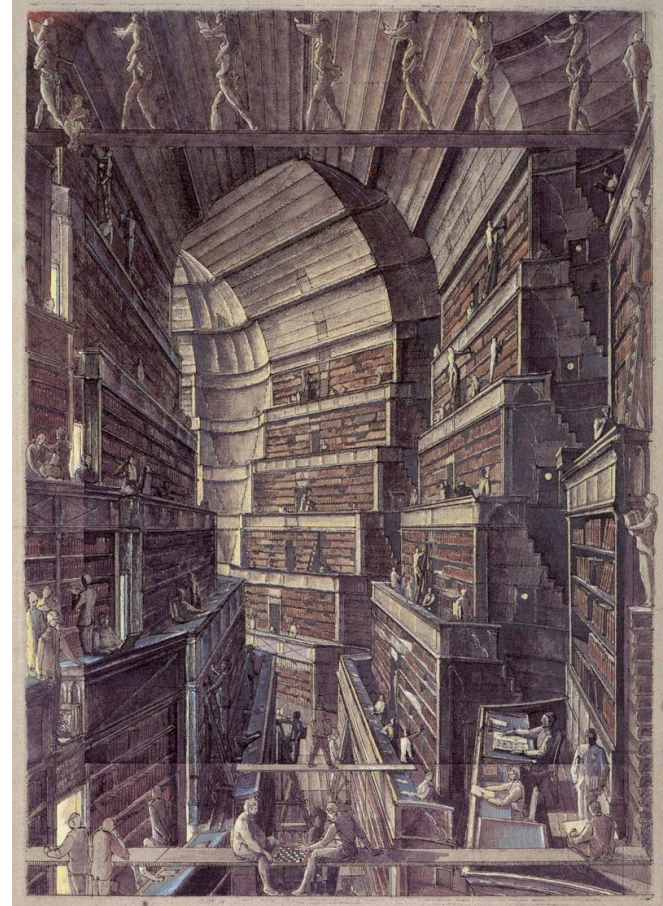


Illustration by Érik Desmazières for the Jorge Luis Borges' short story *The Library of Babel* (1941)

Common needs, (radically) different approaches

321

GREECE

330

321 Delos, 1906

Burial: late 2nd–early 1st cent. B.C. (Hackens)

Contents: 20 AE . From excavations

Athens: 17

Delos: 1

Rhodes: 1

Unc.: 1

Disposition: Athens

Svoronos, *JIAN* 1911, p. 76

322 Delos, 1910

Burial: late 2nd–early 1st cent. B.C. (Hackens)

Contents: 1 AR , 18 AE . From excavations

Athens: 1 New Style tetradr.

17 AE

Unc.: 1 AE

Disposition: Athens

Information from M. Oeconomides

323 Delos, 1910

Burial: late 2nd–early 1st cent. B.C. (Hackens)

Contents: 26 AE . From excavations

Paros (many ctmk.)

Disposition: Athens

Constantopoulos, *BCH* 1937, p. 443

327 Epirus, before 1847 (396)

Burial: 2nd–1st cent. B.C. (T)

Contents: 24 AR

Apollonia, Illyria: dr. (as *BMC* pl. 12,

13–14 [23]; 15 [1])

Disposition: Sotheby June 21, 1847, 100–11

328 Delos, 1910 (314)

Burial: early 1st cent. B.C. (Hackens)

Contents: 3 AR , 311 AE . From excavations

Athens: 3 New Style triob.

132 AE

Unc.: 179 AE

Disposition: Athens

Picard, *Comptes-rendus Acad. Insc.* 1911, p. 872

329 Delos, 1961

Burial: early 1st cent. B.C. (Hackens)

Contents: 8 AE . From excavations

South Italy and Sicily: list of hoards

417

Verona; 1 quattrino of Pier Luigi Farnese of Castro (1537); 1 of Francesco Sforza of Fermo; 1 quattrino of Macerata; 1 denaro of Ravenna; 1 bolognino of Pope Urban V; 1 denier tournois of Tours (c. 1200?) (Cherubini 1868, 88–95; Travaini 1995a, 373).

26. **Episcopia** (Potenza) 1933 (dep. fourteenth century): 97 AR gigliati of Robert (Procopio 1955, 170).

27. **Florida** (Syracuse) 1920 (dep. c. 1070?): 103 AV/AR , 1 very debased quarter-dinar and 99 'five-kharrubas', a denomination which has not yet been certainly defined; its composition is uncertain, some scholars regarding it as silver and others as base gold (Balog 1979b, 18; Travaini 1995a, 369).

28. **Francavilla** (Messina) c. 1900 (dep. between 1130 and 1197?): many Norman taris (Travaini 1995a, 366). Cassarino Tranchina (1995, 211, nos. 5–6) refers to two parcels of tari hoards under the names Castiglione 1902 and Castiglione Siculo 1903, suggesting that they might be the same hoard. As Orsi 1912 referred to a large hoard found between Francavilla and Castiglione in the same years, these seem to be all the same hoard.

29. **Gela** (Caltanissetta) 1963 (dep. after 1278): unknown number of Norman (?), Hohenstaufen and Angevin taris, 40–50 augustales of Frederick II, 30–40 reali of Charles I; 150 gold carlini (Mildenberg 1965a, 307).

- *Synthetic descriptions of the coins*
- *Usually lack of archaeological details*

- *Attributions not done by numismatists*
- *Obsolete/misleading bibliography*

Completeness vs. Reliability

Je puis vous signaler quelques trouvailles du dernier temps, qui cependant n'ont pas reçu une certaine publicité.

La première date du commencement d'Août de cette année et eut lieu dans les environs de Ornovaseo, petit bourg aux frontières du Piémont.

Quelques paysans en faisant sauter en l'air des vieilles ruines y trouvèrent un coffret, qui, immédiatement mis en pièces montra à leurs yeux ébahis une certaine quantité de monnaies d'un aspect douteux. Trompées dans leur espérance d'y voir de l'or, ces bonnes gens se prirent d'abord à les réduire dans un état tout à fait méconnaissable, puis découvrant qu'elles étaient cependant

E. TAHEN, *Lettre critique à Mons. F. Schweitzer touchant la première décade*, in *Mittheilungen aus dem Gebiete der Numismatik und Archaeologie. Notizie peregrine di Numismatica e d'Archeologia*, II, Trieste 1854, pp. 81-96 (82-84)



Coins in the name of Berengar king of Italy, usually both attributed to Berengar I (888-924), mint of Milan.

Attribution recently changed to:

a) Berengar I (888-924), mint of Verona (or Venice?)

b) Berengar II (950-961), mint of Venice

A budgetary point of view

Completeness and accuracy have a cost

The number of coin finds recorded is affected by the time dedicated to each find

Assumptions: 8 working hours per day; 250 working days per year; 300 €/MWD of total costs

case 1: 15 min. per coin find

- 4 coin finds per hour
- 32 coin finds per day
- 8,000 coin finds per year

1,000 coin finds = 31.25 MWD



1,000 coin finds = 9,375 €

case 2: 30 min. per coin find

- 2 coin finds per hour
- 16 coin finds per day
- 4,000 coin finds per year

1,000 coin finds = 62.5 MWD



1,000 coin finds = 18,750 €

case 3: 60 min. per coin find

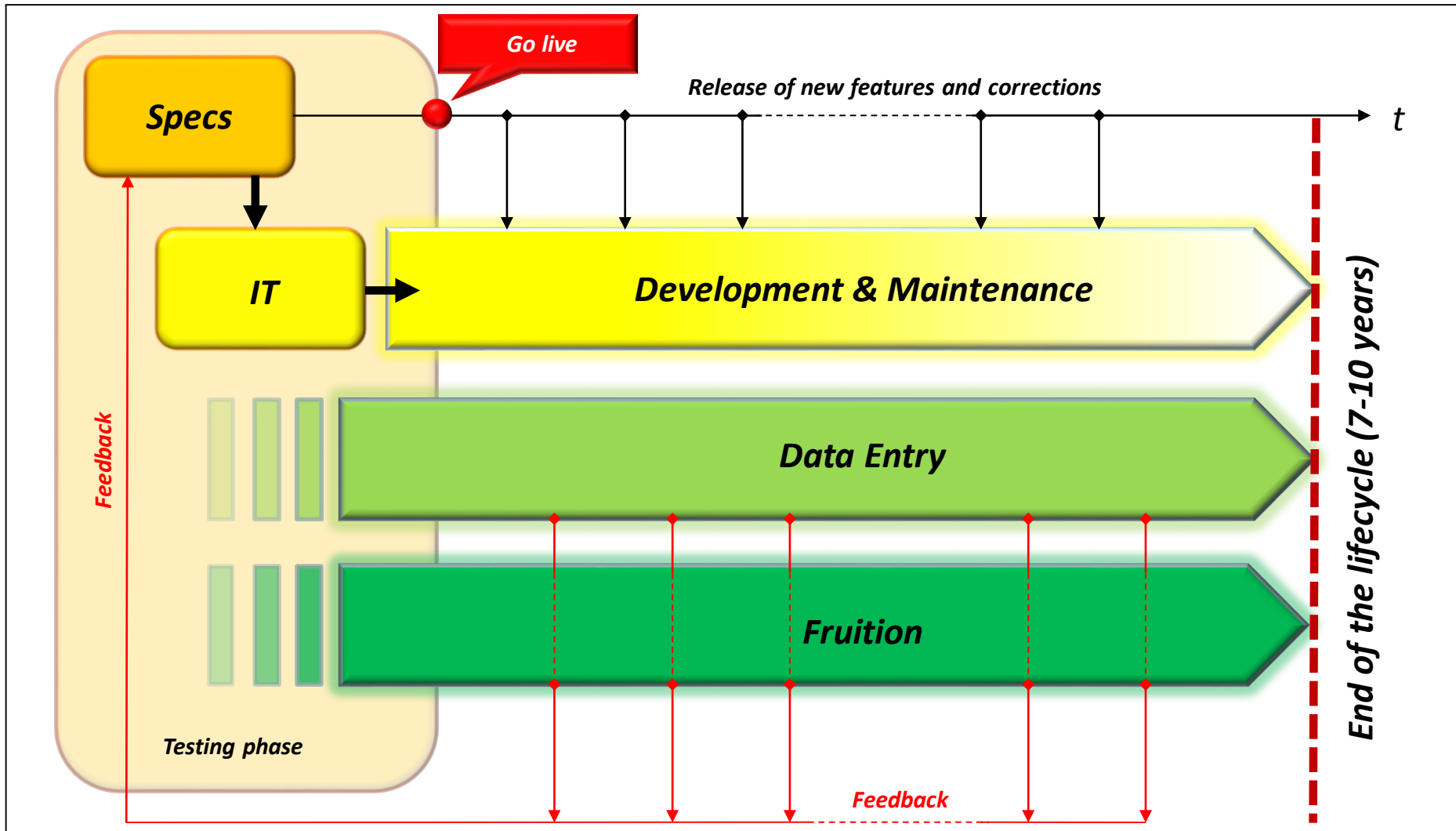
- 1 coin find per hour
- 8 coin finds per day
- 2,000 coin finds per year

1,000 coin finds = 125 MWD



1,000 coin finds = 37,500 €

IT solutions lifecycle



IT solutions: pros & cons



option 1: «Office» solution

Word document, spreadsheet or database

- **Pros:** *cheap, easy to be used, portable*
- **Cons:** *limited sharing of information, data entry bonded to the location of the file used*



option 2: «Wiki» solution

Website allowing collaborative modifications of its contents

- **Pros:** *free, shared information, collaborative data entry, SEO ok*
- **Cons:** *limited search and export capabilities*

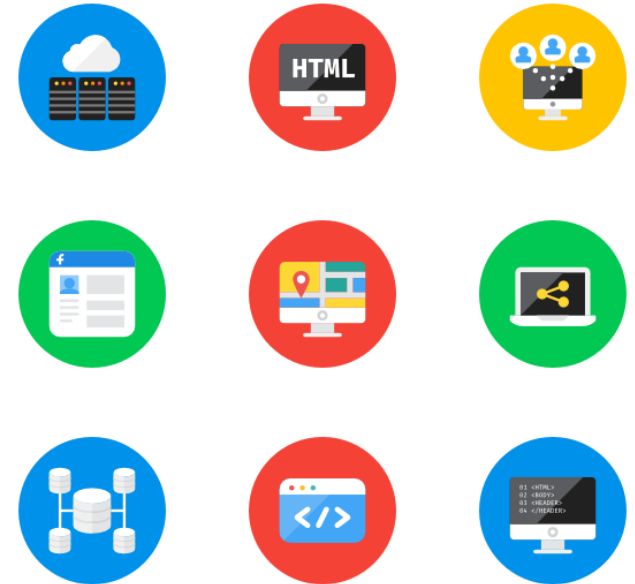


option 3: customized portal

***Customized website
specifically developed***


- ***Pros: shared information, collaborative data entry, tailored export capabilities and search functionalities***
- ***Cons: SEO nok, costs of development***

A (self-developed) web portal for the inventory of coin finds



- *Hosting on Windows Server 2012*
- *IIS 8.5*
- *ASP.net 3.5 compatible*
- *Microsoft Access 2000 compatible*
- *RTF-2-PDF customized macros*
- *Massive CSV/PDF/ZIP importing functions*

<https://www.sibrium.org/CoinFinds/>



The project

List of coin finds

Insert a new find

Bibliography

Insert a new bibliographic record

Search among finds

Search in the bibliography

My coin finds

My bibliographic records

Administration area: coin finds



Administration area: bibliography

Administration area: subscribers

My profile

Change password

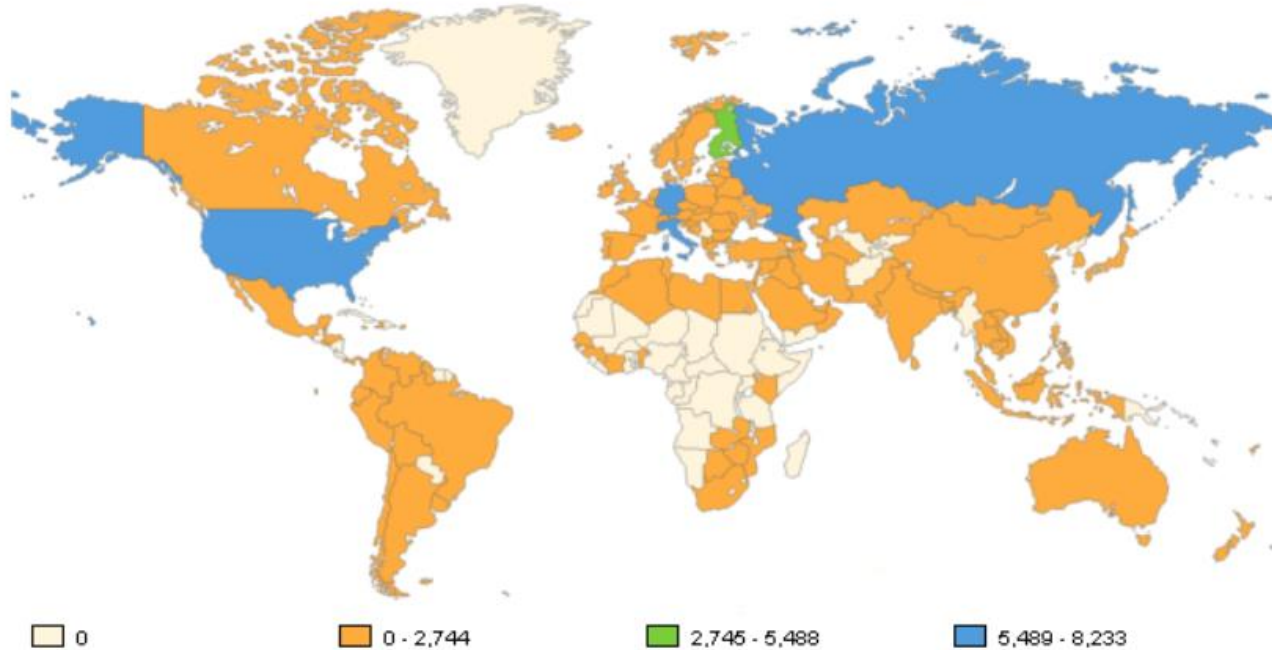
Logout

Region/Province
Type
Approval status

Region/Province	Findspot	Date of discovery	Type
▶ (unspecified)	luogo imprecisato in Pomerania	n.s.	(unspecified)
▶ (unspecified)	Mar Mediterraneo	febbraio 1964	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	1970 (?)	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	1970 (?)	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	ante 1952	(unspecified)
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	ante 1956	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	ante 1986	(unspecified)
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	inizi del XX secolo	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	n.s.	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	n.s.	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	n.s.	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	n.s.	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	n.s.	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta	n.s.	Hoard
▶ (unspecified)	provenienza sconosciuta (Sicilia?)	1990 (?)	Hoard
▶ Albania	Albania meridionale, tre distinti siti non precisati	n.s.	Stray finds
▶ Albania	Butrint/Butrinto, palazzo Triconch e Diaporit	n.s.	Stray finds
▶ Albania	Durrës/Durazzo	n.s.	Hoard

Statistics



- **9,300+ coin finds**
- **4,100+ bibliographic records**
- **visitors from 120+ countries**
- **200+ downloads of the PDF reports per month**

Last update: May 4th 2017

Finds of Medieval & Modern coins in Italy recorded in the web portal

	<i>Hoards</i>	<i>Single/stray finds</i>	<i>Total</i>
Abruzzo	12	13	25
Basilicata	6	26	32
Calabria	18	134	152
Campania	43	61	104
Emilia Romagna	23	93	116
Friuli Venezia Giulia	7	83	90
Lazio	47	107	154
Liguria	9	54	63
Lombardia	76	148	224
Marche	8	36	44
Molise	12	13	25
Piemonte	27	58	85
Puglia	24	82	106
Sardegna	44	77	121
Sicilia	86	221	307
Toscana	46	139	185
Trentino Alto Adige	8	75	83
Umbria	8	19	27
Valle d'Aosta	4	19	23
Veneto	37	147	184
(unspecified)	7	4	11
Total	552	1,609	2,161



Last update: May 4th 2017