

Information about Perseus

What is the Perseus Project?

The Perseus Project is an evolving digital library of resources for the study of the humanities. Collaborators initially formed the project to construct a large, heterogeneous collection of materials, textual and visual, on the Archaic and Classical Greek world. Planning for Perseus began in 1985; the project was formally established in July, 1987. Since then, the Perseus Project has [published two CD-ROMs](#) and created the on-line Perseus Digital Library. The project has expanded into other areas of the humanities adding tools for more languages, a variety of collections, and new types of materials. The classical foundation has paved the way for literary and historical collections ranging from the English Renaissance to the American Civil War, and Greek tools became a foundation for the development of resources in Latin, Italian, and Arabic. The project continues to explore new ways of presenting complex resources for electronic publication. Collaboration with the [Digital Collections and Archives](#) of Tufts University led to the [Bolles Collection on London](#). Other collections in development include the American Civil War. For more on our current work, see our [collaborations page](#).

Perseus has received [awards](#) and recognition as one of the major humanities sites on the World Wide Web.

Goals and Mission

Our goal is to bring a wide range of source materials to as large an audience as possible. We anticipate that greater accessibility to the sources for the study of the humanities will strengthen the quality of questions, lead to new avenues of research, and connect more people through the connection of ideas. Members of the project have collected a large set of core data. Additionally, a good deal of the work done at the project focuses on how best to structure the framework for the massive set of texts, images, plans, and maps which comprise the library. In addition to gathering more materials, we continue to build and supplement our powerful set of searching and indexing tools. These tools are at the heart of our work: they form the connections between the various kinds of materials within Perseus and facilitate the exploration of these materials for general readers and specialists alike.

Publications

CDs: The project produced *Perseus 1.0: Interactive Sources and Studies on Ancient Greek Culture* in 1992. [Yale University Press](#) published *Perseus 1.0* on one CD-ROM for the Macintosh with an accompanying videodisc. [Yale University Press](#) released *Perseus 2.0* in 1996 and [Platform Independent Perseus 2.0 in 2000](#). Nearly four times the size of *Perseus 1.0*, *Perseus 2.0* for the Macintosh features additional art and archaeology materials and more texts. Please refer to [a chart outlining the differences](#) between the Perseus CD-ROMs and the Perseus Digital Library if you have questions on the content of the CDs vs. the materials you see on-line here.

WWW: Since 1995, the Perseus Project WWW site has grown into the Perseus Digital Library, an on-line publication of the materials contained on the Perseus CDs as well as new areas of research. Recent expansions include ancient science, Roman materials, Greek lexicography, [an on-line edition of the works of Christopher Marlowe](#), sources for Shakespeare's Richard III and [Julius Caesar](#), a [facsimile First Folio](#), a collaborative project with the Modern Language Association to study creation of new electronic Variorum editions, work on the [Bolles collection on the City of London](#), and the evaluation of new electronic tools for the study of ancient culture.

Please visit our [publications page](#) for further information on our research.

Staff

The Editor-in-Chief of the project is Professor Gregory Crane. Perseus currently employs six full-time staff members and numerous graduate and undergraduate research assistants. Teamwork and collaboration are at the heart of the project, and staff members regularly consult with advisors from colleges and universities across the country. [Additional information on current and past Perseus staff is on-line here.](#)

Support

Perseus is a non-profit enterprise, located in the [Department of the Classics, Tufts University](#).

The Perseus Project is funded by the [Digital Libraries Initiative Phase 2](#), the [National Science Foundation](#), the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), [the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), [private donations](#) and [Tufts University](#).

Support for the project has been provided by [the Annenberg/CPB Project](#), [Apple Computer](#), [the Berger Family Technology Transfer Endowment](#), the [Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education](#), the [Getty Grant program](#), [the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#), [the Modern Language Association](#), the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), the Packard Humanities Institute, [Xerox Corporation](#), [Boston University](#), and [Harvard University](#).

Citing this Web site in a bibliography:

If you wish to cite the Perseus Web site in a bibliography, please list it with the URL, and the month and year you accessed it, as in the following example:

Crane, Gregory R. (ed.) [The Perseus Project](#), <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>, September, 2000.

(The above is from <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/PerseusInfo.html>)

Perseus Classics Collection: An Overview

by Lisa M. Cerrato, Robert F. Chavez,

The [Perseus](#) Classics collection began as an integrated collection of materials, textual and visual, on the Archaic and Classical [Greek](#) world. Named for the Hellenic hero who explored the world to its most distant reaches, [Perseus](#) made it possible for specialists and non-specialists alike to move between traditionally distinct types of information, such as images and texts, and across traditionally distinct disciplines, such as classical archaeology and [philology](#). Building on the success of the tools and resources developed for Ancient [Greek](#) source materials, the project expanded into the [Roman](#) world, with additional art and archaeology materials as well as new collections of Latin texts and tools.

The collection contains extensive and diverse resources including primary and secondary texts, site plans, digital images, and maps. Art and archaeology catalogs document a wide range of objects: over 1,500 vases, over 1,800 sculptures and sculptural groups, over 1,200 coins, hundreds of buildings from nearly 100 sites and over 100 gems. Catalog entries are linked to tens of thousands of images, many in high resolution, and have been produced in collaboration with many museums, institutions and scholars. Catalog information and keywords have been taken from standard sources, which are cited in the entries for each object.

Numerous [secondary sources](#) supplement [Perseus](#) catalog entries. Prominent art and archaeology works include the [Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites](#), [Attic vase paintings in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#), by [L. D. Caskey](#) and [J. D. Beazley](#), selections from [Attic Document Reliefs: Art and Politics in Ancient Athens](#), by [Carol L. Lawton](#), [One Hundred Greek Sculptors: Their Careers and Extant Works](#), by [Andrew Stewart](#), and more. All art and archaeology materials are extensively linked to the [Perseus](#) atlas, which contains over 5,000 classical sites.

In addition to art and archaeology sources, essays, and tools, the classics collection features several hundred works of classical [Greek](#) and [Roman](#) authors, both in the original language and in translation. Moreover, [Perseus](#) has created a suite of powerful linguistic tools, all extensively linked to lexica, which permit the careful study of [Greek](#) and Latin. All word study tools are documented; please visit the help and information center for the latest information on the scope and functions of these tools. Text based [secondary sources](#) include [Greek](#) and Latin grammars, commentaries, and Thomas R. Martin's popular [An Overview of Classical Greek History from Homer to Alexander](#), which acts both as an introduction to [Greek](#) History and an tool for accessing classics resources in [Perseus](#); it's a great place to begin exploring the classics collection.

Nearly all the classics materials are interlinked and accessible from any given resource. For example, a user reading [Julius Caesar's Gallic War](#) in English, may wish to check the particular Latin word [Caesar](#) employs to describe a military formation. Simply by switching the version of the text, users may see the original Latin ([De Bello Gallico](#)) and select a word of interest. This word is linked to the word study tool for Latin, which presents information on the form of the word, gives a brief definition, and provides links to other tools, such as the dictionary and word frequency chart. Or, a student may wish to plot all of the sites [Caesar](#) mentions on the [Perseus](#) atlas. A link on every text page makes this available. Additionally, users can access art and archaeology information such as numerous coins which depict [Julius Caesar](#).

(The above is from <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.04.0053>)