



L.O.D.A.S.

Lupa Online Data Administration System

L.O.D.A.S. is a suite of web applications specially designed for the administration and publication of electronic data resources via the internet in the field of archaeology/epigraphy. It is based on the experience accumulated in the course of the web project Ubi Erat Lupa (<http://www.ubi-erat-lupa.org>) and owes its current stage of realization to many colleagues in a number of European countries who contributed their databases and/or their expertise to create user friendly and easy adaptable applications.

In the course of our work it turned out that it would make sense to create separated sets of tools for the administration and for the publication of archaeological/epigraphical data. The administration environment is specially designed for a flexible integration of new data resources, because every single project has its own requirements and affords modifications of the technical framework. It is focused to provide adequate possibilities of data input to specialists, so its complexity requires some initial training concerning the way that relational databases are organized and how the workflow has to be arranged for satisfactory results.

On the other hand the publishing environment aims for the possibly easiest way of data exploration and distribution. The interface is designed to be used by experts as well as by non-experts and no computer skills are required.

L.O.D.A.S. is available for free if you are able to accomplish the necessary adaptation works by yourself, otherwise you will have to bear the costs of the required modifications.

For current implementations see: www.ubi-erat-lupa.org/platform.shtml

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L.O.D.A.S. 1.5 – Online Data Administration

A brief overview

Concept

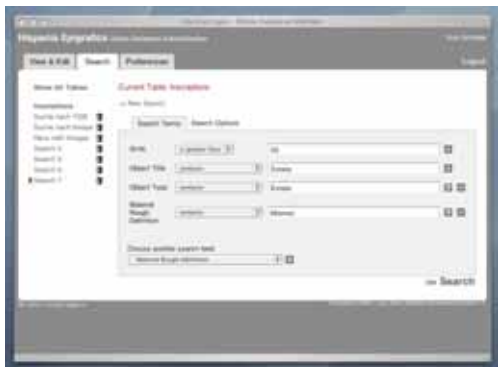
L.O.D.A.S. online data administration is a PHP-driven administration application, specially designed for working with relational archaeological and epigraphical databases via the internet. It is client /server based and allows several remote users to work simultaneously with arbitrary open tables and data records.



Preferences



Table overview



Search interface

General Characteristics

L.O.D.A.S. employs specially developed caching routines to provide fast and reliable performance. Non-saved entries are stored on the server to provide consistency of data.

It has a very flexible search engine with available online help (index lists etc.), queries in epigraphical texts are omitting diacritical signs etc.

PlugIn architecture for easy implementation of new input features or search options.

Databases can be addressed via ODBC, efficient implementation of additional databases, tables etc. via config-databases.

L.O.D.A.S. is able to create multilingual user interfaces and indexes for data exploration. (German, English and - partly - Spanish are implemented currently)

The Interface

The interface is designed to look and act as "simple" as possible for expert data administration and offers flexible possibilities to navigate around the site while you are working with your databases. The windows are fully resizable so you can use the full width of your screen. Its main components are:

Preferences

You may select an interface-language, change the appearance and customize the behaviour of the application (e.g. switch on/off dialog boxes...).

You can easily customize your navigation bar to have your "favorite" tables always ready for work.

All multilingual functions are database-driven, so no HTML coding is necessary to add a new language or modify the available language packs.

"View & Edit" Mode

Switch between viewing and editing data in every stage of work. The engine blocks records that are edited by other administrators.

Open tables and records are permanently stored on the server until they get closed by the originator.



Table view of search result

"Search" Mode

The search engine offers high flexibility to a skilled operator. The application reacts case sensitive: it always stays in the table you are currently working with, but allows you to switch to other tables without closing the primary one. Search options will automatically change with the type of data you are looking for.

Queries are automatically stored and can be renamed and further modified.



Record card

Next steps

Creation of a platform independent version of the data administration tool.

Unicode support (e.g. for Greek or Eastern European texts).

Platform

Currently Win2000 Server with IIS, PHP 5

Tested Browsers (by April 2005)

MacOS X: Safari 1.3, Firefox 1.0.1, Netscape 7.2, IE 5.2.3

Win 2000: Firefox 1.0.1, Netscape 7.2, IE 6.0 (SP 2)

Win XP: Firefox 1.0.1, Netscape 7.2, IE 6.0 (SP 2)

Suse Linux 9.2: Firefox 1.0.3, Konqueror 3.3 is not supported!

Known Issues

As in many dynamic web-applications that include form-fields, the use of your browsers Back- and/or Refresh-Buttons could cause corrupted data. The use of these buttons is disabled therefore. (There are abundant possibilities to navigate around the application anyway.)

L.O.D.A.S. 1.5 – Online Data Publishing

A brief overview

Concept

The online data publishing application for public access creates a database that is physically separated from the database for expert administration. This provides security – hackers cannot destroy your original data – and easy administration: just run the data conversion tool online and turn your local database into a web-database.

The application works with SQLite, a PHP-internal database, which provides the fastest access possible via the internet. Professional features for data entry are left aside, so the application is lean and designed for easy use and handling.



"Simple Search" interface



Table view of search result



Record card

General Characteristics

Platform Independent & Open Source

The public database now runs in every server environment: Windows, Linux, MacOS X... You just need to have PHP 5 installed on your server.

Workflow Possibilities:

You can work with your MS Access DB at home, at the excavation or in your office, load up the file to a server, run the conversion tool and go on working with your Access DB online or local...

(Of course the adaptation of every other DBMS is possible. Restriction: At the moment you need a NT-Server with IIS installed for the conversion process and for online working.)

Usability

The tool is designed to be as easy to use and administrate as possible. No frames, (nearly) no JavaScript pop-up menus, as few buttons as only possible. The search engine is quite elaborate but YOU DON'T SEE IT. The table view gives you already a good overview over basic data, so you can easily decide, if you keep on clicking to get the full information (record card) or return to your search result.

Search Tools

Several search-interfaces are available. Even the new Quick Search already works pretty fine, e.g. if you enter "IVL" (for "Iulius, Iulia etc.) you will also find "IUL", "ivl", "iul"... (because even Epigraphers seem to disagree how to write down their inscriptions...;-)

Platform

L.O.D.A.S. Online Data Publishing will run on any server with PHP 5.x installed.

For data conversion and online data administration currently a NT Server with IIS, PHP 5 is required.

Tested Browsers (by April 2005)

MacOS X: Safari 1.3, Firefox 1.0.1, Netscape 7.2, IE 5.2.3

Win 2000: Firefox 1.0.1, Netscape 7.2, IE 6.0 (SP 2)

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