

## About the Project

Written by Melissa Terras

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The Image, Text, Interpretation: e-Science, Technology and Documents project (also known as eSAD: e-Science and Ancient Documents) aims to use computing technologies to aid experts in reading ancient documents in their complex task. The four year project, being undertaken at the University of Oxford with input from University College London, is funded under the [AHRC-EPSRC-JISC Arts and Humanities e-Science Initiative](#), and will run until the end of 2011.

The project will work on creating tools which can aid the reading of damaged texts like the [stilus tablets](#)

from

[Vindolanda](#)

. Furthermore, the project will explore how an Interpretation Support System (ISS) can be used in the day-to-day reading of ancient documents and keep track of how the documents are interpreted and read. A combination of image processing tools and an ontology based support system will be developed to facilitate experts by tracking their developing hypotheses.

The system will also suggest alternative readings (based on linguistic and palaeographic data) as they undertake the complex reading process, aiming to speed the process of understanding a text. The project also aims to investigate how the resulting images, image tools, and data sets can be shared between scholars.

The Project Investigator is Professor [Alan Bowman](#) from the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents ( [CSAD](#) ) at the Ioannou

Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, in co-operation with Professor Sir

[Michael Brady](#)

(Dept of Engineering Science,

[University of Oxford](#)

and the Wolfson Medical Vision Laboratory) and Dr.

[Melissa Terras](#)

(School of Library, Archive and Information Studies,

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, London).

Dr. [Ségolène Tarte](#) is the Research Assistant on the project and is situated at the Oxford e-Research Centre ( [OeRC](#) ).

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[Henriette Roued](#) is the Doctoral Student on the project and situated within the [Classics](#) Centre at the [University of Oxford](#)