Dear future users of the MAP Database,

The ERC Advanced Grant project "Mapping Ancient Polytheisms. Cult Epithets as an Interface between Religious Systems and Human Agency" (741182) started in October 2017 for a period of five years, extended for a further nine months. Hence the project will officially end in June 2023. The MAP database will hopefully last longer; we will prepare its future well in advance. We remind you that the MAP project focuses on Greek and West Semitic epigraphic sources, from 1000 BCE to 400 CE.

Today, Wednesday 3 February 2021, the MAP database, a tool hosted on a Huma-Num platform, is made accessible at the following address: https://base-map-polytheisms.huma-num.fr/. A link facilitates access from the project's website: https://map-polytheisms.huma-num.fr/?lang=en, in the "Resources" section. You will also have access to 13 video tutorials that will guide your first steps in the database, its search interfaces and the webmapping. For the moment, only the French versions of the tutorials are available; the English versions are expected at the end of February.

The available data are those that have been recorded, checked and validated. For the time being, they mainly cover the Near East, Cyprus, Egypt and Cyrenaica, North Africa, the Iberian Peninsula, Sicily and Malta. Other inscriptions will soon be registered and validated (Attica, Aegean Sea...), which means that the Database is intended to be constantly enriched. On its home page, you will find precise information on the validated contents, by geographical areas, through the tab "Corpus counting state".

In the accessible Database, several thousand sources, testimonies and onomastic elements are and will be available to users, according to the data recording structure and the choices we have made, which are presented here: https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/MAP-ERC/hal-02555965v1. In addition, there are almost 2000 bibliographical references and the possibility of generating query results in csv format, maps in various formats, a tool for analysing the structure of onomastic sequences, etc. It is up to you to discover the multiple potentialities of this tool. The network analysis is on the agenda for 2021; developments in this field are therefore to be expected soon.

The Database contains a series of aids, indicated in the form of a **?** (**HELP**) which gives you access to explanations in an excerpt from the full Guides, in PDF.

In fact, if you want to appropriate the Database and its tools in greater depth, you can access the three Guides in French and English (Input Guide, Search Guide, Web Mapping Guide) in the appendix to the article mentioned above: https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/MAP-ERC/hal-02555965v1. Simply go to the top right-hand corner and click on "Voir les fichiers annexes".

To request the opening of an account when you connect for the first time, simply follow the procedure indicated. To report any problems, additions, errors, a contact form is available; it will help us to improve our records (https://base-map-polytheisms.huma-num.fr/contact).

These tools are the result of numerous collaborations and ongoing collective work. The sheets are signed by those who have produced, reviewed and validated them. An enormous amount of coordination work has been carried out to design, build and implement these tools. To discover the whole team, guest researchers, collaborators and the Advisory Board of the MAP project, go here: https://map-polytheisms.huma-num.fr/about-us/?lang=en.

By opening wide access to our Database now, we are complying with the rules set by the ERC (in June 2023, it will be completely in *open access*) and we strongly hope that the work accomplished will now be useful to the entire scientific community, particularly by stimulating ongoing and future research in the field of the history of ancient religions.

May this tool "pour to mortals a water whose course is sacred..." (Greek inscription from Deir el-Qalaa, *CIG* 4535, Roman imperial period).

The team of the MAP project