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Autocriticism of a collection - ten years of Croatiae auctores Latini

Croatiae auctores Latini (CroALa), a digital collection of Latin texts written by people connected with Croatia, first went live in August 2009. Ten years later, I will look both back and forward, presenting what we have achieved and learned, and sketching where we want to go next.

A lot of things connected with a text collection seems to be twofold. There are two types of editions: a "reading" edition and a "scholarly" one. There are two types of users: "power" users and people who need to access the texts quickly and, if possible, in a comfortable way. There are two kinds of dissemination: a standard combination of search and browsing interface, and a carefully organised, version-controlled set of files for further manipulation and computing. Also, there are texts as individual artifacts, and texts as "sets of words", concrete realizations of a language changing over time and space, or as specimens of a "literature", a model through which people imagine past writing and thinking.

I will use examples of actual research done in CroALa to show how the collection in its present state responds to some of the dualisms mentioned above, and how it fails to respond to some others.