

# GIACOMO LEOPARDI'S ZIBALDONE – A SEMANTIC DIGITAL EDITION

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS **Configuring the Hermeneutic Discourse of the Fragment Genre**

- Walter Benjamin S. T. Coleridge Joseph Joubert Giacomo Leopardi Georg Lichtenberg Friedrich Nietzsche Novalis Blaise Pascal Friedrich Schlegel Paul Valéry Ludwig Wittgenstein
- ❖ Prominent thinkers of modernity have bequeathed their intellectual projects in the forms of collections of research fragments to the editorial care of readers who should act as *“an extension of the author”* (Novalis).  
*“truth is an intention-less state of being” – W. Benjamin*
  - ❖ These collections record reflections on the ethics of the hermeneutic process and on the editorial practices of its articulation.  
*“the thoughts that come to us are worth more than the ones we seek” – J. Joubert*
  - ❖ The curation of such texts requires a synergistic representation of their material form, editorial methodology, and processual discourse order.  
*“my thoughts were soon crippled if I tried to force them on in any single direction” – L. Wittgenstein*  
*Critical insight as “thought-images” – W. Benjamin*
  - ❖ Their digital remediation, computational modeling, visual representation and social annotation would articulate the full dimensionality of the fragment genre’s hermeneutic project, while lending it the pluralistic authorship and dynamic publication its practitioners have envisioned. *synthesis of interrelations as a “flash-like image” – G. Leopardi*
  - ❖ The design of a digital editing environment for the fragment genre could translate its ethics of curation into a workspace for constructing multimodal interpretive discourse that resists instrumentality and fosters the agency and relational potential of represented phenomena.

## CASE STUDY **Giacomo Leopardi's Zibaldone**

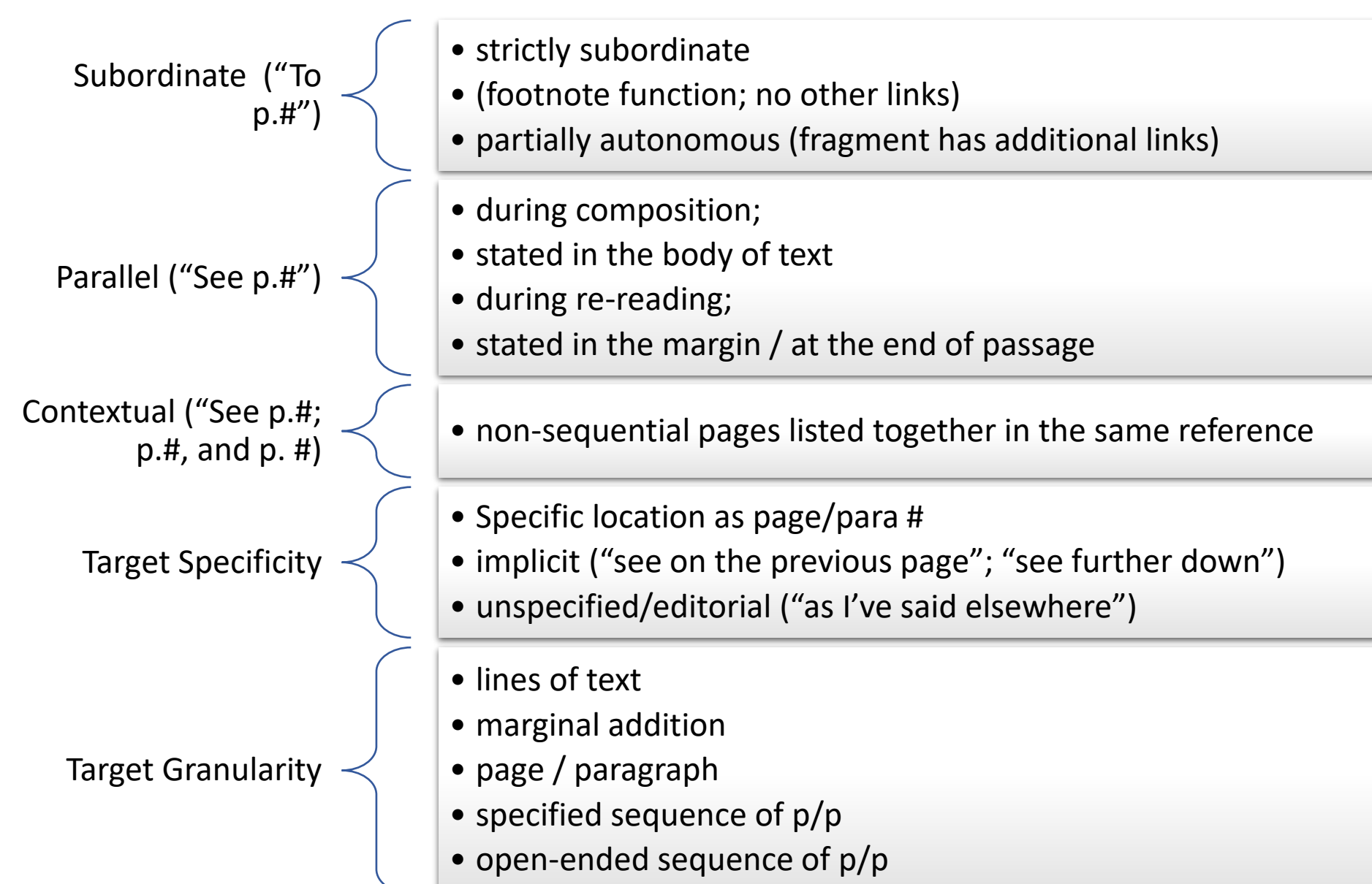
- 19th c. encyclopedic collection of text fragments (4,526 ms. pp.)
- Virtual hypertext of authorial annotations for its thematic organization (cross-references between fragments and thematic indexing)
- Intertextual network of bibliographic references
- Extensive scholarly bibliography  
→ Digital environment for computing the interrelations of the fragments, representing and querying the semantic networks of the text, and enabling readers to augment them.

### XML-TEI markup: formal and content elements as the building blocks of semantic networks

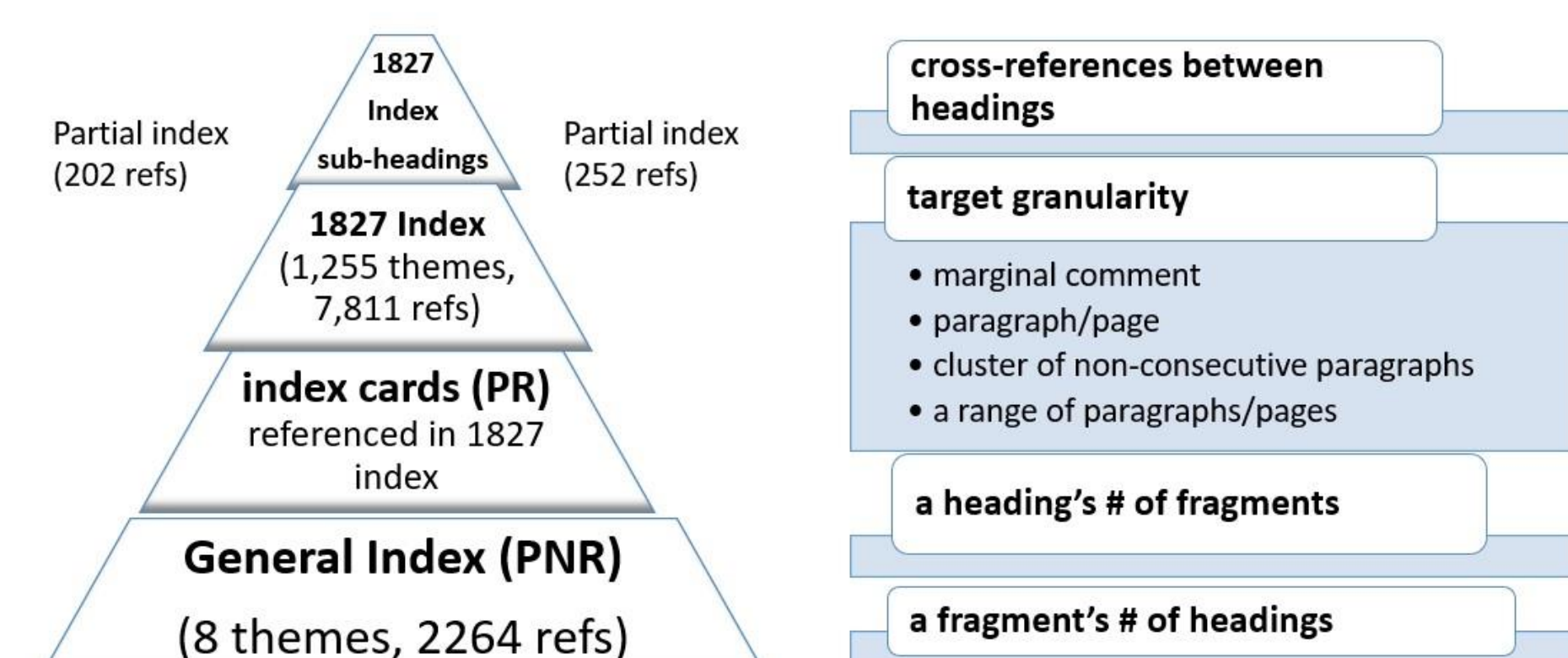
- ❑ Semantic segmentation: date divisions; paragraphs; marginalia;
- ❑ Linguistic diversity: Italian, Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, English, German, Hebrew
- ❑ Underlining: typographic & rhetorical
- ❑ Additions:
  - margin (foot, attached, unattached)
  - interlinear
  - inline
- ❑ intra-textual references
- ❑ thematic indexes
- ❑ bibliographic references
- ❑ person names
- ❑ place names
- ❑ editorial corrections, normalizations, suggestions, etc.

### Semantic Ontologies

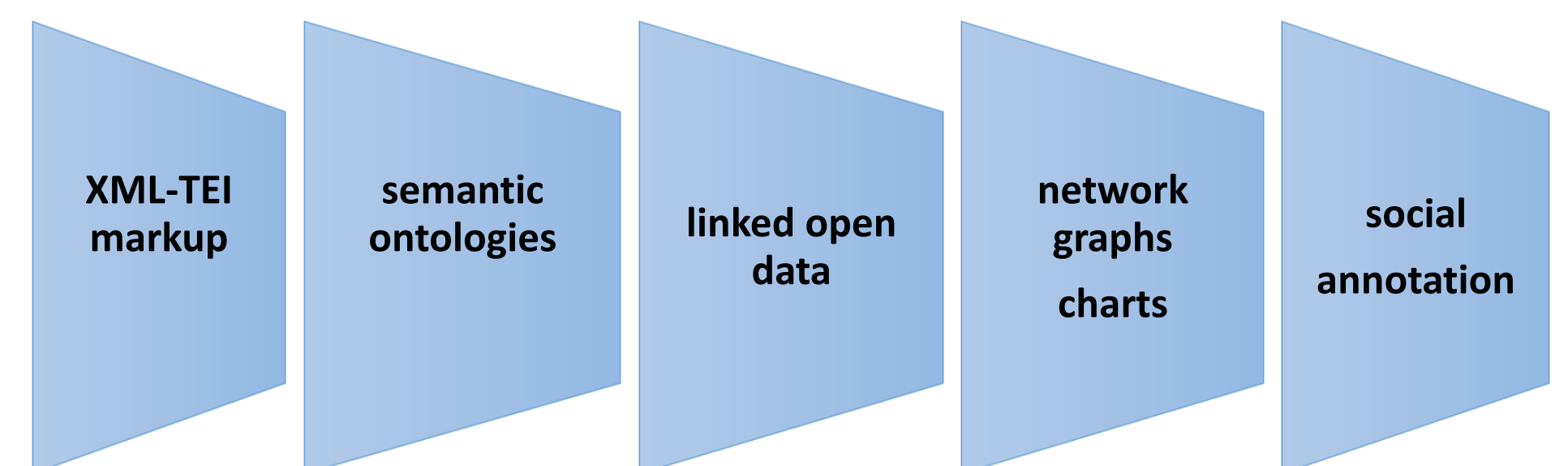
#### Intra-textual references: taxonomy of formal features and semantic values



#### Indexes: taxonomy of formal features and semantic value

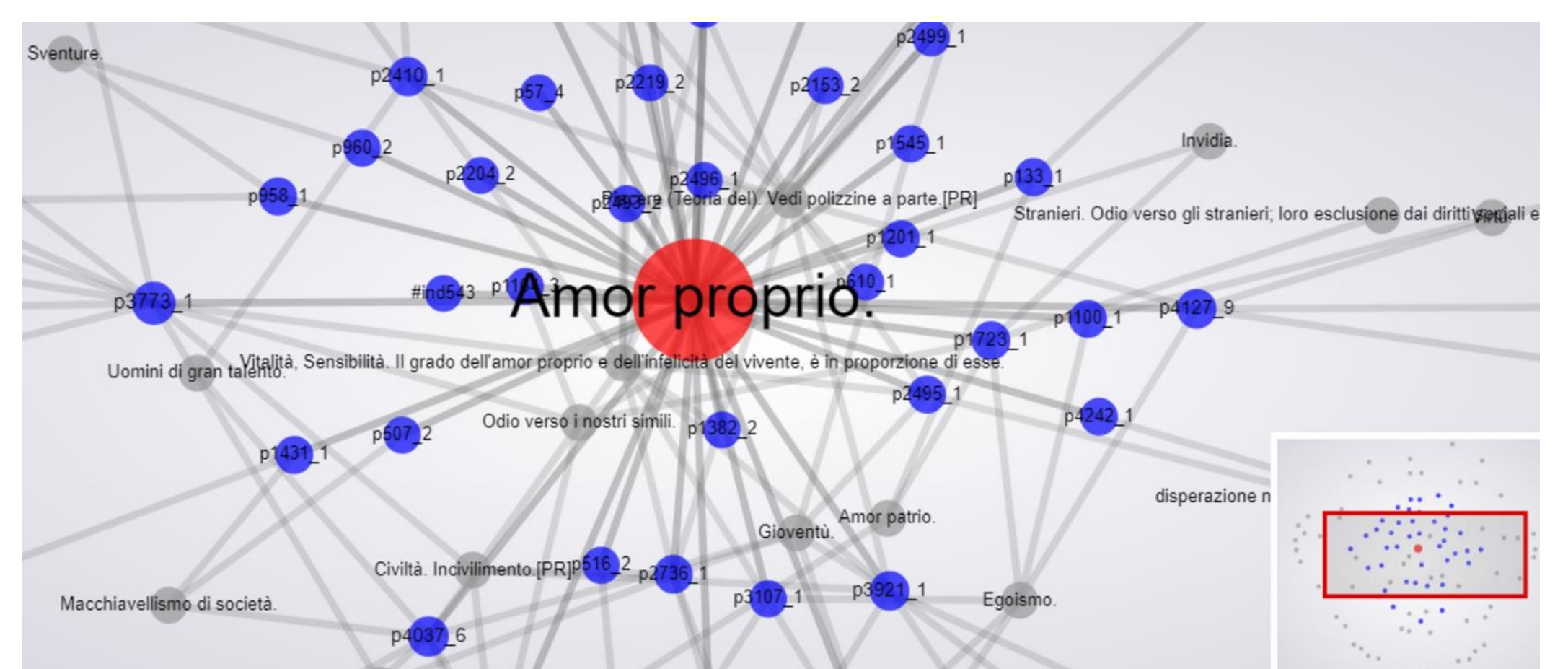


## Editorial Methods



### Research platform: [www.DigitalZibaldone.net](http://www.DigitalZibaldone.net)

### Network graph of an index theme



### Linked data: person names and bibliographic references enhanced with authority files

#### Person names: typology in text and Wikidata properties

person names	typology in text	sex or gender	occupation	notable work	date of birth	place of birth	movement
<a href="#">Agamemnon</a>	mythological	male					
<a href="#">Amphinomus</a>	historical	male				<a href="#">Dulichium</a>	
<a href="#">Anapias</a>	historical	male					
<a href="#">Aristotle</a>	author	male	philosopher	Politics Nicomachean Ethics Metaphysics Physics Organon Poetics Constitution of the Athenians	0384-01-01T00:00:00Z	<a href="#">Stagira</a>	<a href="#">peripatetic scho</a>