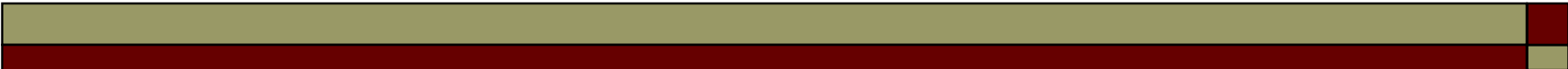


Objects, Temples, Texts: How to deal with sources when capturing Ancient Civilisations

HPAR6003, HPAH6006, HPHE6010,
HPAR6014

Dissertation Module Class

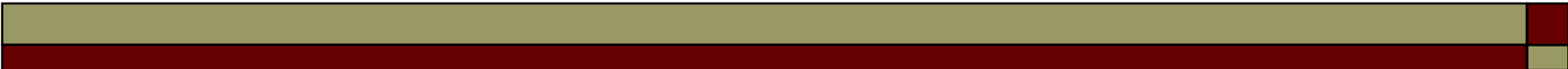
Dr Katharina Zinn



How to write my dissertation?

- ❑ Identify a research-related issue or problem.
- ❑ Design and conduct a scheme of work to explore that issue.
- ❑ Assemble, analyse and appropriately cite both academic literature (references) and primary evidence (sources).
- ❑ Present a coherent and clear set of data and arguments in order to analyse and interpret the data.
- ❑ Use evidence to unfold a continuous and coherent argument that will enable you to make conclusions relating to the problem stated in the introduction of the dissertation.

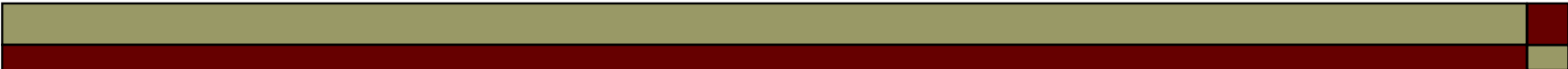
**The Nature of Sources
or
How do we know what we
know?**



Sources - Ancient Egypt (as an example)

- been studied primarily through written but mostly artistic sources that survived
 - Texts, writing
 - Material culture
- reveal ancient Egypt as directly experienced by Egyptians themselves





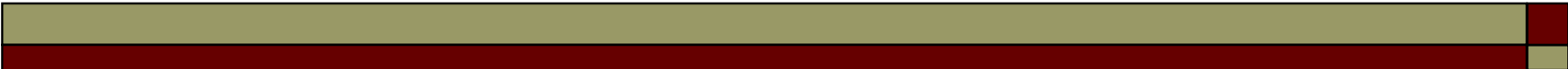
Sources - Ancient Egypt (as an example)

- been studied primarily through written but mostly artistic sources that survived
 - Texts, writing
 - Material culture
- reveal ancient Egypt as directly experienced by Egyptians themselves – REALLY?
 - BUT: Only tiny proportion of sources survived, never covered the full spectrum of experience
 - Egyptians seems to be limited in their reflections on their own behaviour and society
 - Art/Architecture: strongly guided by conventions and propriety
- You need to know the ancient culture and become aware of modern bias



The Tomb of the 'Two Brothers'





Possible purposes of art/craft/ material culture in Ancient Civilisations

Ceremonial - ritual, celebration, artworks created to support worship ceremonies

Artistic expression - artwork to express or communicate emotions, ideas, feelings or to beautify objects

Narrative - artworks that tell stories, describe and illustrate experiences

Functional - artistic objects used in everyday life that serve an actual purpose

Persuasive - artworks that promote ideas, philosophies, or products



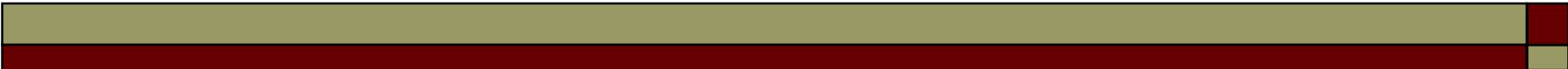
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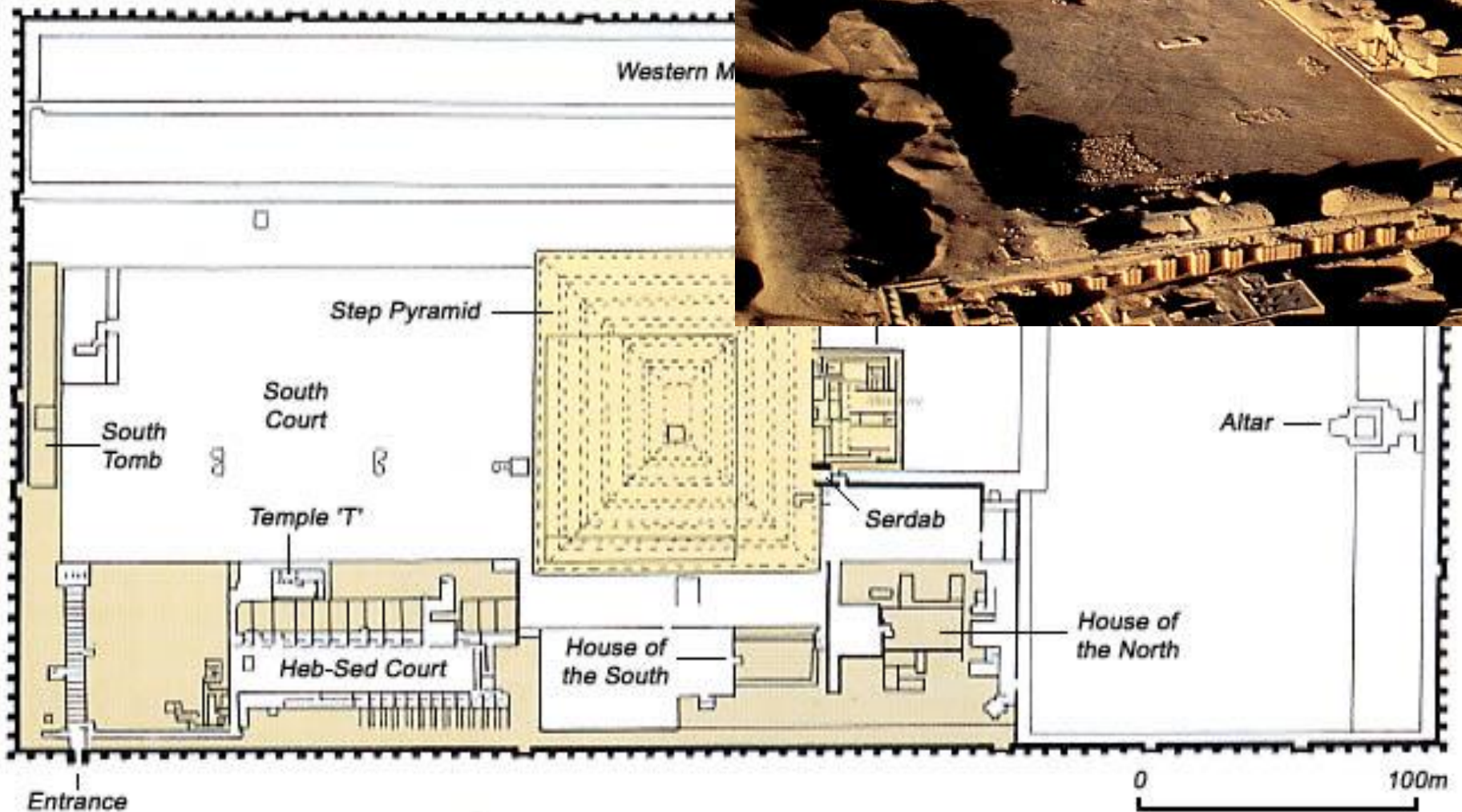
Persuasive - artworks that promote ideas, philosophies, or products



Sources available

- Architecture
 - Burial sites and Tombs
 - Settlements
 - Ritualistic / religious sites and Temples

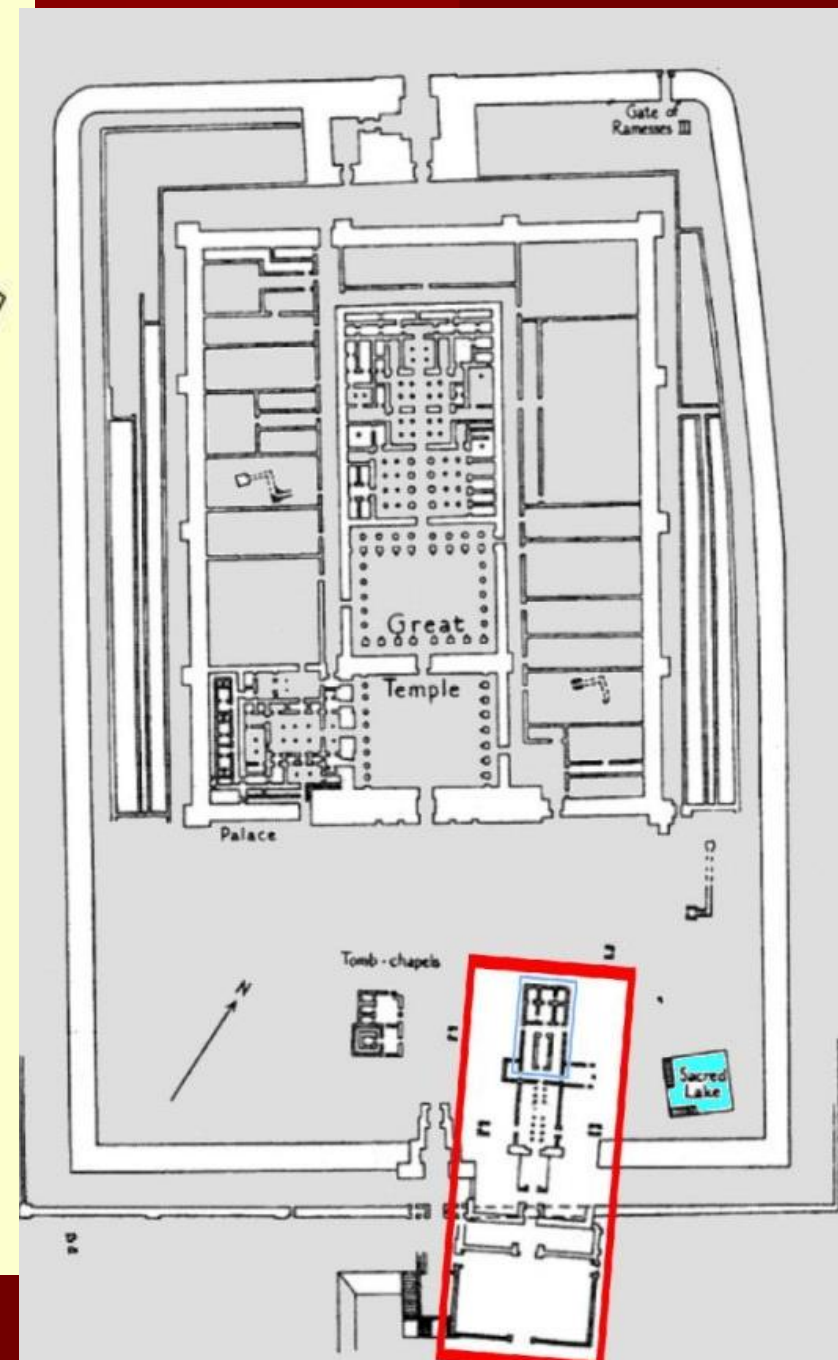
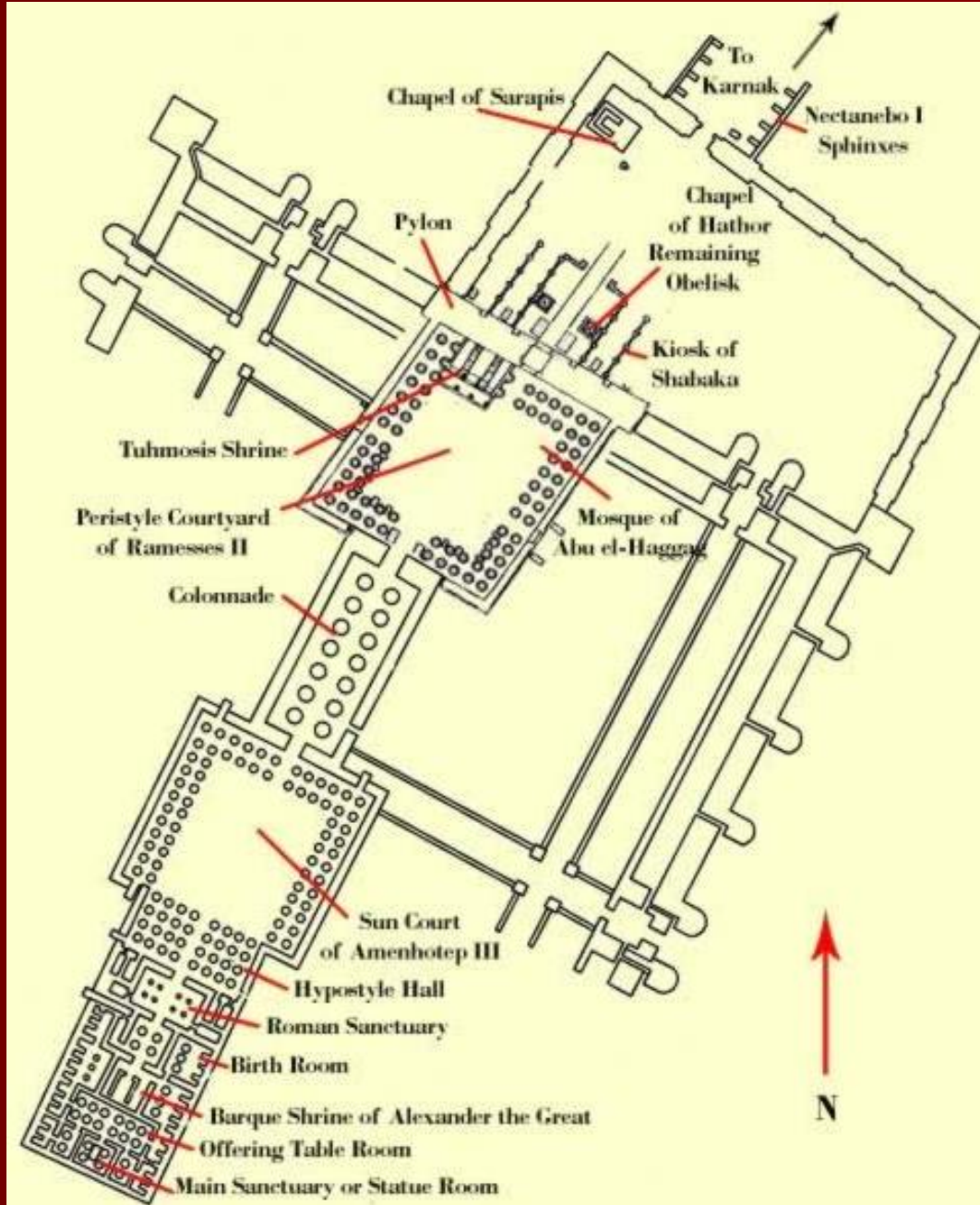
Communicate this
to the reader

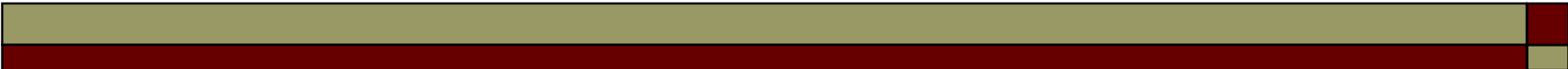


Amarna



TUT HOUSE FROM NORTH SIDE



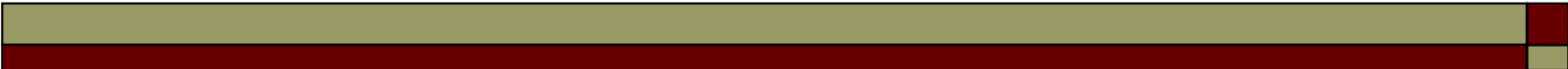


Sources available

- Architecture
- Art
 - What is art?
 - Are all images art?
 - What is the symbolism behind the images?
 - Tomb texts
 - Stela

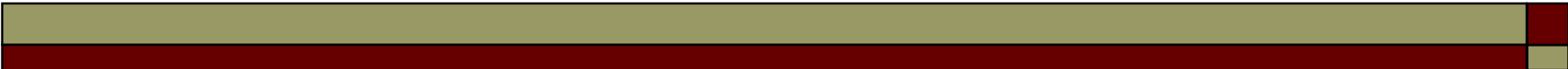
**Paris,
Louvre 290**





Sources available

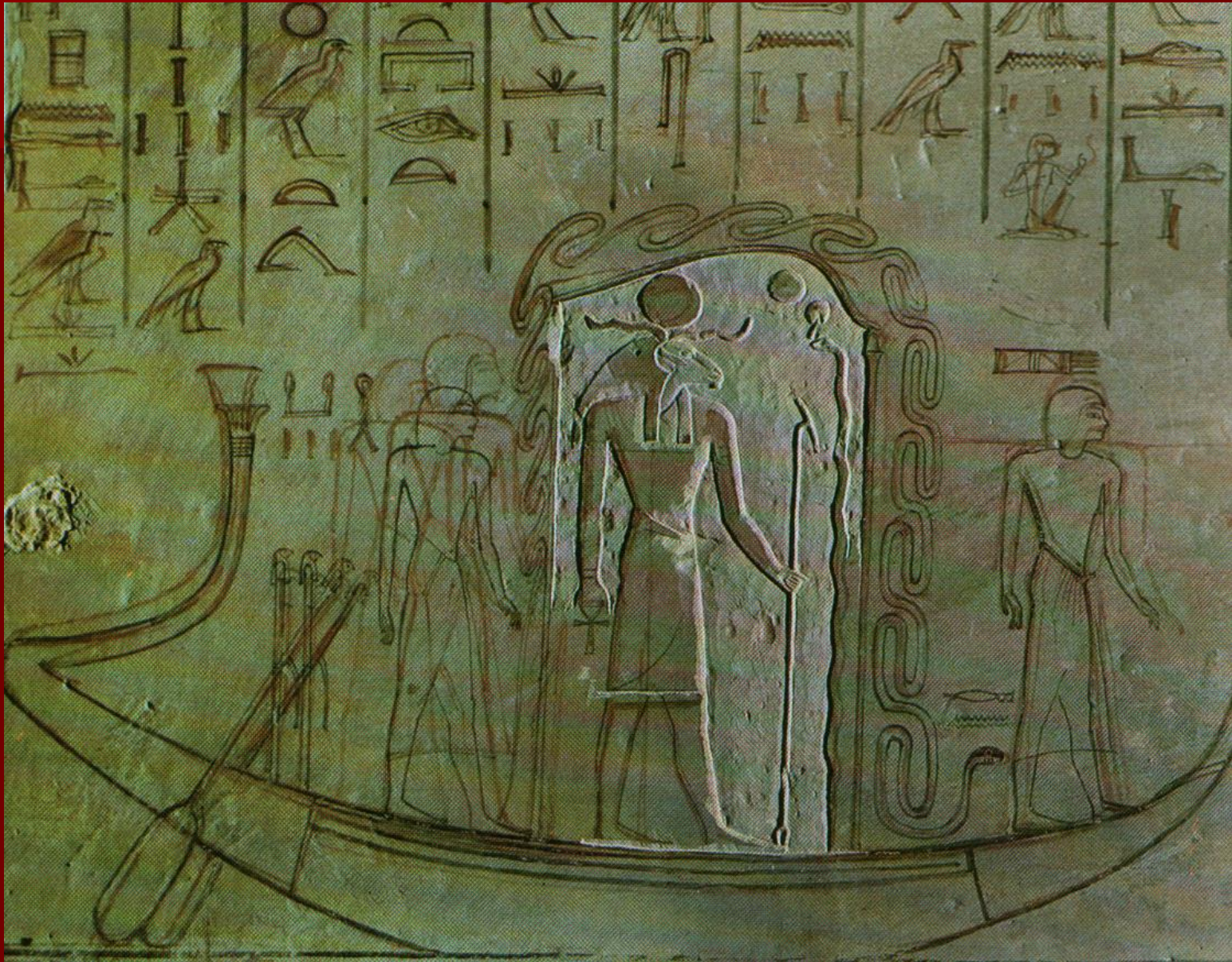
- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
 - Finds / material culture
 - Archaeological record
 - Materials used for dating (scientific analysis)

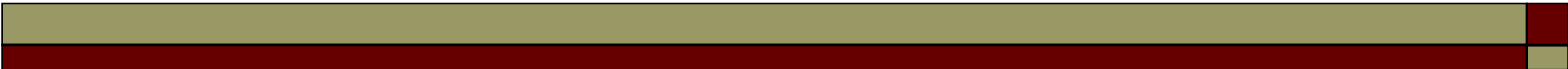


Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
- ❑ Textual

Royal Tomb of Horemhab (KV 57)



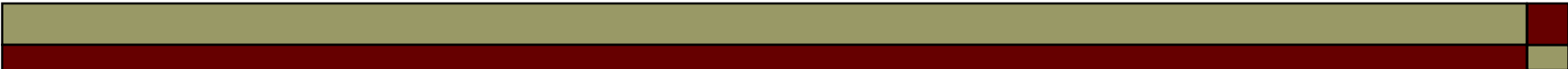


Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
- ❑ Textual
 - Stela
 - Tomb texts
 - Administrative and legal texts
 - Chronologies

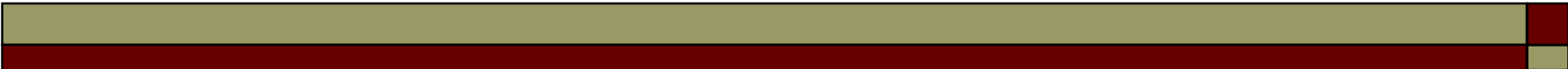
Abydos- Temple Sethos I, King List





Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
- ❑ Textual
- ❑ Material culture



Material Culture

- ❑ Excavation on settlement sites: large amounts of objects of diverse kinds, usually broken and discarded rather than lost or deliberately buried
- ❑ Unprovenanced material culture in museums – heritage aspects
- ❑ require skilled examination and recording
- ❑ offer an incomplete picture of the material, but reflect aspects of the lives and activities of people
- ❑ study of material culture needs to consider user's experience of things, how manufactured and how reached user → history of technology and study of distribution networks

Fitzwilliam E.1.2006



- Dimension: length 0.015 m, width 0.011 m, height 0.006 m
- Base: scarab-beetle with exaggerated wings: above beetle two winged uraei in protecting gesture, guarding two Maat-feathers; single line encircles the inscription
- Beetle, uraei and two feathers can be interpreted as equivalent for the sun disc – cryptographic writing for the god Amun(-Re)

How to prepare yourself for dealing with these sources?

- ❑ Look into “millions” of catalogues
- ❑ Read descriptions
- ❑ Talk to friends about them
- ❑ Prepare a description, put the image of the objects/temple etc. aside and read through description – can you still imagine it?
- ❑ Connect them back to your theory and dissertation question
- ❑ Do not get lost in the object!

Narmer Palette (31st century BC)



Ways of access



The Griffith INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

excavations in brick building, it went on planning them. This is a rough work, which has no troublesome accuracy in it, is only awkward from measuring over irregular heaps, a section being somewhat thus

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tutankhamun
arch Harry Burton's
excavation photographs

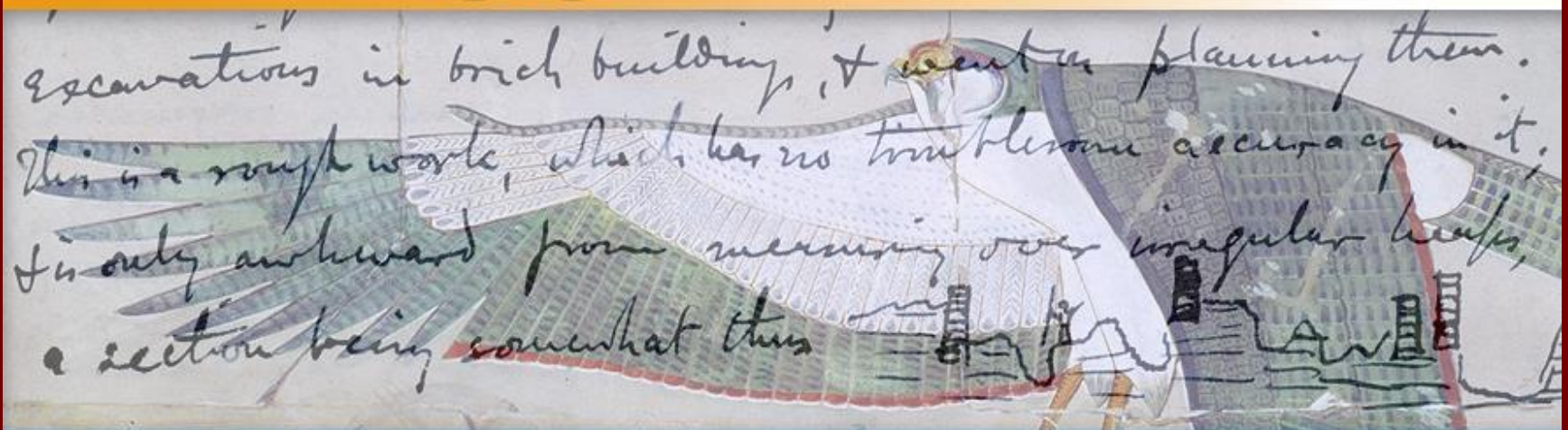
The Griffith Institute - University of Oxford

The Griffith Institute has been at the heart of Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford for over seventy-five years.

It is home to two major research projects, the **Topographical Bibliography** (Porter & Moss) and the **Online Egyptological Bibliography** (OEB), and a collaborating partner on the AHRC-funded project **Artefacts of Excavation**. The Griffith Institute also

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Please do not forget:
You are “reading” your degree!





And last but not least

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SOURCES IN THE DISSERTATION TEXT CORPUS?

Evidence and its archaeological questions:

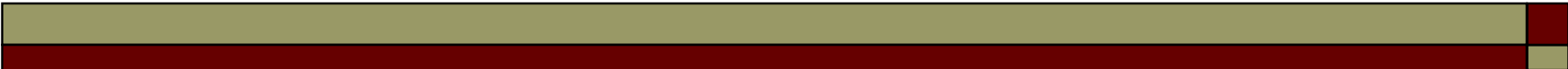
- ❑ Explanations of artefacts/ texts/images based on theoretical rules (as rules of authority)
- ❑ Very clear identification of objects: museum + number, archives, reference to excavation report
 - → object needs to be clearly identifiable, f.i. Cairo has two inventory systems (JdE, CG)
- ❑ → different explanations, using the same object
- ❑ Must deliver an accurate (as best as possible) description with identification, and cataloguing of finds) → leads to assumptions, should be attempted to explain and prove
- ❑ Done via a viable hypothesis (model: presenting phenomena in a logical/objective way)
- ❑ MODEL NEEDS TO BE EVALUATED on the basis of accessible data

Ancient Civilisations: the “problem” of the sources

- ❑ Sources are open to interpretation
- ❑ Everybody, especially with different knowledge about your topic, will read them differently
- ❑ Needs to be described
 - Provide **enough information** to make yourself understood
 - But do **NOT overload** the reader (and marker!)
- ❑ if too much for word limit, move to appendix

Appendix: What to put in?

- Very clear identification of objects: museum + number, archives, reference to excavation report
 - → object needs to be clearly identifiable, f.i. Cairo has two inventory systems (JdE, CG)
- Everything necessary for your dissertation, but has no space in “proper” text corpus
 - supplementary material at the end of a book, article, document, or other text, usually of an explanatory, statistical, or bibliographic nature
 - Illustrations (maps, images, drawings, ...)
 - Catalogue entries
 - Charts
 - Wikis
 - Glossaries ...



Appendix: formalia

- ❑ Needs to be preceded by a fully referenced contents page

Appendix A2

Some appendix again

A2.1 section in appendix again

A2.2 section in appendix again

A2.2.1 sub section in appendix again