


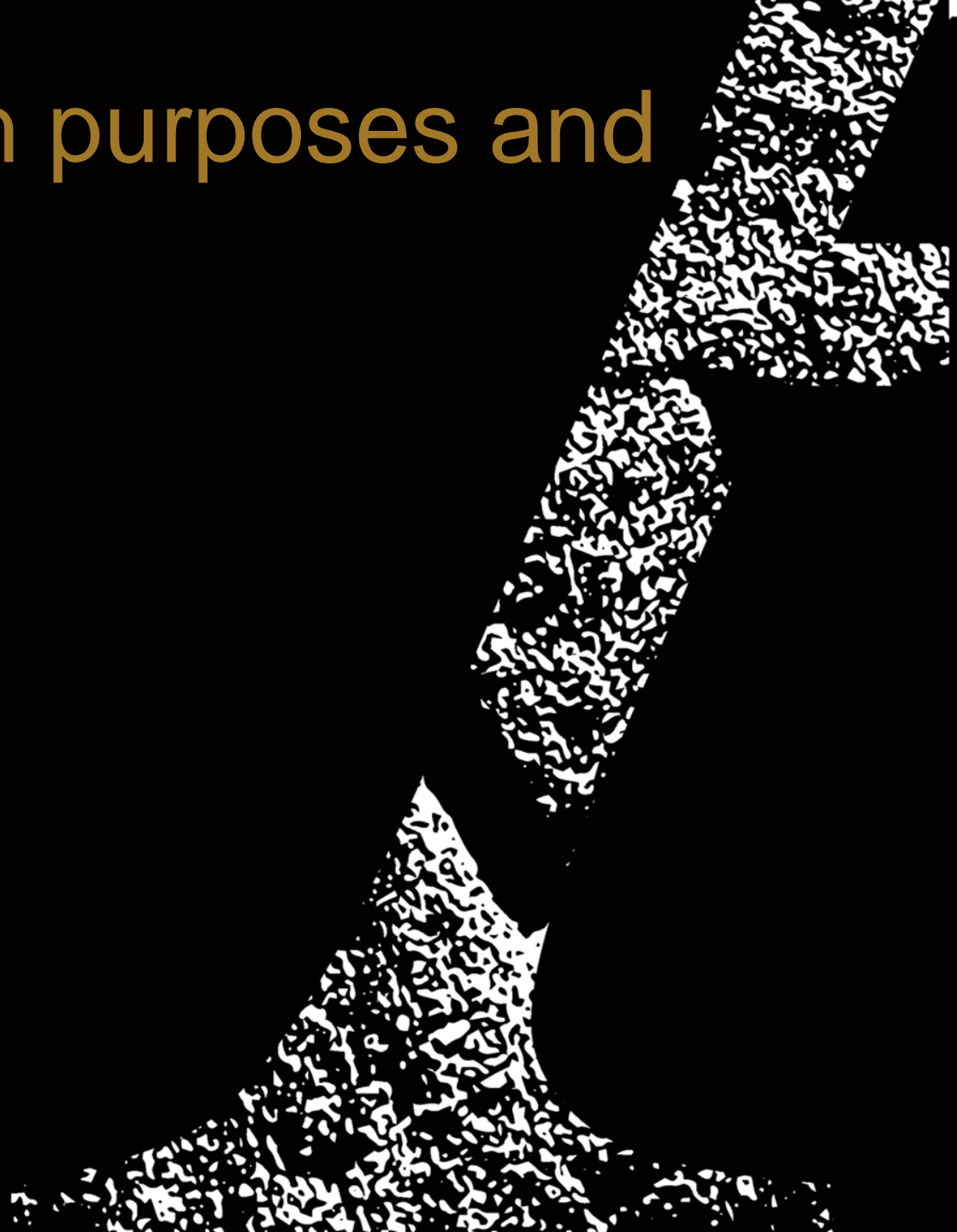
Epigraphy – Who cares?

*Meeting the needs of today's
audiences of epigraphy with
digital editions*

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1. A focus on purposes and needs
 2. Aims in support of progressive development
 3. Today's diverse audiences for epigraphy
 4. How to meet diverse needs with IT
 5. Conclusions

1. A focus on purposes and needs



1. A focus on purposes and needs

“He [the papyrologist] will not do it well unless he attempts a further step – to reconcile what is new with what was already known.” [Turner 1973]

1. A focus on purposes and needs

“But since he [the papyrologist] cannot be a universal polymath, he will defer here to the opinions of others.” [Turner 1973]

2. Aims in support of progressive development



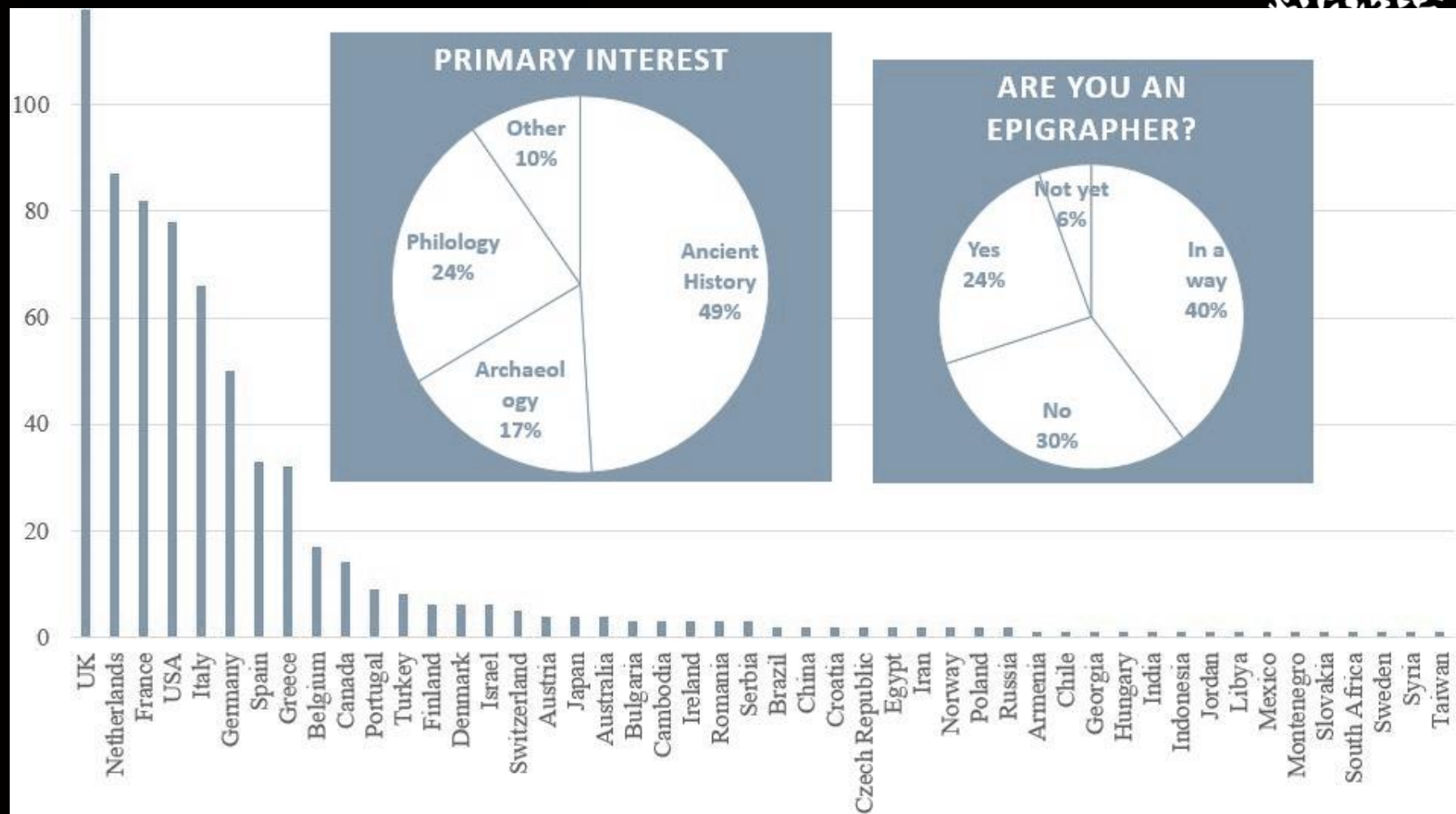
3. Today's diverse audiences for epigraphy



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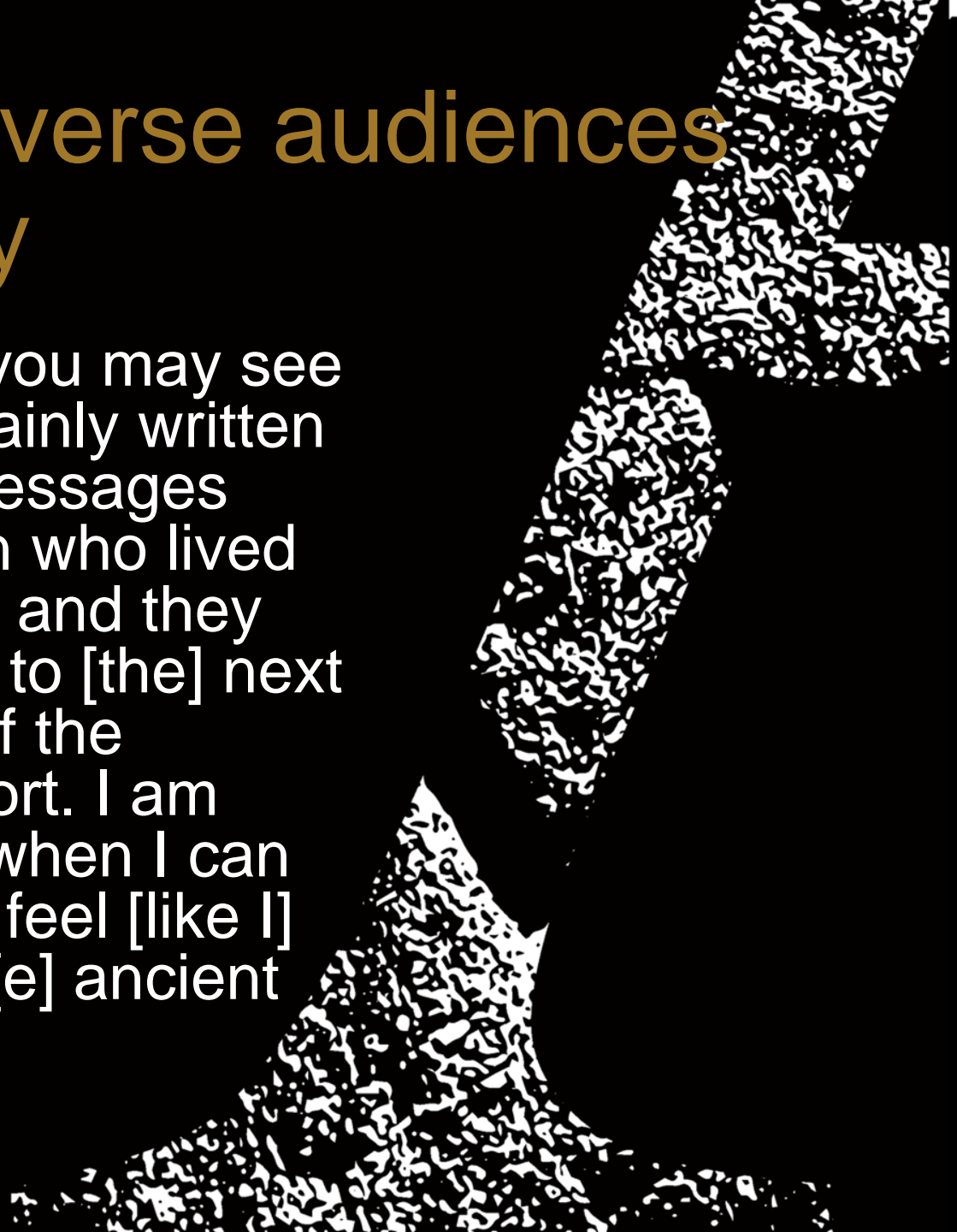


3. Today's diverse audiences for epigraphy



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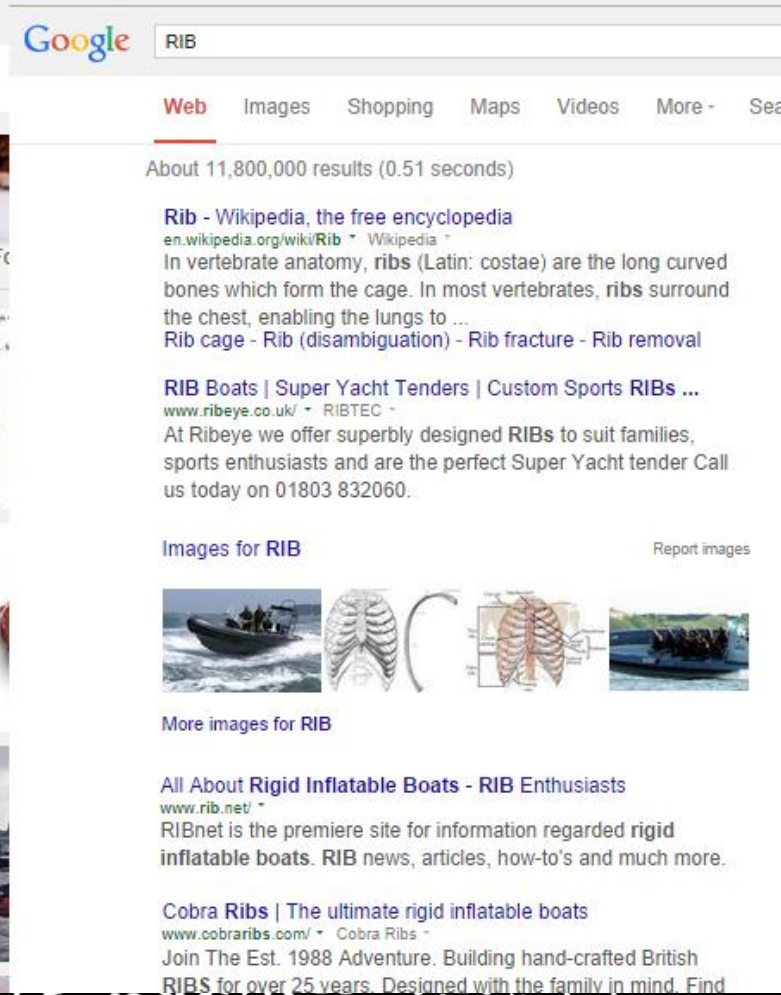
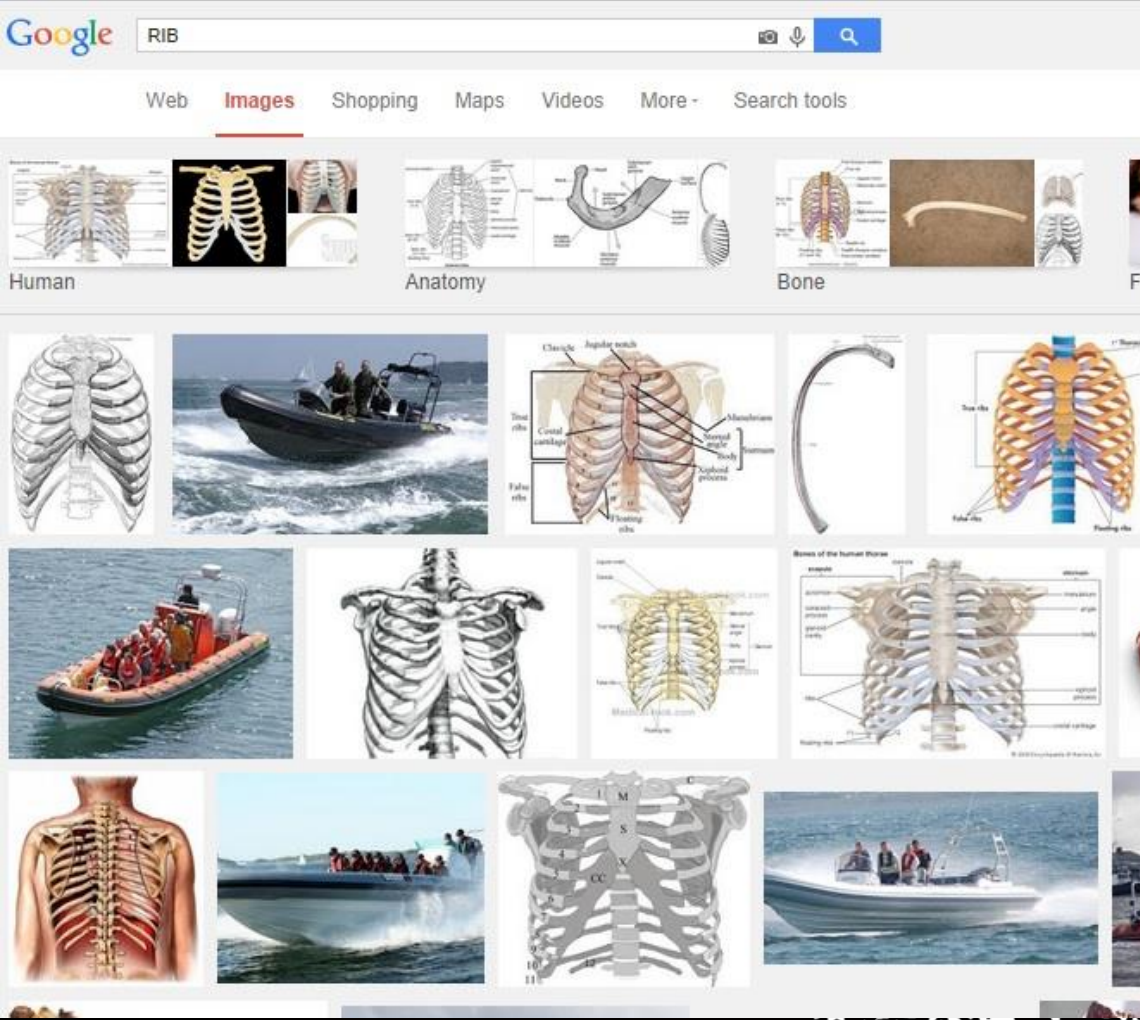
“In my country [Italy] you may see many [inscriptions] mainly written on stone. They are messages which came from men who lived many centur[ies] ago, and they were written to speak to [the] next generations, thanks of the [stones'] lasting support. I am always fascinate[ed] when I can read them, because I feel [like I] listen the voices of th[e] ancient men speaking to me.”



4. How to meet diverse needs with IT

- Finding material
- The text
- Translations
- Glossaries
- Metadata & Commentaries

4. How to meet diverse needs with IT



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- Finding material
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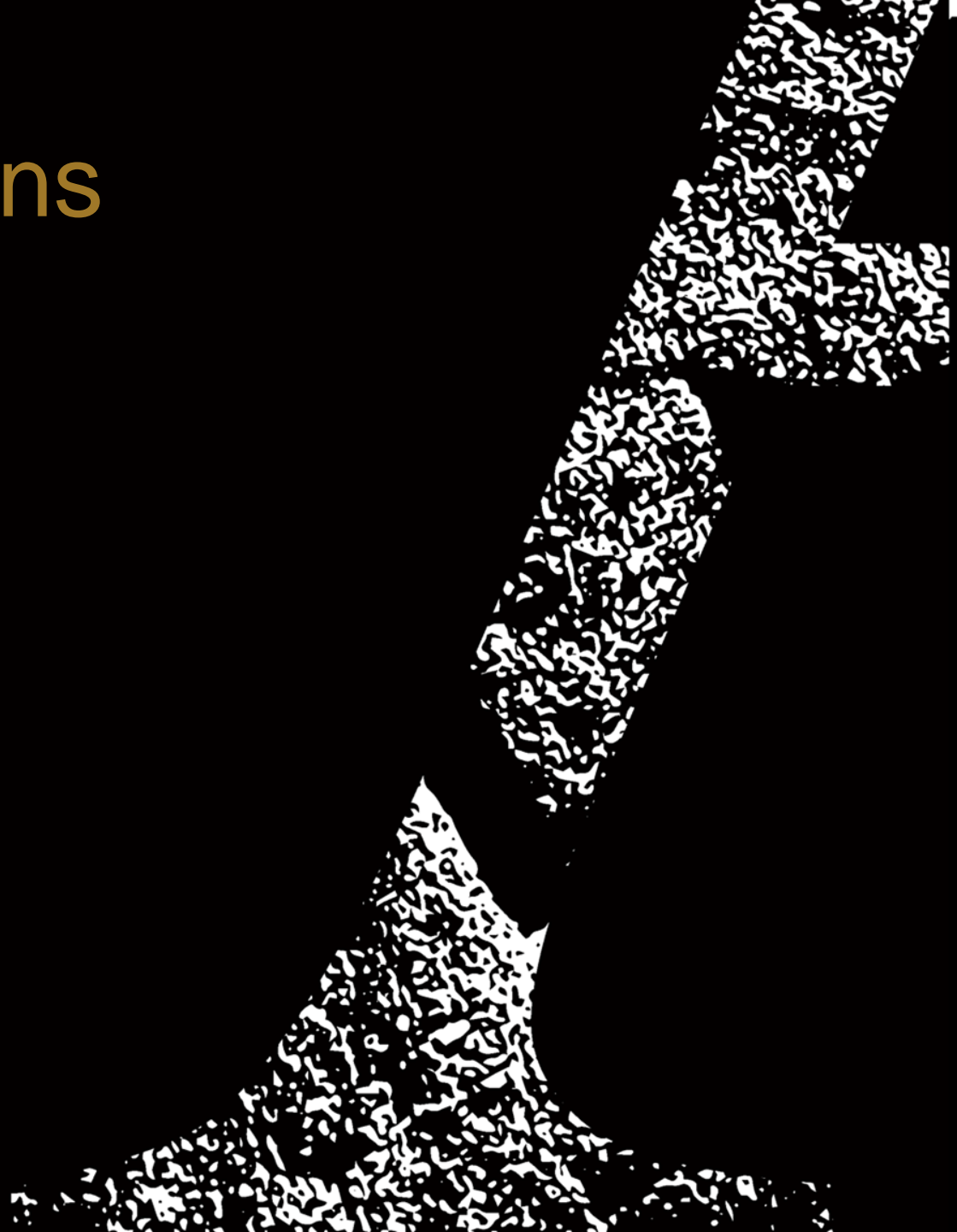
4. How to meet diverse needs with IT

“My main complaint against the epigraphy mafia is that so much scholarly commentary and images are not readily available on line. [...] For most documents one is reduced to the raw text [...] Why are epigraphers so incredibly jealous of their [...] data?”

4. How to meet diverse needs with IT

“[My] graduate students [...] cannot access epigraphic publications because they [...] have been discontinued due to rising costs and declining budgets. The more that appears online, free, the better.”

5. Conclusions



Thank you!

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Abstract: This paper argues in favour of a primary focus on the needs of contemporary audiences of epigraphic publications for the development of editorial conventions. For too long, users were put in charge of the communicative effort between edition and audience, but the responsibility must lie with the editors. I present the results of my “Epigraphy – Who cares?” survey to show how diverse audiences are and go on to illustrate how digital editions can attempt to meet various needs and expectations. This line of argument aims to free innovation from having to follow unnecessary traditions.

Keywords: Epigraphy, Publication, Editing, Markup, Digital, Customisation

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