Gazetteers, databases of named places, describe relationships between people and the world. After all, place names reflect linguistic, cultural, and political authority. When gazetteers are historical, they also describe how the power to name places changed hands. However, other than simple relationships of containment, gazetteers cannot describe connections between places.

**traces** are historical things of interest, both material and non-material, such as objects, people, events, and concepts, such as romanticism.

**trace data** are web-published descriptions or depictions of a trace or traces, such as images and links to contributors’ records of the objects.

**trace annotations** associate trace data URIs with places related to them (and how & when)

The geography of \{X\} can be illustrated through traces that attest to given places being waypoints on journeys, centers of artistic movements, or residences of individuals. Since journeys, movements, and lifespans entail multiple places, traces are a solution for how to illustrate complex and heterogeneous human geographies.

The Peripleo search engine developed by the Pelagios project indexes trace annotations in addition to place records. A record displayed for a given place may therefore include images of historical objects for which the place was a findspot—such as coins, hoards, and inscriptions, and links to contributors’ records of the objects.

The World Historical Gazetteer project has incorporated an index of trace annotations into its platform as well, and has begun developing trace annotation data for historical events and processes, e.g., journeys and expeditions, lifepaths, and commodity trade.

A trace of colonialism and empire: annotations of a dataset about Hernan Cortes’ Conquest of the Aztec Empire with its relevant locations, including waypoints and battles.

The Peripleo search engine displays a record for a given place, which may include images of historical objects for which the place was a findspot and links to contributors’ records of the objects.

What else??

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**Linked Traces**

Connecting places via historical events, people, objects and concepts

**In Theory**

Therefore, we have developed traces to assert relationships between places and non-spatial phenomena. Traces attest that given places were waypoints on journeys, centers of artistic movements, or residences of individuals. Since journeys, movements, and lifespans entail multiple places, traces are a solution for how to illustrate complex and heterogeneous human geographies.

**In Practice**

The Peripleo search engine developed by the Pelagios project indexes trace annotations in addition to place records. A record displayed for a given place may therefore include images of historical objects for which the place was a findspot—such as coins, hoards, and inscriptions, and links to contributors’ records of the objects.

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A trace of colonialism and empire: annotations of a dataset about Hernan Cortes’ Conquest of the Aztec Empire with its relevant locations, including waypoints and battles.

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**Target (trace data)**

**Body/Bodies (related places)**

**what else??**