

M. Ali Akman

Curriculum Vitae
2022

FHL Building H-132B
Department of Archaeology
Bilkent University
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Research Interest

Anatolian Archaeology, Hittitology, Assyriology, Computational Archaeology, Digital Humanities, Network Analysis.

Education

Bilkent University Archaeology, Master of Arts (January 2021 - June 2023)

CGPA: 3.91/4.0

Comprehensive Scholarship

Bilkent University International Relations, Bachelor of Arts (September 2015 - January 2021)

CGPA: 3.0/4.0

Comprehensive Scholarship

Completed 10 courses in Archaeology department

Courses in various departments, including Economy and Computer Science

Data Science for the Public Good (September 2015 - January 2021)

Conducted by TED University and the University of Virginia

Focused on data science and machine learning for social scientists

Accepted to the program with full scholarship

Gained skills in data analysis and machine learning techniques for real-world applications

Experience

Teaching / Research Assistant for Dr. İlgi Gerçek, Bilkent University Archaeology (2020-)

- Guest lecturing
- Data analysis and manipulation
- Library organization
- Bibliography management

Database Specialist / Surveyor for Polatlı Landscape Archaeology and Survey Project (June 2022-)

- Responsible for developing and maintaining database
- Conducting archaeological surveys on site
- Analyzing and interpreting data collected

Part-Time Backend-Developer, British Institute at Ankara (July 2021-September 2022)

- Developing and implementing new features on the institute's website
- Troubleshooting and maintaining backend systems
- Collaborating with the frontend team to ensure seamless integration of new features.

Research

M.A. Dissertation titled "Networks in Hittite Anatolia: A Quantitative Approach to Hittite Historical Geography"

- Combines Big Data techniques with philological, archaeological, and geographic data
- Analyzes a toponym dataset of approximately 2,000 unique records
- Utilizes network analysis to examine toponym co-occurrence and related geographic features

Presentations

Presenter at the CAA2023 (Accepted - April 2023)

- Conference of Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology
- Session: A Bridge too Far. Heritage, Historical and Criminal Network Research
- Title: Networks in Hittite Anatolia: A Quantitative Approach to Hittite Historical Geography

Guest Lecturer on Digital Sources and Tools in Hittitology (November 2022)

Presenter at the Linked Pasts 6 Conference (November 2020)

Conducted by the University of London and the British Library

Part of the Digital Repositories team from the British Institute at Ankara

Presented on the use of automation in cross-referencing gazetteers

Projects

TKAP (Türkmen-Karahöyük Archaeological Project) Paperless Record Keeping System, Developer (February 2023 -)

Polatlı Landscape and Archaeology Open Access Database, Data Specialist (July 2022 -)

Demo available at open.plasproject.org

Laman Hittite Name Finder, Developer (March 2022 - October 2022)

Designed and developed a tool for searching names mentioned in Hittite texts

Collaborated with Dr. Michele Cammarosano and the University of Naples 'L'Orientale'

Available at laman.hittites.org

Agade Archive, Developer (October 2022 - December 2022)

Provided searching and filtering options for emails of Agade mailing list

Maintaining RSS feed

Available at agade.hittites.org

É.DUB.BA: School of Hittite Cuneiform, Initiator (March 2021 -)

Created an online exercise tool for learning Hittite cuneiform

Provided over 17,000 attested lexemes in 50 lessons

The only online cuneiform learning platform

Available at cuneiform.hittites.org

Computational Skills

Data Analysis

Tools: Python, Pandas, Geopandas, TensorFlow, Tableau

Techniques: Data cleaning, transformation, visualization, modeling, machine learning, web scraping, Natural language processing

Projects: Completed data analysis projects using Pandas to identify trends and patterns in archaeological and philological data

Created interactive data visualizations using Tableau

Certificates or degrees: Completed a data analysis course on Coursera, Completed the Data Science for Public Good program

Database Management

Tools: SQL, MongoDB, MySQL

Techniques: Database design, query writing, data modeling, data integration

Projects: Developed and maintained a database for an archaeological project, including designing the schema and writing queries to support further digitalization of the data

Web Development

Tools: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Django, Flask

Techniques: Responsive design, web accessibility, UI/UX design, debugging, backend developing

Projects: Developed various web applications listed at mali.hittites.org

Modern Languages

Turkish, Native Speaker

English, Advanced

Bachelor's and Master's degree from an English-speaking university

IELTS score: 7.5

French, Reading Proficiency

Two semesters of French reading courses for archaeology students

German, Limited Reading Proficiency

Three semesters of German courses during undergraduate studies

Ancient Languages

Hittite, Intermediate

Three semesters of Hittite study

Completed the book "Elements of Hittites"

Read historical and diplomatic texts such as the "Annals of Mursili II", the "Apology of Hattusili III", and the "Bronze Tablet"

Akkadian (Old Babylonian), Intermediate

Two semesters of Akkadian study using Huehnergard's "A Grammar of Akkadian"

Read the "Laws of Hammurabi" and various letters and economic documents.

Luwian, Basic

Followed online Hieroglyphic Luwian course of Dr. Mark Weeden

Latin, Basic

Studied for a semester