# MARBLE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Paratext 9.x includes a new feature: Enhanced Resources. An Enhanced Resource (ER) is a Scripture text in any language, that is linked to a library of background materials, such as lexicons, maps, media, articles, etc.

This library is called MARBLE, which stands for **M**odular **A**ggregation of **R**esources on the Bi**ble**. MARBLE is primarily intended for mother tongue translators who do not know Hebrew and Greek and base their translation work primarily on another translation in a language of wider communication, such as English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Tamil, Tagalog, Malayalam, Gujarati, Kannada, Mizo, Ao Naga, Indonesian, and Tok Pisin. We want to enhance those resources so that they become an alternative source text for these translators.

This is how the MARBLE philosophy works:
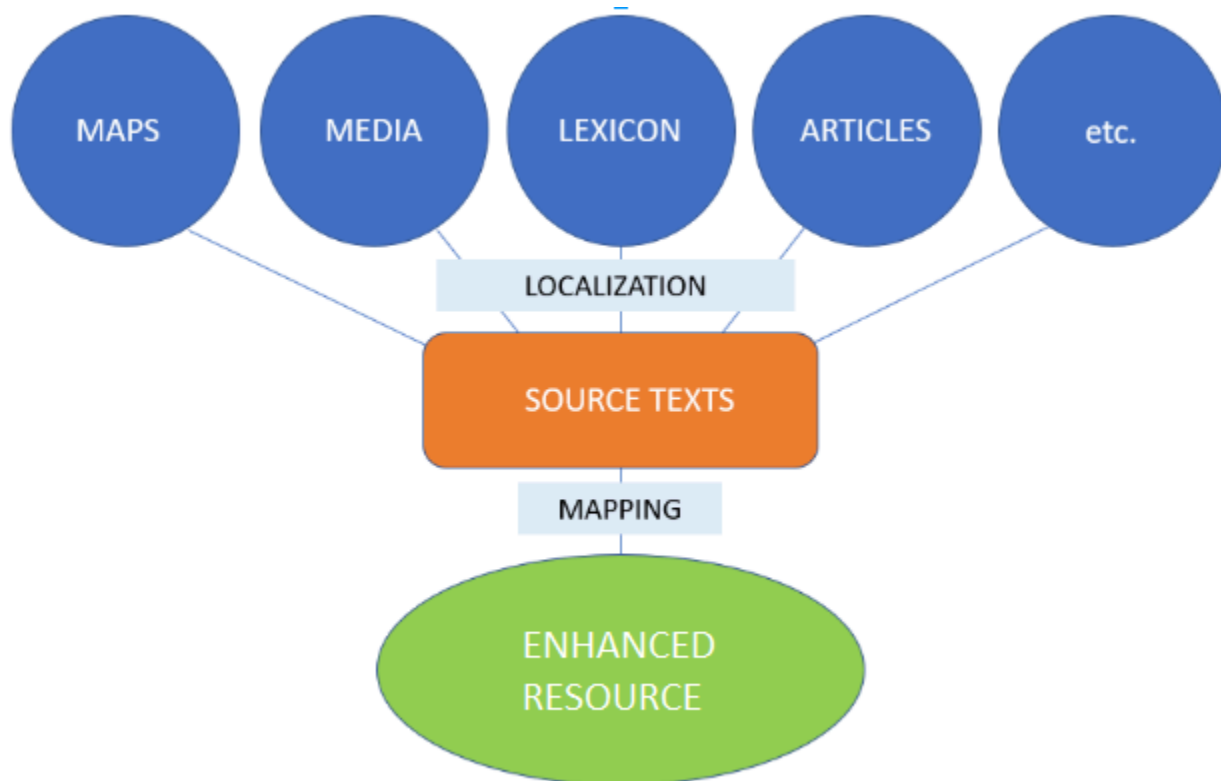
As you can see in the image above, the MARBLE data structure comprises three layers of data:

1. A Scripture resource, usually in one of the world's major languages or a national language, that is to be enhanced so that it can function as an alternative source text and bring the translator closer to the original texts of the Bible and the world behind them.

2. The Hebrew/Aramaic/Greek source texts of the Bible, in which each individual word has a unique numeric tag, which allows us to link background materials to different parts of the text

3. Different modules of resources, linked to specific words, phrases, or larger units of the Biblical source texts, ideally in the same language as the Enhanced Resource, or in a language of wider communication that is known by most users of the Enhanced Resource translation. The available modules include:

   a. Media files, such as photos, illustrations, video clips, eventually audio

   b. Semantic domain lexicons for the Biblical languages

   c. Articles, from different Study Bibles and other sources

   d. Maps, initially flat, eventually dynamically-generated

   e. Thematic handbooks, such as the Flora, Fauna, and Realia Handbooks

   f. In principle any type of background resource can be plugged in

In order to create a new MARBLE resource set, two processes are required:

1. A mapping between the Enhanced Resource and the original texts, so that the mother tongue translator can access the background resources directly by clicking on a word or phrase in that text, without having to interact with the original texts themselves.

2. Localization of the resources, if necessary

The best way to map a Scripture resource to the original texts is by using the Biblical terms tool in Paratext. It is actually quite simple, and just a matter of making sure that we have specified renderings to all terms in the list so that all boxes are ticked as much as possible.

Once that has been completed, the Biblical Terms renderings will be imported in another tool, called the MARBLE Mapping Editor. That tool helps weed out inconsistencies and resolve ambiguities.

The great thing about MARBLE is that the database can be extended at any time. So we can start mapping a basic list of Biblical Terms and add other data later. This can then be added to the Enhanced Resource, and the user can install the enhanced enhancements from the Digital Bible Library.

The following screenshots show what an Enhanced Resource will look like in Paratext 8.1. In the first place we will have the resource itself (in this case the ESV). There are different ways of viewing the text, but in the screenshot below all "researchable" words have a grey background color.

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

When the user clicks the word "dove", the MARBLE information will pop up in the lower half of the text window. A choice can be made between the lexicon, the encyclopedia, and the media library.

The lexicon says:

⌃ peristera   περιστερά   Asiatic Rock dove: bird with a blue-gray color with a pinkish sheen to the neck feathers and a black tip on its tail; lives in large colonies and eats mainly seeds; courts, mates, and has nests several times a year; nests on rock ledges; Columba via; used as food and for sacrifices; regarded as swift, docile, and innocent.
Glosses: dove; pigeon

This is what we find in the encyclopedia:

⌃ peristeran   περιστερὰν

Dove, pigeon

Discussion

In the fifteenth century the English word "pigeon" meant a young dove, the word "dove" being reserved for the adult birds. In modern English the words are used almost interchangeably. As a general rule, "pigeon" is used for domesticated forms of these birds, and for the larger variety of wild forms, while "dove" is used mainly for wild varieties. However, there are many exceptions to this general rule. For instance, shelters built for domestic pigeons are called "dovecotes", and pies made from wild doves are called "pigeon pies".

Pigeons and doves are both included in a bird family known scientifically as the *Colombidae*, consisting of well over two hundred species. In Israel and the Middle East are found the true *Colombidae*, which are easily distinguished from the genus *Stretopelia*, that is, the turtle doves.

In the media library we find:

⌃ peristeran   περιστερὰν

| | Dove | Dove | Doves on branch | Doves on wall | Holy Spirit | Pigeon |
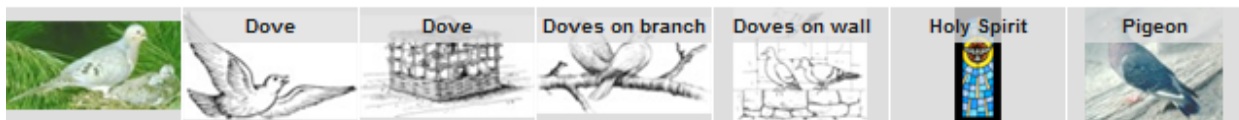
We can click on an image to see it enlarged.

There are different tabs for each MARBLE module, depending on the term in focus.

This background information will be made available offline, so the user does not depend on an internet connection.