

Proposal for a workshop of specialists for genetic editions

Abstract

The TEI Manuscript Special Interest Group (MS SIG) proposes a workshop of specialists for genetic editions, as part of the preparation of an proposal for a new chapter and possibly a new module for the TEI Guidelines devoted to the encoding of genetic editions. The primary aim of the workshop is to collect ideas from the convened experts and test draft proposals already articulated by the MS SIG.

Status quo

In the last two decades the interest in the genesis of literary works has been growing. In France the *critique génétique* has been established as a research paradigm exploring possibilities to reconstruct genetic processes on the basis of a very close analysis of author manuscripts.¹ In Germany a school of textual criticism - *Textgenetische Edition* - found new ways to describe genetic processes in their editions, often in relation to facsimiles.² In fact modern printed genetic editions use a complex markup system to render the genetic information on the printed page.

Both *critique génétique* and *textgenetische Edition* have changed the way editions of modern authors are prepared in many countries and many new editions of modern authors are either modelled on these approaches or take up some aspects of them.

The TEI Guidelines offer a wide range of elements for the transcription of primary sources and the preparation of critical apparatuses. However the TEI model has not been widely tested on genetic editions, which present many editorial and transcriptional challenges to a level of complexity possibly unknown to critical editions based on scribal copies (from heavy page stratification, to non linear writing, segmentation, cross-document connections, etc.). Recent discussions on the MS SIG mailing list, during the TEI 2008 meeting and in the following MS SIG meeting³ have outlined the limitations of the available TEI markup for recording genetic phenomena such as:

- clarification;
- transpositions;
- alternative readings written by the author;
- functional comments

and many others.

The MS SIG believes that the simple extension of the existing TEI model by the creation of new elements would not be satisfactory: genetic editions have peculiar methodological problems that should be addressed globally instead of point by point.

1. Grésillon Almuth, *Éléments de critique génétique. Lire les manuscrits modernes*. Paris 1994.

2. Zeller, Hans / Martens, Gunter (eds.): *Textgenetische Edition*. Tübingen 1998.

3. The meeting was held November 2008 and established two working groups, one on manuscript description, another on genetic edition.

The MS SIG has therefore outlined six groups of issues to be addressed in order to create a model for genetic editions:

1. textual alteration;
2. recording of time;
3. grouping changes at a document and dossier level;
4. coordinates system for the description of temporal and logical relations of different witnesses;
5. expressing of the interpretation of sequences;
6. expressing uncertainty.

Many of these could be marked up reasonably well using existing TEI elements once the semantic range of these elements is widened or clarified, but others will probably require the creation of new elements and mechanisms.

Working program

The MS SIG is therefore proposing to elaborate an application profile for the encoding of the genesis within a single witness and across witnesses. Such an application profile may evolve into a new chapter of the TEI Guidelines, describing possible new elements and giving directions and examples for the usage of existing elements in a genetic context. The new elements should possibly be grouped within a new TEI module rather than being included in existing modules.

To achieve such a goal, the following steps will be taken:

1. mapping the features outlined above to existing TEI elements;
2. designing new elements when necessary;
3. preparing a comprehensive draft proposal;
4. organising a two days workshop of specialists in genetic editions. Such experts should represent different approaches to genetic editions and should come from as many countries as possible. The workshop should have two purposes: to collect ideas from such an authoritative group of scholars and to test with them the draft proposal elaborated by the MS SIG;
5. re-elaborating the draft proposal to incorporate the outcomes of the workshop;
6. submitting the proposal to the TEI council for approval.

We think that such an application profile will be of capital importance for the whole Digital Humanities community. It will make the TEI guidelines more attractive to those who are interested in creating editions which want to encode genetic aspects and offer them a well-informed approach based on a broad consensus by members of different research communities on genetic editions. The workshop is of particular importance to establish this consensus and to gather as much information on different problems met by genetic editions and those analysing genetic processes as possible.

The workshop

The workshop should fulfil two main goals:

1. Collection of ideas and suggestions on how to formalise the encoding of a genetic edition;
2. Testing of the preliminary draft of the encoding model prepared by the organising committee;

The workshop should include two different groups of people: genetic edition experts and TEI experts, therefore we will invite people which excellence and expertise in editions of

authorial draft manuscripts and more specifically genetic edition is widely acknowledged; beside the organisers, members of the TEI Council will be invited as well. As the workshop will be held in Paris at the Institut des Textes & Manuscript Modernes (ITEM), there will be two official languages: French and English.

The provisional outline for of the workshop includes two working days:

Day 1: Invited Papers.

The convened experts are invited to share with the participants the main lines of their research by presenting a genetic edition case study. The goal is to collect a wide range of different cases, problems and approaches in order to make sure the encoding proposal will cover genetic editions from many points of view.

Day 2: The Encoding Model.

The organisers will present the draft encoding model for genetic editions, outlining problematic areas and open points. A discussion will follow. The goal is to collect feedback on the encoding model draft proposal.

Expected Outcomes.

The workshop should raise a list of new points not included in the initial encoding model draft and/or suggest revisions of existing points. As a secondary outcome, the workshop should favour the creation of a scholarly community devoted to genetic editing in a digital environment, beyond national differences; we expects that the expert will help us to revise the second encoding model draft as well. A third outcome will be a new international collaboration between two important institutions, ITEM and the TEI.

Time line

Tasks	Time	Methodology
Mapping TEI elements. Design of new elements.	December 2008 - January 2009	Online work; teleconferences.
First draft document.	January 2009 - February 2009	Online work; Organisers' meeting in London.
Workshop.	12-13 March 2009	Day one: invited talks. Day two: encoding model draft presentation; round table discussion.
Re-elaboration of the draft.	April 2009 - June 2009	Online work; teleconferences.
Submission to TEI council.	July 2009	

Organisers

Dr. Paolo D'Iorio, CNRS ITEM (France)
Prof. Dr. Fotis Jannidis, University of Darmstadt (Germany)

Dr. Elena Pierazzo, King's College London (UK)
Malte Rehbein, University of Galway (Ireland)

Proposal of specialists to be invited

Dr. John Bryant, Hofstra University (USA)
Aurèle Crasson, CNRS ITEM (France)
Dr. Pierre-Marc De Biasi, CNRS ITEM (France)
Jean-Daniel Fekete, INRIA (France)
Dr. Daniel Ferrer, CNRS ITEM (France)
Prof. Dr. Hans Walter Gabler, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (Germany)
Prof. Dr. Axel Gellhaus, Rheinsch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (Germany)
Dr. Almuth Grésillon, CNRS ITEM (France)
Prof. Dr. Claus Huitfeldt, University of Bergen (Norway)
Dr. Dirk van Hulle, University of Antwerp (Belgium)
Dr. Jean-Louis Lebrave, CNRS ITEM (France)
Serge Linkes, CNRS ITEM (France)
Prof. Dr. Kenneth M. Price, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA)
Prof. Kathryn Sutherland, University of Oxford (UK)
Edward Vanhoutte, University of Antwerp (Belgium)

Date and venue

12-13 March 2009

Paris, Institut des Textes & Manuscript Modernes (ITEM)⁴. The ITEM is a laboratory formed by a partnership of the CNRS (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique) and the ENS (Ecole Normale Supérieure). Its main research field is the study of authorial manuscripts in order to analyse the genetic process. The ITEM is the only institute in the world entirely devoted to genetic criticism and groups people who introduced the *critique génétique* in France. The ITEM also publishes *Genesis*, the only periodical devoted to genetic studies.

Budget

The budget should cover:

- travel expenses for the invited experts;
- accommodation for the invited experts;
- social dinner.

The cost of rooms and lunches will be covered by the host organization (ITEM).

The workshop will be administered by:

Prof. Dr. Fotis Jannidis
Institut für Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft
TU Darmstadt
Hochschulstrasse 1
D-64289 Darmstadt
Germany

The provisional budget is: 7.000 Euros.

Sponsors

The following sponsorships will be requested:

4. See the ITEM website: <http://www.item.ens.fr/>

1. TEI Consortium
2. ALLC
3. ACH
4. ADHO