

WHAT IS THE TEI? A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE TEXT ENCODING INITIATIVE

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āēōāēōīōīā ēīīñīōōēōīā TEI

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What is the TEI? This introductory lecture presents the origins, history, and development of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) : a widely-used infrastructure permitting the definition of interchangeable encoding systems for scholarly digital resources. The TEI's origins predate the World Wide Web, yet it continues to be developed and maintained. What is the secret of its longevity and why is it still relevant? To answer these questions, we will trace the history of the TEI's recommendations and its evolution from an internationally funded research project, aiming to define a common interchange format, into the lingua franca of the digital humanities. We will argue that the TEI's survival is largely due to its adaptability and its responsiveness to the needs of the research community.

A practical introduction to the Text Encoding Initiative. This two days workshop provides an overview of the most widely-used parts of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Guidelines, a set of recommendations for the encoding and manipulation of digital textual resources of every kind. It takes the form of five sessions, each containing a brief lecture followed by a scripted practical exercise, using a variety of materials.

1. What is markup? Theoretical principals underlying use of XML markup to organize and annotate textual materials. Exercise: using an XML editor (oXygen) to create a new document and to modify and transform existing documents.

2. The TEI core.
Overview of the organization of a TEI Document. Structural markup.
Recording the original rendition. Data-like markup of names and named entities.
Character set issues. Annotations and links.
Exercise: basic markup and transformation of sample TEI texts.

3. Metadata matters. Overview of the structure of the TEI Header. Exercise: creation of a simple TEI Header.

4. Manuscript transcription and description. Overview

of TEI proposals for transcription and cataloging of manuscript sources. Composite digital resources. Encoding diplomatic transcriptions. Critical apparatus.

Exercise: marking up a transcription and creating appropriate metadata for it.

5. Using your TEI resources. Overview of some software for the manipulation and display of TEI-encoded resources. Exercises: using TEI Boilerplate. Using XSLT to convert TEI to HTML.

Participants in the Workshop must have access to a computer using Windows, Mac OSX, or Linux on which a recent version of the oXygen software is installed. (A fully-featured 30-day trial version can be downloaded from http://oxygenxml.com/xml_editor/download_oxygenxml_editor.html). Other materials will be provided, including sample text files, and copies of all the teaching materials used.

Ēèòāōàòóōā. Webography

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