A catalogue of digital editions: Towards an electronic edition of Augustine’s De Civitate Dei

Greta Franzini
UCL Centre for Digital Humanities
Alexander von Humboldt Chair of Digital Humanities, Universität Leipzig

g.franzini.11@ucl.ac.uk
franzini@informatik.uni-leipzig.de
@GretaFranzini
Overview

Electronic Editing
Research Questions
The Catalogue

‣ BENEFITS
‣ METHODOLOGY
‣ GOOGLE FUSION TABLES
‣ INITIAL RESULTS

Digital Edition
Manuscript XXVIII (26)

‣ FEATURES
‣ CONSERVATION STATUS
‣ TRANSCRIPTION
‣ PUBLICATION
‣ FUTURE WORK
Electronic Editing

- Content, syntax, morphology
- Social & historical contexts
- Scribal hand(s)
- Manuscript as artefact
- Development (e.g. genetic editions)
Research questions

- Q: What makes a good digital edition?
- Q: What features do digital editions share?
- Q: What is the state of the art in the field of electronic editing?
- Q: Why are there so few electronic editions of ancient texts?

Output

Digital edition of the oldest surviving manuscript of St. Augustine’s *De Civitate Dei*
http://?!*@#???01=**!.com

- Patrick Sahle's *Catalog of Scholarly Digital Editions*
- arts-humanities.net
- Digital Classicist Wiki
- *Humanities Computing Yearbook*
- ....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>URL</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEATURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✘</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The catalogue

http://sites.google.com/site/digitaleds
Benefits

- An accessible, unique record of what has already been done and the tools used
- An insight into past, present and future projects
- The possibility of viewing trends or patterns
- A means of identifying which areas need to be improved
The catalogue

SCREENSHOT OF THE CATALOGUE
## Methodology

**ACTIVE: ANALYSIS**

- Features: philological and technological aspects, find-spot, repository, funding bodies, etc.
- Decimal numbers (0, 0.5, 1) to measure compliance
- Notes, comments, colour coding

**PASSIVE: CONTACT**

- Project goals & achievements
- User enquiries
- User statistics
- Main audience
- Team size and/or budget
- Lessons learnt
- Sustainability
Initial results: languages & time period

Languages of the source-texts present in the catalogue

- **Languages**: ANG, ARA, BEN, CHU, DAN, DUT, ENG, FRE, GER, GRC, HEB, ITA, LAT, MYN, NOR, OTA, SAN, SGA, SPA, WEL, MIX

- **Initial results**: languages & time period
  - Ancient (pre-5th cent. AD) - 18%
  - Medieval (6th-14th) - 26%
  - Modern (15th onwards) - 56%

**Number of Editions**:
- ANG: 3
- ARA: 1
- BEN: 1
- CHU: 1
- DAN: 1
- DUT: 3
- ENG: 51
- FRE: 12
- GER: 5
- GRC: 8
- HEB: 2
- ITA: 10
- LAT: 43
- MYN: 1
- NOR: 3
- OTA: 1
- SAN: 1
- SGA: 1
- SPA: 4
- WEL: 2
- MIX: 16

**Number of Editions**:
- 0
- 43
- 85
- 128
- 170
Initial results: encoding practice

- **Unclear**: 39%
- **TEI**: 36%
- **Custom XML**: 6%
- **Other**: 19%

**Editions by Period**

- **Ancient**: 7
  - Medieval: 21
  - Modern: 38
  - TOTAL = 66 editions

- **Ancient**: 12
  - Medieval: 13
  - Modern: 37
  - TOTAL = 62 editions

- **Ancient**: 11
  - Medieval: 8
  - Modern: 13
  - TOTAL = 32 editions

- **Ancient**: 0
  - Medieval: 2
  - Modern: 8
  - TOTAL = 10 editions
The bigger picture

- Large, unique, detailed data bank of electronic texts
- A platform where collaborators can engage in live discussions and update information
- Scholarly resource for the Digital Humanities, Digital Classicist and Digital Medievalist communities
- Collaboration as a means of research development and discovery
Manuscript XXVIII (26)
TRISMEGISTOS N: 66599
Biblioteca Capitolare di Verona
Features

- Books 11-16 (253 ff.)
- Size: 292x190mm
- Early 5th cent. (ca. 420)
- North Africa
- Parchment
- Language
- Uncial
- Marginalia (9th cent.)
Conservation status

ALBERTO CAMPAGNOLO

- Damage
- Mold
- Ink corrosion
- Gelatine effect
Transcription

XML - TEI P5

Canonical Text Services Protocol
http://chs75.chs.harvard.edu/projects/diginc/techpub/cts
Future work

- Authorship study
- Variants
- Enrichment and expansion of critical apparatus
- Aligned translation
- Virtual restoration (e.g. filling lacunae)
Thank you!
Appendix

Unless otherwise stated, all images used in this presentation are licensed for reuse. Source: www.pixabay.com