



Critical Editions with TEI

INTRODUCTION

What are digital editions?

- ❖ **Digital editions** consist of digital text versions of manuscripts and/or printed texts, often with images of manuscripts.
 - ❖ Editions featuring printed pages are rarer but do exist, like in the William Morris Archive.
- ❖ Some digital editions strive to provide as many versions of a text as possible: its manuscripts and digital texts of all of its contemporary (and sometimes present-day) printed editions, or any combination thereof.
 - ❖ Each document, or variant reading of a single “work,” is called a “witness.”

What are critical editions?

- ❖ Other digital editions try to provide a single edited version of the text, which could have been created by an already-printed edition, or is created brand-new for the online edition. It is this that we call a **critical edition**.
 - ❖ Example: Vanderbilt's Hannah Arendt project is editing the works of Arendt and publishing them both in print and digitally.
- ❖ In a critical edition, scholars try to provide information about multiple witnesses, whether in notes/an appendix or within the text itself using side-by-side comparison.

Expanding the
TEI Header: give
as much
information as
possible about
your text

Elements you may want to add in addition to the required elements of <fileDesc> (that is, in addition to <titleStmt>, <publicationStmt>, and <sourceDesc>):

- ❖ <editionStmt>
- ❖ <seriesStmt>
- ❖ <extent>: how big/long is the text, using any reasonable measurable unit
- ❖ <notesStmt>

Expanding the header con't.: <encodingDesc>

- ❖ Second element of the TEI Header
- ❖ Can consist of either a <p> describing the encoding practices, or any one of 10 elements that break this down more explicitly. Probably most helpful among these are:
 - ❖ <projectDesc>: describes in detail the aim or purpose for which an electronic file was encoded, together with any other relevant information concerning the process by which it was assembled or collected
 - ❖ <samplingDesc>: contains a prose description of the rationale and methods used in sampling texts in the creation of a corpus or collection
 - ❖ <editorialDecl>: provides details of editorial principles and practices applied during the encoding of a text

Expanding the header con't.: <profileDesc>

- ❖ Third element within the TEI Header
- ❖ Provides a detailed description of non-bibliographic aspects of a text, specifically the languages and sublanguages used, the situation in which it was produced, the participants and their setting
- ❖ 6 possible elements, which include:
 - ❖ <abstract>: contains a summary or formal abstract prefixed to an existing source document by the encoder.
 - ❖ <langUsage>: (language usage) describes the languages, sublanguages, registers, dialects, etc. represented within a text.

A PAUSE FOR AIR

At this point it can be easy to get overwhelmed. So many elements! So many elements within elements! But any encoder will tell you that you just need to consult the TEI guidelines AS YOU WORK. You're not expected to memorize it all! And shortly we'll discuss automating the process.

Expanding the header con't: <revisionDesc>

- ❖ The fifth element of the TEI Header
 - ❖ Note: we skipped the fourth, which is about the storage of additional metadata; feel free to look this up later
- ❖ Provides a detailed change log (<listChange>) in which each <change> made to a text may be recorded

Accounting for witnesses in the <sourceDesc>

- ❖ Use <listWit> and <witness> in the <sourceDesc>:

```
<sourceDesc>
  <listWit>
    <witness id="F2017"><p>This witness is the fall 2017
    syllabus of Special Topics in DH.</p></witness>
    <witness id="S2018"><p>This witness is the spring
    2018 syllabus of Special Topics in DH.</p></witness>
  </listWit>
</sourceDesc>
```

Accounting for witnesses in the text

- ❖ Use the <app> (apparatus) element to tag the different witnesses. There should be a **lemma** (the reading accepted as that of the original or of the base text) and one or more **reading**(s). If the line is, “He looked to me,” in one, older witness and “He looked at me” in a second, newer witness, the TEI will look like this:

- ❖

```
<p>He looked
  <app>
    <lem wit="#2017">to</lem>
    <rdg wit="#2018">at</rdg>
  </app> me.
</p>
```

Dickinson... again!

Use your handout, which has two different witnesses of Dickinson poem 330, to encode your own side-by-side critical edition of the poem.

To dive into the full possibilities of the TEI Header, see the TEI Guidelines, here:

<http://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/HD.html>

Bonus points for overachievers:

What it all can look like (using the
Lombard Press schema & publisher)

<http://lombardpress.org/print/>