TEI CONFERENCE AND MEMBERS’ MEETING 2016

September 26-30, Vienna

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
TEI Conference and Members’ Meeting 2016. Book of Abstracts

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Druck.at
Druck- und Handelsgesellschaft mbH
2544 Leobersdorf, Austria
www.druck.at

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The information and views set out in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editors.

Vienna, September 2016
Printed in Austria
ISBN 978-3-200-04689-4
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TEIScribe: A graphic tool for composing and testing TEI documents in the context of the EVI-LINHD environment

Digital Humanities can be seen as a boundary discipline that requires cooperation and common agreements and views among many scientific communities.¹ This is the case of Virtual Research Environments (VREs), as they facilitate researchers and users from different communities a place to develop, store, share, and preserve their work.² The first Digital Humanities Center in Spain, LINHD, the Digital Innovation Lab at UNED has started developing EVILINHD, the first VRE for Spanish-speakers.³ The environment offers researchers a collaborative space in the cloud to manage all phases of their projects: the edition process, storage into the database, and text visualization in several output formats, such as HTML. In order to facilitate digital scholarly editing, a specific tagging tool has


been developed as a cloud application implemented with Vaadin, an open-source Java framework and integrated in EVILINHD: TEIScribe.4

TEIScribe helps the Digital Humanities community to concurrently label texts with TEI without XML knowledge through a graphic and intuitive design that aims to break language and technological barriers. The tool, which was conceived and developed for the BIESES project in order to boost collaborative work5, is based on some of the existing collaborative cloud editors (such as FontoXML, or CWRC writer), so its learning curve is low. The creation, modification, and eliminating of labels and attributes is done with only a few mouse clicks. Since not all projects have the same labeling needs6, each text in TEIScribe is linked to a particular scheme that establishes the TEI file structure (an XML file). All documents employed by the application are stored in a NoSQL database, a documental database, namely eXistdb, which organizes the different XML documents and schemes by project, and their correspondence. In this way, the tool greatly simplifies the user’s work, since it can automatically detect and highlight mistakes on labels, which do not meet the requirement of associated schemes.


References