

TEI Technical Standard: The Experience of Poland

Material

Our interdisciplinary team of the New Panorama of Polish Literature is currently working on one of the first Polish TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) customizations and the first one to be applied to nineteenth and twentieth-century collections of literature that include nonfictional forms, such as letters and diaries.

The first digital edition in this series will consist of letters of twentieth-century poets associated with the leading Polish émigré magazine *Wiadomości*: Jan Lechoń and Kazimierz Wierzyński, and the magazine's editor, Mieczysław Grydzewski. These letters are one of the main sources on Polish émigré culture in the period after the Second World War. Lechoń-Wierzyński and Wierzyński-Grydzewski letters remain unpublished.

1

Objectives of the project

Our project will draw on the experience in traditional research and editing developed in the Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences (IBL, PAN).

The IBL has a long-established tradition in scholarly edition of literature. The software created during the project will allow members of the institute, even those who lack experience in digital humanities, to coordinate the digital editing in the TEI standard (among others, during the critical edition).

We plan two versions of each edition: traditional and digital. Since each kind has a slightly different purpose and reaches a different audience, they will perfectly complement each other.

2

3

Digital edition

Selection and customization of TEI elements to the specificity of Polish history and culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Specific issues: the censorship, the historical context.

The digital version will represent the physical form of the document as accurately as possible (for example, Grydzewski's letters are typewritten with handwritten corrections; Lechoń and Wierzyński's letters are handwritten, often decorated with drawings or decorative writing).

Document search: not only names, dates, places, and people (personal characteristics, events, and relationships), but also graphic and linguistic features of the text.

4

Software

Software based on the TEI system, but adjusted to the specific needs of the users – editors coordinating scholarly editions in the IBL, PAN.

User-friendly interface: clear communication between the editor (often unexperienced in digital humanities) and software is of the utmost importance.

Each text is displayed on three screens. The first one is marked with TEI elements and attributes, the second one represents the physical form of the document, and the third one is a transcription of the document, suitable for reading.