The influence
of cultural heritage institutions
on scholarly editing in the digital age

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Roadmap

• Introduction
  or: What is an edition?

• Interoperability
  or: What kind of editions are there?

• Sustainability
  or: How to consolidate editions?

• Resume
  or: Influence of institutions on editions
Herzog August Bibliothek

- is a research library with focus on medieval and early modern period.
- has 80 FTE permanent staff
  → personell devoted to digital editions.
- carries out projects of its own
  • e.g. two long-term editions:
    * Schriften Andreas Bodenstein von Karlstadt
    * Tagebücher Christian II.
What is an edition?

- What constitutes an edition?
  - Data
  - Functionality
- Edition vs. Parts of editions
- Edition vs. Transcription
Interoperability

• What kind of editions are there?
• What is in these editions?
• How to use the editions?
Do not re-/encode what you aren't interested in, what you don't want to process, present, search for, etc.
If editors re-/encoded something they were interested in processing, presenting, searching for it.
There's nothing like „THE“ text but views or understanding of texts. → cf. Sahle 2013

Elements correspond to the type of text viewed.

Functions correspond to the elements used.
Editors and their editions

• Editors encode on purpose.
• One can find out about the purpose by examining the code. (→ Which needs to be available!)
• Institutions learn about the type of edition, and about ways of presentation.
• Editors learn about their own edition, “strange” constructs in nesting can be detected.
Know what's there

• Wiki documentation with
  – List of all elements used
    • Record in which structural contexts the elements have been used
  – List of all attributes
    • Record on which elements the attributes have been unused
Decisions

• Example: How to use the attribute @type?
  - @type depends from the parent element
  - @type is not equally important for each element
  - Importance in descending order: <div>, <note>, <rs>, <ref/ptr>, <idno>, <title>, <biblScope>, others
Example – div/@type

• Values of @type on <div> are defined → e.g. for the DFG-Viewer
• [Follows a value list] → namespaces
• If other values have been used distinguish
  – semantic equivalence
  – enhancing the list of allowed values
  – hierarchical ordering of values → @subtype
  – „tag abuse“ → other elements should have been used
Sustainability

• How to sustain digital editions?
• What to sustain about digital editions?
The more...

- ...the data is (re-)used the more sustainable will the data be.

• Work in progress is allowed until a work is published.
  → Editiones Electronicae Guelferbytanae

• Publishing requires archiving and cataloguing.

• After publication work can go on on a separate copy of the data.
What to preserve?

• Preservation levels
  – Bitstream
  – Looks
  – Environment
  – Functionality

• The HAB guarantees to preserve the data and the (intended) “function” of the edition!
Revisions

• Distinction between revisions of the content and „technical“, e.g. the encoding

• Revisions of the content have to be documented using `<revisionStmt>/<change>`

• Revisions of the content have to be authorised by the author(s)

• „Technical“ revisions are stored in the versioning
Institutions & Projects

• Carry out projects, cooperate in projects – from the beginning!!!
  – „manage“ the editing process, e.g. by documentation, providing schemata and collaboration spaces
Institutions as Publishers

• Ingest editions
  – baseline encoding, e.g. DTABf
  – accepted mimetypes
  – prescribe licensing

• Host editions
  – Offer access and APIs
The role of institutions

- Institutions
  - stimulate the process of harmonisation, „normalisation“ → schema, ODD, normdata
  - push individual researchers towards „accuracy“.

- In the best of all cases, research and institutions discuss and agree upon ways to store, maintain, and publish DEs.