



# Evaluating Digital Editions

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# Criteria for Reviewing Scholarly Digital Editions

Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik



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## Kriterien für die Besprechung digitaler Editionen, Version 1.0

Patrick Sahle; unter Mitarbeit von Georg Vogeler und den Mitgliedern des IDE; Version 1.0, September 2012 (minimale Änderungen und Ergänzungen Oktober 2012)

### Vorbemerkungen zu diesen Kriterien

#### 1. Geltungsbereich

*Definitiorik.* Diese Handreichung zielt auf die Beschreibung und Evaluation von "digitalen Editionen". Bei einer (wissenschaftlichen) Edition handelt es sich um die Publikation von Informationsressourcen, die eine erschließende Wiedergabe historischer Dokumente und Texte bieten. "Digitale Editionen" werden nicht nur in digitaler Form publiziert, sondern folgen in ihrer Methodologie einem digitalen Paradigma – so wie traditionelle gedruckte Editionen eine Methodologie verfolgten, die dem Paradigma der Druckkultur entspricht.[1] Damit ist ein enges Verständnis digitaler Editionen abgesteckt. Bei vielen digitalen Ressourcen handelt es sich insofern nicht um digitale Editionen im engeren Sinne. Retrokonvertierte gedruckte Editionen oder vertiefende Digitalisierungs- und Erschließungsprojekte in Bibliotheken und Archiven überschreiten oft nicht die Schwelle zu "digitalen Editionen" im hier verwendeten Sinne. Auch kann die Nicht-Erfüllung bestimmter Mindestanforderungen dazu führen, dass einer Publikation das Attribut "digitale wissenschaftliche Edition" abzusprechen ist. Die Frage, ob es sich bei einer Ressource um eine Edition (und in welchem Sinne) handelt, sollte in einer Besprechung beantwortet werden. Diese Richtlinien versuchen allerdings so allgemein zu sein, dass sie häufig auch auf Nicht-Editionen anwendbar sein dürften.

*Genres und Schulen.* Diese Richtlinien versuchen auch deshalb möglichst allgemein zu sein, um der Vielfalt der edierbaren Gegenstände und der editorischen Schulen gerecht zu werden. Es muss zugestanden werden, dass *alle* Dokumente und Texte, die sich in einer historischen Distanz zu uns befinden und die zum Zwecke der weiteren Benutzung in Wissenschaft und Öffentlichkeit kritisch erschlossen und repräsentiert werden, zu Editionen führen können. Ebenso muss akzeptiert werden, dass es verschiedene legitime editorische Zielstellungen geben kann. Der bewusste Verzicht auf Rekonstruktion und Emendation, die Ablehnung einer stellenorientierten Varianzverzeichnisung[2] oder die Wahl

## UPCOMING EVENTS

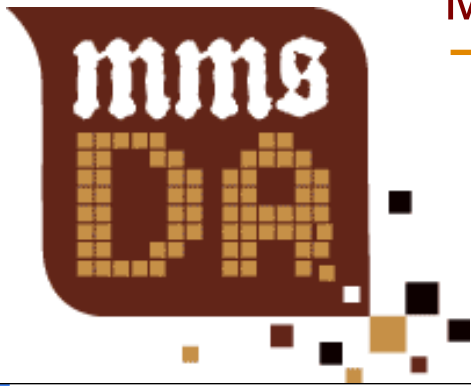
FEB 18 Tue  
**6:00 pm**  
 IANUS – Auf dem Weg zu einem IT-Kompetenzzentrum für die Archäologie und die Altertumswissen

FEB 28 Fri  
**8:30 am**  
 Workshop "Grenzen überschreiten – Digitale Geisteswissenschaften heute und morgen"

MAR 4 Tue  
**The iConference**

MAR 7 Fri  
**7:30 pm**  
 Digital Humanities Stammtisch Berlin

MAR 11 Tue  
**Konf: Lesesaal Internet – Auf dem Weg zu einer digitalen Forschungslandschaft**



## ... in English

Kriterienkatalog, engl. Übersetzung ☆

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

100% Normal text Arial 11 B I U A

Patrick Sahle; in collaboration with Georg Vogeler and the members of the IDE; Version 1.0, September 2012 - January 2014 - Original German version:  
<http://www.i-d-e.de/aktivitaeten/reviews/kriterien-version-1>  
Major contributions to the English [DRAFT] version by: Misha Broughton, Franz Fischer, Philipp Steinkrüger.

### Criteria for Reviewing Scholarly Digital Editions, version 1.0

#### Preliminary remarks

#### Scope

*Definitions.* This document provides a framework for the description and evaluation of scholarly digital editions (SDE). A scholarly edition is an information resource which offers a critical representation of historical documents or texts. Scholarly digital editions are not merely publications in digital form; rather, they are documents which follow a methodology determined by a digital paradigm, just as traditional print editions follow a methodology determined by the paradigms of print culture.<sup>1</sup> Given this narrow understanding of SDEs, many digital resources can not be considered digital editions in this strict sense. Digitized printed editions or digitization projects in libraries and archives - even with their subsequent descriptive, transcriptive and indexing information - often don't live up to the concept of an SDE in the sense that it is used here. Furthermore, if a publication does not meet certain core requirements it cannot be labeled an SDE in the narrow sense. The question whether (and in which sense) a publication can be considered a scholarly edition should be addressed in the review. Nevertheless, the guidelines set forth in this document are broad enough that they will often be applicable to resources that are not scholarly digital editions in the strict sense, as

Franz Fischer

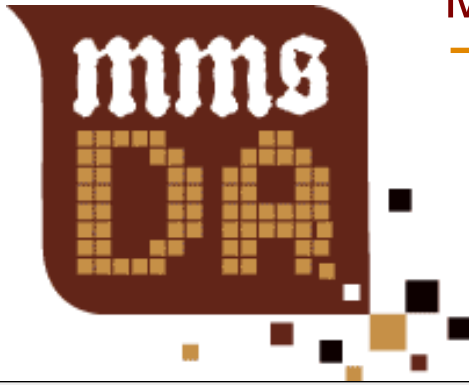
Comments Share

Misha Broughton  
3:56 PM Apr 10

This seems very similar to the previous assertion, and neither explicate these core requirements or mention where they will be explicated. Since the previous assertion was founded in the "digital paradigm," is it safe to say this one is founded in scholarly aspects?

Show all 2 replies

Georg Vogeler  
7:08 PM Apr 27



## RIDE

## A Review Journal for Scholarly Digital Editions and Ressources

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### RIDE: A Review Journal for Scholarly Digital Editions and Ressources

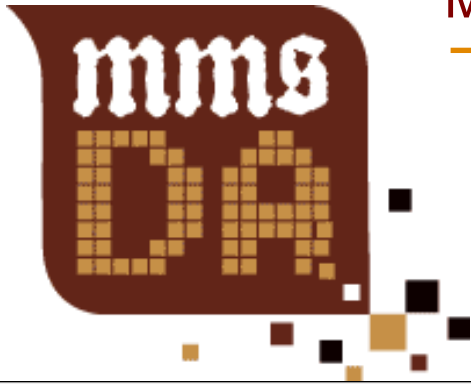
[Issue 1 contents](#)

Sandart.web, by Patrick Sahle

Nietzschesource, by Philipp Steinkrüger

...





## RIDE questionnaire


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### Questionnaire

 Please fill in all the fields in all the tabs before submitting. Form data cannot be saved and forms cannot be edited at a later stage. Resubmission, though, is possible.

\* Mandatory fields. Furthermore, please make sure that you answer all questions in the questionnaire below.

 Additional information concerning individual questions is available via the info-symbol.

#### Resource reviewed

Title:\*

Editor:

#### Reviewer

Surname:\*

Forename:\*



# Evaluating Digital Editions

- General introduction
- Presentation & discussion of evaluation criteria
- Exercise: Questionnaire
- Discussion of results



# Criteria for Reviewing Scholarly Digital Editions

- Kriterienkatalog (German):  
<http://www.i-d-e.de/aktivitaeten/reviews/kriterien-version-1>
- English draft version:
  - hand-out / PDF
  - on Google Drive:  
<https://docs.google.com/...>
- RIDE questionnaire (test version):  
<http://ride...>



## **Criteria for Reviewing Scholarly Digital Editions**

0. Preliminary remarks
1. Opening the review
2. Subject and content of the edition
3. Aims and methods
4. Publication and presentation
5. Conclusion





## Preliminaries: Scope

Criteria for evaluating:

- scholarly editions following a methodology determined by a digital paradigm
- a variety of documents and the variety of academic schools in scholarly editing

based on:

- established methods of the print-era
- new digital methodologies

contributing to ongoing methodological discussions:

- requirements
- best practices



## Further preliminaries

- general & specific criteria
- editorial preferences
- parameters:
  - goals & resources
  - content & functionalities
  - process & time of publication
- reviewer's background



# 1. Opening the review

- Bibliographic identification:
  - title, editor, institutions, date, version, address etc.
- General introduction & parameters:
  - context
  - discipline, related projects & editions, field of research
  - dates, resources, responsibilities
- Accessibility of this information



## 2. Subject and content of the edition

- Selection: What & why?
- Achievements: What's old, what's new?
- Content: What's there, what's missing?  
e.g. images, transcriptions, full texts, comments, context material, bibliography etc.



## 3. Aims and methods

... documented? explicitly stated? self-evident?

- Scholarly objectives
- Mission statement, label, target audience
- Editorial methodology
- Textual criticism applied on transcriptions, editorial texts and documents
- Data: model, formats, standards



## 4. Publication and presentation

- Technical infrastructure
- Interface & usability
- Accessing the content:  
browse & search & indices &c.
- Quality of the presentation:  
facsimiles, transcription, edited text, commentary etc.
- Description & interlinkage of constituent parts or external resources
- Can content be clearly referenced?  
On what level? – Citation guidelines?

...



## 4. Publication and presentation

...

- Interfaces to allow the reuse of the data in other contexts?
- Spin offs and export formats
- Basic/raw data (e.g. in XML)
- Rights and licenses
- Additional features
- Auxiliary material/texts:  
Introduction, documentation, help, etc.
- Long term use and preservation



## 5. Conclusion

- Aims and achievements
- Scholarly requirements fulfilled?
- Contribution to scholarship
- Particularities and innovative aspects





## Exercise

Apply RIDE questionnaire on

- either Petrus Plaoul edition:

<http://petrusplaoul.org/>

- or William Godwin's Diary edition

<http://godwindiary.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/index2.html>



# Assignment for DiXiT fellows

Create a review on a digital scholarly edition of your choice

- for publication in RIDE, issue 2
- some suggestions:  
<http://ride...>
- discuss with supervisor
- guidelines: <http://ride...>
- 2000-5000 words
- submission deadline: 31 July 2014
- peer review

... other MMSDA participants are also welcome!