

NeDiMAH WG 6 Meeting

Copenhagen, 5-12-2011

The NeDiMAH working group on Digital scholarly editions had its first meeting on the 5th of December 2011 at the Arnamagnæan Institute in Copenhagen. In attendance were Matthew Driscoll (chair), Elena Pierazzo (co-chair), Malte Rehbein, Michael Stolz, Peter Boot, Hilde Bøe, Marjorie Burghart and Mats Dahlström. Apologies were received from Marina Buzzoni. Eric Haswell, who is a member of staff at the institute but not an official member of the working group, was also present.

In the morning, discussion focused mainly on the purpose of the working group and expected outcomes, which will according to our brief include 1 or 2 articles for LLC in 2012, 1 article for DHQ for 2013 and a book, possibly published by Ashgate. We will also organise an Experts' Seminar in 2012. We discussed linking it with some other digital humanities related event in order to maximize the number of people who could attend. Possible events include the Eighth Annual Conference of the European Society for Textual Scholarship to be held in Bern, Switzerland on the 15-18 February 2012 (although this was felt to be too soon), the fourth Meeting on Digital Philology planned for 13-15 September in Verona (which is unfortunately in a country which does not participate in NeDiMAH), and another ESTS event planned for the autumn in the Hague. The following list of possible invited speakers (experts) was drawn up:

1. Hans Walter Gabler (DE)
2. Melissa Terras (UK)
3. Claus Huitfeldt (NO)
4. Dirk Van Hulle (BE)
5. Roberto Rosselli Del Turco (IT)
6. David Parker (UK)
7. Edward Vanhoutte (BE)
8. Florence Clavard (FR)
9. Pierre Yves Buard (FR)
10. Patrick Sahle (DE)
11. Gabriel Bodard (UK)
12. Caroline Macé (BE)
13. Claire Clivaz (CH)
14. John Lavagnino (UK)
15. Odd Einar Haugen (NO)
16. *Ray Siemens (CA)
17. *Julia Flanders (US)
18. *John Bryant (US)
19. *Christian Wittern (JP)

Possible topics for the experts' seminar and for our own endeavours were also discussed. A list of these topics is given at the end of this report. The possibility of preparing a sample digital edition available on the web as proof of concept and best practice was also discussed, although some people expressed concern about the amount of work that would entail, and no final agreement was reached on this point.

In the afternoon, members of the WG delivered presentations on issues to be addressed within the WG and/or projects they consider best practices

- Elena Pierazzo presented on the “Role of Technology in Scholarly Editing”: a lively discussion followed, focussing on questions what technical expertise can reasonably expected from (lead) editors, and to what extent our current way of preparing editions supports non-technical editors.
- Matthew Driscoll presented some work he is doing for regularisation and normalisation of orthography and punctuation.
- Malte Rehbein presented his work with medieval and modern MSS, with a particular focus on visualisation.
- Peter Boot presented ongoing work at Huygens ING about textual variance in and between manuscripts, web-based editing using the eLaborate transcription and publication environment, and the development of an automatic collation tool, CollateX.
- Michael Stolz presented his work on the Parzival, with focus on stemmata and critical apparatus: a lively discussion followed. It was proposed to use one of the workshop to be organised in the following years.
- Mats Dahlström presented some ideas from his evaluation work on a) large scholarly digital text archives (specifically annotation tools, log analyses, markup granularity and source selection issues) and on b) innovative training solutions and teaching high quality digitization issues as a subset of skills for (future) scholarly editors.
- Hilde Bøe presented a Norwegian website (for information in English which distributes eBooks on various formats: a discussion followed on which kind of edition will suit which sort of public.
- Marjorie Burghart presented a few websites on sermons.

The content of the forthcoming publication for the LLC special issue and two topics were also chosen:

- Critical Apparatus and representation of the textual variation
- The skill set required for editors

Deadlines and details on the publications are to be discussed with the steering committee.

Possible topics to be addressed at Experts' meeting:

Theory

What is a (digital) edition?

What is the purpose, who are the users?

Nature of editorial endeavour

Production

Digitisation

Transcription

Modelling

Collation and Stemmas

Collaboration

Critical Apparatus/Textual Variation

Social Editing

Source description and materiality of the support

Encoding texts and documents

Project management

Delivery

Presentation

Interface, interactions and annotations, reusing

Visualisation: Graphs, Trees and Maps

Publishing platforms / Publishers

Web, mobile, print

Editorial tools: for editors and users

Distributed editions

Open source/open archive

Editor

Career impact (?)

Skill sets

Formation: teaching and learning

Long term issues

Impact: methods and tools for analyzing types of impacts (scholarly, users, public engagement)

Preservation/shelf life

Business model for Digital Editions & Sustainability

Versions and stability

Reusability