



Webinars in Theories and Practices of the Annotation through Domain-Specific Languages

Call for Papers

The community of digital humanists is growing and promoting best practices for any aspect of their workflow: metadata encoding, acquisition of digital images, text digitization by OCR, mark-up of primary sources, and annotation of different layers of linguistic and stylistic analyses.

But in most cases the best practices of digital humanists are challenging for the community of traditional scholars, not simply for a reactionary attitude, but for an actual overload of cognitive stress. Historians, epigraphists, palaeographers, or philologists need to stay focused on their specific-domain tasks. Their practices are based on the functional requirements of the specific disciplines and consequently their methods and solutions should meet at the best those requirements also in a digital environment, by avoiding verbosity, semantic ambiguity, and any technicism alien to the domain. Along the centuries effective and efficient systems of annotation have been created and optimized: the evolution of the critical apparatus to increase precision, concision and expressivity, is just an example.

XML-TEI is a *de facto* standard in the realm of Digital Humanities. However, verbosity and peculiarities of the TEI guidelines may create a barrier between the communities of traditional and digital humanists. Domain-Specific Languages can help in this direction, because they allow the scholars to encode relevant information in a familiar way, close to the practices developed in their original domain of knowledge (e.g. epigraphy or philology), but at the same time they are machine actionable and easy to be translated in other, more verbose but standard languages, such as XML-TEI or OWL.

We call for contribution to a cycle of webinars to share ideas and experiences on Domain-Specific Languages applied to the research in the Humanities. We solicit the contribution of creators of formal grammars and users of formal languages for encoding critical apparatus, or linguistic, stylistic and multimedia annotations. But we also welcome scholars with relevant research questions that could exploit Domain-Specific Languages in their activities or that are skeptical or unsatisfied by other ready-made solutions and desire to tailor new instruments to their needs.

Webinars will take place from September to December 2020 and are aimed at the publication of a monograph at the end of the next year.

The main topics of the webinars are:

- **Theoretical aspects of the Domain-Specific Languages:** enhancing models for the representation and treatment of scholarly editions; promoting the axiomatic approach towards the formal representation of textual phenomena; promoting the discussion on the theoretical and epistemological underpinnings of the historical-critical sciences and their relationship with the experimental scientific method; circularity between *constitutio* and *interpretatio*: the hermeneutic circle.
- **Scholarly editing and DSLs:** preparation of mono- or multi-level critical apparatus; systems for linking the critical apparatus to the text; morphological, semantic and philological annotation of variant readings and conjectural emendations; methods for recording and formalizing the evaluations of readings formulated by scholars in the secondary and tertiary literature; preparation of repertories of variants and conjectural emendations, information retrieval, and Linked Open Data.
- **Hermeneutics and DSLs:** tailoring DSLs according to the research question: case studies; interaction between different layers of analysis (e.g. lexico-semantic and metrical analysis to study Homeric formulae); open categories: personomies, folksonomies and domain ontologies.
- **Annotating multimedia and 3D artifacts by DSLs:** DSLs for the annotation of images, audio and video; annotation of 3D artifacts, especially in the domains of archaeology, epigraphy and cultural heritage; enhancing the tools for annotation by adding DSL editing capabilities.
- **DSLs and interoperability, standardization and residual information:** translation from DSLs to XML-TEI and vice versa; DSLs and languages for the representation of ontologies (e.g. OWL or turtle); the treatment of residual information, i.e. research-specific formalisms of DSLs; the engagement of the researchers in the standardization process.
- **DSLs and computation:** engineering aspects of the DSLs, e.g. efficiency and computational complexity; DSLs as programming languages and not only as descriptive languages; making libraries of components for the Digital Humanities domain and in particular for the computational philology; stemmatological and data mining techniques for extracting information from the critical apparatus; extracting information from collational and stemmatological data sets for the establishment of the critical text and its apparatus.
- **DSLs, education and citizen science:** DSLs at school: case studies; DSLs and accessibility; collaborative annotation as peer education; monitoring the benefits and challenges of the collaborative annotation at school by DSLs; the involvement of students to enhance the DSLs expressivity and to improve the usability of the annotation tools.

Deadline: 15th July 2020

Format: a short abstract restricted to 500 words in plain text + references (Chicago style)

Further information and submission website: <https://cophilab.ilc.cnr.it/euporia2021>

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