Rediscovering Renaissance Recipes II: From Text to Code

Presented by:
Maddie Bohlin and Annika Brown

In collaboration with:
Anna Corner, Ellie Benz, Preston Petrie, Timothy Henderson, and Andrew Paxson
Agenda

1. Introduce XML - TEI - Oxygen
2. The Coding Process
3. Challenges
   a. Editorial Decisions
   b. Coding in XML
XML - TEI - Oxygen

What is it?

● eXtensible Markup Language

Why did we choose this language?

● XML vs. HTML
  ○ XML is more focused on the text and its meaning, while HTML is more concerned about presentation

TEI - Text Encoding Initiative

● Sets a standard for the representation of texts in digital form

Why did we choose this platform?

● Oxygen
Coding Process

1. Divide the source text into sections
   a. Each student focused on their own section of pages
2. Transcribe the text into XML
   a. Type the text as is directly into XML
3. Insert structural and editorial tags when appropriate
   a. After transcribing, go back through the text and add tags that indicate the significance of certain words
   b. This will be explained further in the “challenges” section
A Side by Side Comparison of an Excerpt From the Text in Original Gothic Script and in Coded Form:
Challenges

Editorial Decisions

- Since we were coding a text written in Middle French, we had to decide the extent to which we were going to regularize it to be understandable in modern day
- There are many abbreviations and spellings that no longer exist in French that are found in the text

Coding XML

- As French majors, coding is not something we are used to doing in class, and it took a while to learn
Challenges - Editorial Decisions

Expanding abbreviations (ẽ õ à o⁹ ï ï ñ ñ)
- “Po⁹” to “pour” (for)
- “Bõne” or “bõe” to “bonne” (good)

Unicode
- å

Changing letters
- Regularize “i” to “j”
- Regularize “u” to “v”

Other changes
- Adding apostrophes, appropriate spacing, capitalizing personal names

“jusques icy (ici)”
Challenges – Coding in XML

Learning a new language

- XML is not standard in any of our other course work

Complex and Layered Tagging
Challenges - Coding in XML

Complex and Layered Tagging

Recognizes continuation of a word over a line break

```xml
<persName>
  <choice>
    <sic>
      <choice>
        <orig>uar</orig>
        <reg>var</reg>
      </choice>
    </sic>
    <corr>
      <choice>
        <orig>Var</orig>
        <reg>Var</reg>
      </choice>
    </corr>
  </choice>
</persName>
```
Challenges - Coding in XML

Complex and Layered Tagging

Regularize U’s to V’s

```
<persName>
  <choice>
    <sic>
      <choice>
        <orig>uar</orig>
        <reg>var</reg>
      </choice>
    </sic>
    <corr>
      <choice>
        <orig>Var</orig>
        <reg>Var</reg>
      </choice>
    </corr>
  </choice>
  <lb rend="hyphen"/>ron
</persName>
```
Challenges - Coding in XML

Complex and Layered Tagging

Correct Capitalization

```xml
<persName>
  <choice>
    <sic>
      <choice>
        <orig>uar</orig>
        <reg>var</reg>
      </choice>
    </sic>
    <corr>
      <choice>
        <orig>Var</orig>
        <reg>Var</reg>
      </choice>
    </corr>
  </choice>
  <lb rend="hyphen"/>ron
</persName>
```
Challenges - Coding in XML

Complex and Layered Tagging

Tagging personal names is an example of editorial tagging. We also tagged places; we distinguished between whether a chapter was on dietetics or a recipe, and we started tagging ingredients in recipes.

Tag Full Name (over line break)

```xml
<persName>
  <choice>
    <sic>
      <choice>
        <orig>uar</orig>
        <reg>var</reg>
      </choice>
    </sic>
    <corr>
      <choice>
        <orig>Var</orig>
        <reg>Var</reg>
      </choice>
    </corr>
  </choice>
  <lb read="hyphen">ron
</persName>
```
Challenges - Coding in XML

Structural Coding

- Multiple layers of division
- Titles of Chapters
- Forme Work at top and bottom of pages
- Page Breaks
- Line Breaks
- Comments
Challenges - Coding in XML

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- Comments
Conclusion

Through this process, we were able to code the majority of the text by the end of the semester.

Once we were done with our coding, we sent it to our colleagues in the Computing and Information Sciences Department to create a web interface using our XML document.

To see the final step of our project please refer to:

“Rediscovering Renaissance Recipes: Digital Representation for a 16th Century Text”
Thank you!