Online editions as multi-dimensional knowledge spaces

Gunter Vasold

Center for Information Modelling in the Humanities
Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Digital Diplomastics 2011
Progressive editions
Gunter Vasold
Knowledge Spaces

**Usage of editions**

- Growing knowledge about contexts (historical context, physical context, ...)
- Reviews
- "Common" use of edition increases knowledge about source
- Enrichments
- Additional representation forms
- Corrections
- New findings
Progressive editions: an example (simplified)

- Include basic metadata (e.g. from archive repository/EAD or existing edition)
- Revise and approve
- Create facsimile
- Create abstract
- Transcribe
- Collate
- Create diplomatic edition text
- Create philologic edition text
- Add textual tradition
- Annotate people and places
- Identify people
- Identify places
- Add palaeographic description
- Describe seals
Progressive editions: an example (simplified)

Include basic metadata (e.g. from archive repository/EAD or existing edition)

Revise and approve
Create facsimile
Create abstract
Transcribe
Collate
Create diplomatic edition text
Create philologic edition text
Add textual tradition
Annotate people and places
Identify people
Identify places
Add palaeographic description
Describe seals

Comment
Use (usage tracking)
Progressive editions: an example (simplified)

- Include basic metadata (e.g. from archive repository/EAD or existing edition)
- Revise and approve
- Create facsimile
- Create abstract
- Transcribe
- Collate
- Create diplomatic edition text
- Create philologic edition text
- Add textual tradition
- Annotate people and places
- Identify people
- Identify places
- Add palaeographic description
- Describe seals

Edition

- Comment
- Use (usage tracking)
- Add bibliographic references
- Add Tags
- Annotate forma
- Translate et cetera
Progressive editions: an example (simplified)
A multidimensional information space
A multidimensional information space
A multidimensional information space
A multidimensional information space
Questions

Is this complexity necessary?
Yes. Otherwise it will not work. In most cases the information space will be simpler — but it might become complex and we should be prepared.

Can the complexity be mastered?
Yes, under minimum two conditions:

- Processes must get particular attention
  - Who has done what from which starting point and with what result?
  - If an edition becomes dynamic, processes become important
  - Keep track of genesis

- We need a sophisticated technical infrastructure
  - Support for process oriented approach
  - Keep things apart: production component, repository component, annotation component, user frontend (publication)
  - Keep things modular and flexible: replaceable components, clear interfaces, service based architecture
  - Hide complexity from editors and users
  - Centralized or distributed? Centralized and distributed!
Questions

Is this complexity necessary?
Yes. Otherwise it will not work. In most cases the information space will be simpler — but it might become complex and we should be prepared.

Can the complexity be mastered?
Yes, under minimum two conditions:

- Processes must get particular attention
  - Who has done what from which starting point and with what result?
  - If an edition becomes dynamic, processes become important
  - Keep track of genesis

- We need a sophisticated technical infrastructure
  - Support for process oriented approach
  - Keep things apart: production component, repository component, annotation component, user frontend (publication)
  - Keep things modular and flexible: replaceable components, clear interfaces, service based architecture
  - Hide complexity from editors and users
  - Centralized or distributed? Centralized and distributed!
**Questions**

**Is this complexity necessary?**

Yes. Otherwise it will not work. In most cases the information space will be simpler — but it might become complex and we should be prepared.

**Can the complexity be mastered?**

Yes, under minimum two conditions:

- Processes must get particular attention
  - Who has done what from which starting point and with what result?
  - If an edition becomes dynamic, processes become important
  - Keep track of genesis
- We need a sophisticated technical infrastructure
  - Support for process oriented approach
  - Keep things apart: production component, repository component, annotation component, user frontend (publication)
  - Keep things modular and flexible: replaceable components, clear interfaces, service based architecture
  - Hide complexity from editors and users
  - Centralized or distributed? Centralized and distributed!
Progressive editions
- The editing process is continued after publication: it grows and improves
- Changes are reflected within the edition
  - Versioning is relevant
  - Processes documentation becomes part of the edition

A progressive edition is a central point of knowledge accumulation about the source
- Communication about the source can happen in the context of the edition
- Work of non-editors can be included or at least made known

A progressive edition requires a non-trivial technical infrastructure
- Process-oriented
- Support for complex objects
- Modular and loosely coupled
- Based on standards
Thanks for your attention!

Gunter Vasold  
Center for Information Modelling in the Humanities  
Karl-Franzens-University of Graz  
Merangasse 70  
A-8010 Graz  
E-Mail: gunter.vasold@uni-graz.at  
Tel.: +43 380 316 8012