

TEI - for describing codicological features of Manuscripts

Introduction

In this paper I will briefly introduce TEI as a metadata standard for digital descriptions of manuscripts. I will show examples of vocabulary -<elements> and <attributes> - used to describe physical features and para-text <additional> relevant for codicological examination and analysis. To justify the additional labour implicit in encoding text, it is essential to elaborate on how digital/encoded text supersedes analogue and free text. Standards are used to create data sets, which combine with other data sets, and by using (standard) tools to query the information captured (data). Finally, I would like to discuss – in the context of encoding text for manuscript descriptions- that opportunity creates challenge, and the controversial perception that metadata solutions can replace contextual standards.