Readings and Links

The following readings all offer different perspectives on the central question of this workshop: “How can we use TEI markup more precisely and powerfully to convey information and meaning about texts?” Each one is attacking a different specific challenge, and those challenges influence the way these authors frame the problem.


This article offers a thoughtful examination of how different levels of information within a TEI system are or could be constrained.


This paper discusses Schematron (in its early form) in some detail. I have extracted the overview of how it works here. The rest of the paper dives into implementation details.


This article considers the TEI customization mechanism as a way of modeling the relationship between individual usage and community standards.


This somewhat technical article explores the ways in which markup can be understood as a carrier of formal information, and illustrates how we might approach the problem of meaning and interpretation as an information processing problem.

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This article offers a detailed look (from the perspective of a project focusing on philosophical manuscripts) at how the work of transcription and the work of interpretation intersect, and (by extension) how different layers of interpretive work can be represented in markup.


This article examines the role played by constraint systems (schemas, work flows, expectations about semantics) in determining the function of markup as an information-bearing system.


This short piece serves as a very sketchy framing of what has proved to be a long-standing debate about the nature of text (and hence about the role markup might legitimately play in representing text).


Anyone planning to use the TEI seriously should read the TEI Guidelines. This workshop will be drawing on material from the following chapters; reviewing these would be good preparation, but no need to read them cover to cover (the are not included int his packet):

Chapter v: A Gentle Introduction to XML
Chapter 3: Elements Available in All TEI Documents
Chapter 4: Default Text Structure
Chapter 7: Performance Texts
Chapter 11: Representation of Primary Sources
Chapter 13: Names, Dates, People, and Places
Chapter 16: Linking, Segmentation, and Alignment
Chapter 20: Non-hierarchical Structures
Chapter 22: Documentation Elements