Medieval Manuscript Description in TEI

TEI Work Group & MASTER

16 November 2001
A little bit of history
(because it makes me feel young!)

• Two American projects (EAMMS and Digital Scriptorium) begun in 1996
• Studley Priory meeting fall 1996
• TEI Workgroup formed winter 1997/1998
• MASTER project started 1999
TEI Workgroup

- Ambrogio Piazzoni, Vatican Library & Consuelo Dutschke, Columbia University
- Peter Kidd, Oxford/Sothebys
- Eva Nylander, Lund University
- Merrilee Proffitt, UC Berkeley/RLG
TEI-MS WG Mission

• to devise a set of tags suitable for on-line descriptions of western medieval and renaissance manuscripts with responsibility for the formal definition of the standard

• to ensure that the interests of relevant constituents … [EAMMS, DS, MASTER, etc.] … as well as significant legacy-data issues are addressed
MASTER Project

- DeMontfort University
- AMI
- IHRT
- Czech National Library
- Royal Library Netherlands
- Oxford University
- Assortment of associate partners
MASTER Project goals

• develop a single on-line catalog of medieval manuscripts in European libraries
• create software for creation of descriptions, mount records in a single networked catalog
We had a few meetings...

TEI Workgroup
• July 1998
• March 1999
• October 1999
• September 2000
• (June 2001)

MASTER
• February 1999
• September 1999
• April 2000
• October 2000
Differences

<!ELEMENT physDesc

(p+ | (form?, support?, extent?, collation?,
layout?, msWriting?, musicNotation?, decoration?,
bindingDesc?, foliation*, additions?, condition?))>

versus ...

<!ELEMENT physDesc

(p | form | support | dimensions | extent |
collation | layout | msWriting | writingSystem |
musicNotation | decoration | bindingDesc |
foliation | additions | condition | signatures |
catchwords | palimpsest)+ >
Differences

<!ELEMENT msItem
  (locus?, (author | respStmt | title | rubric |
  summary | incipit | explicit | colophon | textLang | q |
  decoNote | bibl | listBibl | note | msItem)*) >

<!ELEMENT msItem
  (#PCDATA | locus | author | respStmt | title | rubric |
  summary | incipit | explicit | colophon | textLang | writingSystem | q |
  decoNote | bibl | listBibl | note | keywords | hi | name | pb | ref |
  scriptTerm | msItem)+ >
Additional Outcomes

• MASTER
  – Documentation
  – Authoring tool(s)
  – Online catalog(s)

• TEI-MS Workgroup (for the more intrepid!)
  – DTD + XMetaL Rules Files
  – Partial Documentation
Use of DTDs

• MASTER
  – Participant use
  – Numerous workshops throughout Europe, including Australia

• TEI-MS WG
  – Huntington Library catalog (2 volumes)
  – MANUS review and use
  – Workshop for catalogers at Vatican Library
Problems

• “Excuse me, I think you dropped your metadata in my text!”
• Putting the cart before the horse -- a lack of documented standards
• Project pressures (like internet time?) versus no pressures
URLs

- MASTER:
  - http://www.cta.dmu.ac.uk/projects/master/
- TEI-MS WG:
  - http://www.stg.brown.edu/~tei-mmss/