



# Digital Medievalist

## Migration to TEI P5 (<http://www.digitalmedievalist.org/>)

### Digital Medievalist

Digital Medievalist (DM) is an international online community fostering best practice in the creation of electronic resources in the field of medieval studies. It is in the process of migration of its website, publication framework, and journal to use TEI P5.

### Project Website

The project website is currently authored in ColdFusion as a project by the Curriculum Re-Development Centre at the University of Lethbridge. While it is beneficial to have the continuing support of a host institution, a major drawback of this is that members of the project did not have access to the website files themselves!

The new beta system stores all its files in a subversion repository with a preview site updating any changes every ten minutes, and the live site updating once a day. The main benefit of this is that any members of the DM technical committee can update the website through editing their files locally and re-committing the changes to the subversion repository.

The website is almost entirely written in TEI P5 XML, with occasional use of XInclude and RSS. The use of XInclude allows the news headlines to be included in the home page and the news page from an RSS file. Likewise, the table of contents of journal issues on the home page and the journal page are XIncluded <div> elements from TEI files.

The new DM beta site is published with Apache Cocoon, running under Jetty. This allows us a more flexible control over the website, continued management of legacy URLs, and pipelined transformations. The benefits this provides include the ability to author directly in TEI P5 XML, to be able to XInclude fragments of files from other documents, and the ability to validate files against a tightly constrained schema generated from a TEI ODD.

### TEI P5 Migration

It was decided that, for now, the legacy journal articles from previous issues would remain in TEI P4. Although our tests showed that there were few if any barriers to this conversion, it was decided to postpone this conversion until we were more certain that the DM TEI ODD file (used to create the RelaxNG schema that the journal articles validate against) was more stable. This ODD produces a constrained schema that is a pure subset of the tei\_all schema. Once this ODD is more stable after our experiences with upcoming TEI P5 issues, then copies of the legacy journal articles will be transformed to TEI P5. The tests we undertook showed that with a combination of automatic conversion (with the XSLT for TEI P4 to TEI P5 conversion available on the TEI Wiki) and hand editing meant that the majority of files could be converted swiftly and without significant problems.

The website files validate against a different schema. This is because they have need of less elements, need a slightly more constrained structure, and use XInclude. The website have been created entirely anew in TEI P5, since this was easier than getting proper access to the existing ColdFusion files and converting them.

DM intends to continue using and promoting TEI to the digital medievalist community.

The technical work for this was carried out by Dr James Cummings <James.Cummings@oucs.ox.ac.uk> who is happy to answer any questions about it.

