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Book of Abstracts

SIMONETTA BATTISTA

This contribution presents the case of the *Ordbog over det norrøne prosasprog* / *A Dictionary of Old Norse Prose* (ONP) and its evolution from a traditional excerpt-based historical dictionary to a multifaceted digital platform (<onp.ku.dk>), which is an inclusive research support tool for scholars in the field of medieval Scandinavian studies. The legacy data of the dictionary consist of a unique collection of around 750,000 representative citations, which still provide the basis of the lexicographic work. Each citation is equipped with a *siglum*, which refers to the edition and ultimately to the specific manuscript from which it has been excerpted. The project started in 1939, and the time demanding excerpting work lasted a few decades. Meanwhile new digital technologies were made available, which allowed the material to be inserted into a tailor made database from the beginning of the editorial work, in the early 80s. After the publication of four printed volumes, in 2010 the project turned into a free digital platform, where both the published and unpublished material was made accessible to the users. This paper will try to detail the structure of the current digital platform and highlight some of the potential that it offers to users, not only for the purpose of lexical and semantic analysis of Old Norse texts, but also in the form of additional material relating to manuscripts, dating, area of origin, literary genre, foreign sources, bibliography, links to external projects and many other functions. The conservation of the original data and their progressive integration into new technological tools show how the project has managed to maintain the balance between the strong philological link with manuscript sources and constant digital innovation.

NATHANAEL BUSCH

Authority control, which originally served the librarian's request for unambiguous identification and standardised designation of objects, has become an important tool in recent years, especially in the Digital Humanities, to facilitate the automatic exchange of data between independent projects. This article is also addressed to readers outside the Digital Humanities; it aims to raise awareness of the benefits of more projects incorporating authority files into their work in the future. The article explains the purpose and structure of authority control in general and presents an important archive, the *Gemeinsame Normdatei* (GND), as well as practical examples where authority is applied. Using the example of the medieval concept of literary works, it can be shown which problems can arise when working with authority files; modern concepts of "work" can be applied only partially to medieval textual production. The project *Handschriftencensus* is presented as an editor of authority records for medieval works. The Project's goal is to systematically catalogue the entire corpus of medieval German-language manuscripts, and in order to achieve this goal, its task is to set standards for medieval German studies through uniform rules.

ELISA CUGLIANA – JORIS J. VAN ZUNDERT

'A Computational Turn in Digital Philology Questions', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 43-71.

In this article we argue that digital scholarly editing still obeys a representational logic which prevents it from fully exploiting the potential of the digital medium. In fact, practices such as the encoding of data still lead to recording the *results* of the editorial work, consigning to oblivion the very essence of the latter, which, in our opinion, lies in the philologist's *knowledge* and *action*. For this reason, we argue for a computational turn in philology, defining it as the use of performative code to model the processes at the basis of the creation of an edition (such as transcription, collation, stemmatological analysis, annotation etc.). It is our conviction that the introduction of programming in the realm of editing represents a major turning point in the history of philology, as it brings about a considerable increase in the accountability and reproducibility of the scholarly work, which are fundamental conditions for scientificity. To back up our arguments, we will propose two examples from our own work: the computational editions of the Early New High German version of Marco Polo's travel account and of the Middle Dutch *Of Reynaert the Fox*. We will show the role and the advantages of computation in dealing with aspects such as normalisation and annotation of the texts, focusing in particular on the epistemological gains of our novel approach.

GIULIA D'AGOSTINO
'Language Resources for Old High German and Old Saxon: An Assessment', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 73-97.

Thanks to the digital medium, several resources have been and are being developed to facilitate the retrieval, the analysis and the presentation of data for systematic quantitative and qualitative studies. This article concerns the assessment of the added value brought by language corpora to the field of Germanic linguistics and philology, but also of the possible issues that may arise while building and using them. After a literature review on the digital turn, a description of the available corpora and databases for Old High German and Old Saxon will be provided. The focus will be on the *Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch*, the *Heliand Parsed Database* and the *Tatian Corpus of Deviating Examples*. The discussion will be focused on the peculiarities of each corpus, the comparison of their functionalities (with an evaluation of underlying criteria) and the research problems that these technologies can solve. The final part of the article will be dedicated to the examination of a work in progress, namely the *Noun Phrases in Early Germanic Languages Database*. The ultimate goal is trying to deepen the understanding of the potential of the digital paradigm in this research area and seeing if and where there could be room for improvement.

MIRELLA DE SISTO
'Final Devoicing in Dutch Medieval and Renaissance Texts: A Preliminary Study on Orthographic Variation', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 99-117.

This paper describes a preliminary quantitative study on orthographic variation of word-final devoiced consonants (e.g. *altijd vs altijt* 'always') in Dutch medieval and Renaissance texts. Five epic works in verse, either poems or plays, have been analysed, which cover a period from 1270 until 1637. The computational identification of orthographic marking of word-final devoicing, as well as the occurrence of instances without marking, allows, for each text under examination, to chart the different phases of the devoiced consonants' spelling. The results show that the earlier medieval texts under investigation exhibit spelling which overtly displays devoiced consonants; later works, those written within the Renaissance period, show more

instances of orthographic variation. Besides the preliminary results of this pilot study, this paper highlights the potential of applying similar computational approaches to larger data sets of texts.

RICCARDO GINEVRA – FRANCESCO MAMBRINI
'The Old Norse FrameNet (ONoFN): Developing a New Digital Resource for the Study of Semantics and Syntax within a Medieval Germanic Tradition', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 119-140.

The "Old Norse FrameNet" (ONoFN) project aims at filling the gap between digital resources informed by contemporary linguistic theory and traditional research on Old Norse and Germanic lexical semantics and literary and religious topoi. We apply the principles of Frame Semantics (according to which "[a] word's meaning can be understood only with reference to a structured background of experience, beliefs, or practices", a "semantic frame") and the methodology of the Berkeley FrameNet database (which documents more than 1000 hierarchically-related semantic frames occurring within the British National Corpus) in the annotation of a digital corpus of Old Norse texts. The annotation of ONoFN is ongoing. The initial corpus that we are annotating consists of the *Poetic Edda* as attested in the Codex Regius manuscript (GKS 2365 4to), a collection of mythological and heroic poems which were first written down in the 13th century after a long period of oral transmission. Researchers working on issues of linguistics, such as the semantics of specific lexical items, and on literary or religious topics, such as the treatment across Old Norse literature of a specific literary topos and/or religious theme, will find the ONoFN helpful when conducting research that takes into account the semantic contexts where the relevant lexemes occur, identifying which frames are involved in the composition of a specific passage, and comparing occurrences of the same frames in other passages or texts of the Old Norse literary corpus.

PIERANDREA GOTTARDI
'Sull'utilità e i problemi di un'edizione lemmatizzata. Un caso esempio offerto da *Roman de Horn*, *King Horn* e *Horn Childe and Maiden Rimnild*', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 141-169.

The present paper deals with methods employed to create a lemmatized edition of all the witnesses of *Roman de Horn*, *King Horn* and *Horn Childe and Maiden Rimnild*. These are three closely related versions of the medieval story of Horn: while the first is in Insular French, the second and the third are in Middle English. The lemmatized edition of these three versions is part of a doctoral project for a qualitative and quantitative analysis of their style. The final goal of the lemmatized edition is to provide a searchable database for stylistic investigations. First, an introduction to the three versions is offered. Then, the reasons for a digital approach are explained. After that, the paper discusses the problems of the lemmatization, and the solutions adopted. The resulting protocol is explained, combining the need for a qualitative and controlled lemmatization with the practical need for a partially automatized pipeline. A program was written employing the Natural Language Toolkit module of Python to edit and lemmatize each witness. A private MySQL database was developed, containing all the lemmas from the *Middle English Dictionary* and the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary*: the database hastened the process of lemmatization. Additionally, a set of corpora of Insular French texts and Middle English texts was realized, and these corpora provided a control group for the stylistic analysis. The creation of this control group required a distinct, automatized protocol of lemmatization, which resulted in a specific kind of digital output. The paper ends with a brief example of stylistic investigation employing the corpus of lemmatized texts.

OMAR KHALAF
'A Computer-Assisted Collation of Earl Rivers' *Dicts and Sayings of the Philosophers', Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 171-192.

Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers' *Dicts and Sayings of the Philosophers* (*Dicts*) is one of the earliest books printed by William Caxton at Westminster. This long compilation of miscellaneous proverbial literature is extant in four editions and seven manuscripts, which testify to a widespread circulation in England between the end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth century. The latest in a series of English translations of Guillaume de Tignonville's *Ditz moraulx des philosophes*, the *Dicts* is the only version lacking a critical edition and a comprehensive study of its tradition. Although previous scholarship assumed that all manuscript witnesses are almost *verbatim* copies or epitomized versions of the prints, specific analyses disclose a more complex situation. Substantial variations have also been recorded in the printed editions, but they have never been exhaustively mapped. The largeness and complexity of this tradition, which combines prints and manuscripts, full copies, fragments, and epitomes, represents an ideal testing ground for the use of computer-assisted collation procedures. The article proposes a comparison of two digital tools, namely *CollateX* and *Juxta*, for the collation of a passage of the *Dicts*.

ELISABETTA MAGNANTI
'Handwritten Text Recognition in Medieval Germanic Manuscripts: The *Peterborough Chronicle* as a Case Study', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 193-216

Over the past few decades, the mass digitisation of repositories has called for urgent development of computational methods to yield access to their contents. In the realm of text technologies, *Handwritten Text Recognition* (HTR) is one of the most promising tools, capable of generating semi-automatic machine-readable transcriptions from digitised manuscripts. Although rapid progress is being made in digital palaeography, the implementation of HTR models for medieval Germanic languages remains much more elusive so far. As part of a workflow to produce a digital edition of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, I have devised a model for Old English trained on the *Peterborough Chronicle* using the AI-powered platform *Transkribus*, returning ~99% accuracy. HTR can transfer annotation across languages: the hypothesis that the model could serve as the basis to build recognition systems for cognate languages will be proved by testing it on the Old Saxon *Heliand*. While cognisant of the potential of the digital medium, the outcomes of this experiment will emphasise how human analytical work is integral to this process and key to expanding research horizons in the field of digital manuscript studies.

PAOLA PERATELLO
'The Digital Edition of SKB A 120 in the Menota Archive', *Filologia germanica – Germanic Philology* 14 (2022), pp. 217-242.

This paper aims at presenting the editing process of Stockholm, Kungliga Biblioteket, SKB A 120, a prose fragment written entirely in medieval runes and transmitting the Virgin Mary's complaint, with a focus on the editorial criteria. More specifically, the encoding and the annotation procedures, and the visualisation of the digital edition in Menota (*Medieval Nordic Text Archive*) Public Catalogue will be outlined. The fragment has been encoded in compliance with TEI-XML standards as specified and supplemented in the Menota guidelines described in the *Menota Handbook* v. 3.0. The linguistic annotation (@lemma for the lexical form and

@me:msa for the morphological analysis) of each word is also included. The digital edition provides the first complete runic text fully lemmatised, searchable, and encoded on both facsimile and diplomatic levels.