TEI By Example

TEI by Example. Module 2

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This example contains the TEI header of the digital edition of Christopher Marlowe's *The Tragedie of Doctor Faustus (B text)*, encoded and made available by the Perseus Digital Library.

This TEI header provides decent descriptions of the publication details of the electronic text (*<publicationStmt>*), and the languages occurring in the text (*<langUsage>*). A reference system is declared in the *<encodingDesc>* section of the header, using *<refState/>* elements (see the TEI Guidelines, section 2.3.5.3 Milestone Method).

The revision description is interesting both in a positive and a negative way. It clearly contains a detailed list of the changes. The list seems to be generated by an automated versioning system, which allows one to keep complete track of a file's historical states, and document changes with log messages. Integrating automated revision control in the *<revisionDesc>* section of the TEI header is an interesting idea, as it combines processability and expressiveness. However, on the encoding level, this integration could be improved. In this case, a single *<change>* element is *<ab>used* to record the complete revision history. If the output of the automated version control system would be formatted to distinct *<change>* elements per revision (either directly, or via a post-processing step), this would make the information much more compliant with the semantics of the TEI header.

One essential point of critique concerns the lacking description of the source document in *<sourceDesc>*. In this case, the title and author of the source work (that can be recollected from the information in the *<titleStmt>* subsection) still provide cues to its origin, but this could be much harder for less known texts. It is reasonable to suppose that the source texts of the files in the Perseus Digital Library are documented externally, but then the TEI header sections of these files should at least contain a pointer to these resources.
3. Christopher Marlowe: *The Tragedie of Doctor Faustus (B text)*