TEI by example, intermediate report 2009/11/25

Phase 1 of the TEI by example (TBE) project sketched out a didactic framework for a series of 8 introductory tutorials on different aspects of encoding texts with TEI. This framework had been instantiated in a first module: 4. *Poetry*, consisting of a tutorial text, examples section, interactive test, and exercise. After completion of this first project phase, the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing (ALLC) approved funding for the second project phase, in which this didactic framework could be completed for the remaining 7 tutorials. This report summarises the progress made after this approval of TBE phase 2.

1. Completion of didactic framework

This section indicates progress made; for an overview of the current state of affairs, see section 5.

1.1 Tutorial texts

TBE tutorial texts for following modules have been completed:

> 2. The TEI header
>
> 4. Prose
>
> 5. Drama
>
> 6. Primary Sources
>
> 7. Critical Editing
>
> 8. Customising TEI, ODD, Roma

What was originally coined module *1. Introduction to text encoding and the TEI* has been split in two modules:

> 0. Introduction to text encoding and the TEI
>
> 1. Common Structure and Elements

This decision has been motivated by both the need for contextualisation and introduction, and the need for didactic completeness. As both introductory modules are tightly integrated with the didactic approach and contents covered in the more specialised ones, they are still to be completed. In this respect, the present state of their tutorial texts has to be considered intermediary.

1.2 Examples sections

For the completion of the examples sections, a phase of active prospection attempted to compensate for the underwhelming community response to the call for examples. Following permissions have been obtained:

- Unconditional permissions for using texts from:

    - the Perseus project <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>

    - the Corpus of Electronic Texts <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/>

- Principal permission to use some materials from the Etext Center (now Scholar's Lab) <http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/etext/index.html>.

The Henrik Ibsens Skrifter project <http://www.ibsen.uio.no/> has been contacted as well, without success. These permissions allowed the examples sections for all TBE modules (except for module *1. Common Structure and Elements*) to be extended to minimally one example per section. For modules whose examples section counts less than 5 examples, an explicit call for more examples now precedes the actual examples section.

1.3 Interactive tests

Tests have been completed for all modules except module *1. Common Structure and Elements*.

1.4 Exercises

The exercise sections have been completed for all modules except module *1. Common Structure and Elements*. The exercises have been more tightly integrated with the TBE validator application. They now provide a 'copy to input' function that allows users to easily copy the transcript of a sample text in an exercise assignement to the input field of the TBE validator application. For module *8. Customising TEI, ODD, Roma*, the exercise integrates the TEI Roma application (<http://www.tei-c.org/Roma/>), which should allow users to derive a TEI customisation in a guided manner.

2. Improvements to the TBE validator application

The TBE validator application has been improved on following aspects:

- The separation between *context mode* and *fragment mode* has been made more didactically consistent. Now *any* user input validated in context mode is pasted at the most appropriate place in a minimally valid TEI structure. Where plain text input or sibling top-level element

nodes were previously rejected (and *are* strictly speaking no well-formed XML), they are now accepted as well in context mode. In fragment mode, however, all input must validate as a stand-alone XML fragment (and hence have a single root element).

- In order to stimulate (awareness of) the minimal structure of valid TEI documents, a 'copy to input' function has been added to the TBE validator. This allows users to copy the completed structure of the validation output in *context* mode back to the input field of the TBE validator, and continue work on a complete TEI document.

- The active validation mode is indicated more prominently in the TBE validator, in order to guide user expectations.

3. Improvements to the website

The development website has seen important improvements to the CSS and Javascript (now switched to the JQuery Javascript library) back-end that vastly enhance browser compatibility, maintainability, and development. Apart from a logo, design improvements are still to be implemented. For the relevant sections of the TBE website, links are offered to the XML (TEI) source of the texts; an XSLT stylesheet for PDF rendering is nearing completion.

4. Development server

The adoption of a dedicated web server by the CTB provided the opportunity to host the TBE development website in-house, at <http://tbe.kantl.be/TBE/>.

For the past TEI Members meeting (11-15 November 2009), the current state of the development website had been tagged as 'pre-beta' release, and communicated as such to the members of the TEI Education SIG.

5. TBE State of affairs

absent

absent

| absent (red) |
| incomplete (yellow) |
| complete (green) |

Module	Module text	Examples (+ number)	Tests	Exercises
0. Introduction to text encoding and the TEI	(incomplete)	5	(complete)	(complete)
1. Common Structure and Elements	(incomplete)	(absent)	(absent)	(absent)
2. The TEI header	(complete)	6	(complete)	(complete)
3. Prose	(complete)	4	(complete)	(complete)
4. Poetry	(complete)	5	(complete)	(complete)
5. Drama	(complete)	5	(complete)	(complete)
6. Primary Sources	(complete)	1	(complete)	(complete)
7. Critical Editing	(complete)	2	(complete)	(absent)
8. Customising TEI, ODD, Roma	(complete)	2	(complete)	(complete)