



On Promises Kept: Archives and Editions

A personal view.

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May 31st, 2018

Napoli, Dall'analogico al digitale.



Digital editions: first generation

Digital editions: first generation



Unter Brief in der einzige aus dieser Korrespondenz entzogene aus Leibniz' Studienzeit in Jena von Jena bis zum Oktober 1663. Eine Rekonstruktion von Thomazius ist nicht überliefert.

13 | Unica, quam tibi transmitto, disputatio tua novitate id meruisse visa est.¹ Respondens
filius est D. Wilhelmi Schroeteri, Cancellarii Gothani, qui celeberrimo illi Frانسio successit. In
2 Jenae prius studiosus, mox peregrinandi amore in Bataviam, inde [in] Angliam delatus est,
inde, si ipsi credimus, in parlamentum irrepit. Nuger, cum patriam suam reviseret, noluit
inglorius tacitusque abire, sed monumentum sui hanc disputationem relinquere constituit. Sed
eo eventu, ut multo fuerit consultus, siluisse. Nam et in conflictu vox, et in conversatione
morum elegantia defuit, sic, ut pro gloria, quam sibi promiserat, cumulatam ex hac turbe
infamiam asportaret. Quam et princeps Gothanus, re comperta, ac cognita, quam in hac dis-
14 putatione periculosa spargerentur, primas uris, effecitque, ut publice confiscaretur. Ipsam sane
disputationem iudicio peritorum accepi ingeniosam esse: sed sic, ut tanto minus hic auctor
videatur. Immo non defuere, qui dudam casum, et inde usque ab Anglia allaram suspicarentur,
quod disputatione [de] Ministrissimo, thesi una, Don Louis de Haro, tanquam adhuc florentis
15 viventisque mentio fieret, qui tamen et obiit dudum, et familia, postquam filii insidiae in Regem
detectae sunt, jaceret proculcata. Sane corollaria novam quandam sapientiam philosophiam, qualibus
plena Anglia est, et ipse, si fallor, Kenelmus Digbaeus, cui ille hanc disputationem dicavit.²

¹ Anmerkung von Kortholt unter dem Text in E¹ nach visa est: Titulus ejus: Q. D. B. V.

16 | Dissertatio academica, cujus prima pars de ratione status; altera de nobilitate; tertia de ministrissimo: quam pro more consueto, praeside Dn. Severo Christophoro Olpio, Prof. publ. et A. t. academiae rectore magifico, publicae eruditorum disquisitioni exponet auctor Wilhelm Schroeter, illustris. regiae societatis Britann. assessor. d. 25 Jul. Jenae, literis Sengenwaldianis, anno 1663, in fol.

² Anmerkung von Kortholt unter dem Text in E¹: Dedicavit 1) Friderico, Saxoniae Duci,

20 | 2) Digbaeo. Digbaeo hunc titulum tribuit: Illustrissimo heroi, Britanniae comiti ac domino, Dn. KAROLMO DUCI V, equiti Britanno delegato, et summo rei navalis praefecto, ac sacrae regiae majestatis regiae matris in Anglia cancellario magifico, et illustrissimae regiae societatis ibidem assessori excellentissimo, domino, Maecenati atque amico meo sincero et pie colendo.

3-5 Geo 45122 in Graessner's Lesarten: Jena d. 2. Sept. Anno 1663. Filius Schöneri, Cancellarii Gothani, qui celeberrimo illi Frانسio successit: hinc 1) et disputationem, quae novitate sua meruisse visa est, ut tibi transmittetur: (Titulus ejus: dissertatio Academica, cujus prima pars de ratione Status, altera de Nobilitate, tertia de Ministrissimo, quam pro more consueto, praeside Dn. Severo Christophoro Olpio, Prof. publ. et A. t. Academiae Rectore magifico, publicae eruditorum disquisitioni exponet Auctor Wilhelm Schroeter, illustris. Regiae societatis Britannicae Assessor. d. 25 Julii, Jenae literis Sengenwaldianis Anno 1663. fol.) In E¹ 5 in Belgiam, inde E² 5 in org. Hrg. nach E¹ 5 E. est, ut, in E³ 7 Digbaeus abire: sed non tantum in E¹ 8 elegantia defuit, in E² 10 infamiam asportet. Quis et E¹ 11 publice publicaretur: hinc E¹ 14 de org. Hrg. nach E¹ 17-5. 5.1 dicavit, (dedicavit nimirum 1. Friderico Duci Saxoniae, 2. Digbaeo), Digbaei E¹



Digital editions: first generation

“Leibniz Akademieausgabe” (example: vol. II 1),
since 1975 prepared electronically, first publication 1981.

Basic target: print

Additional tools: derivatives from electronic texts.

Access: <http://www.uni-muenster.de/Leibniz/seite2.html>

Responsible for paradigm: Wilhelm Ott



Digital editions: first generation

The medium is unchanged. However:

- ❖ Intermediate stages of work can also be prepared for print.
- ❖ Additional tools for search in text become available over time.

Principle: *A digital edition is not static, but dynamic.*

Corollary: *It never is finished.*



Digital editions: second generation

Digital editions: second generation / 1



File Views Search Help

Left/Top Goto Edition 129r, 1-21 << >> [] [] Fit frame

Right/Bottom Goto MS 129r, BL 132r << >> [] [] Fit frame

129r | HWÆT: WE GAR-DENA IN GEARDAGUM

peodcyninga þrym gefrunon.
Hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon!
Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum
5 monegum mægþum meodosetta ofteah,
egsode eorl, syððan ærest wearð
feasceaft funden. He þæs frofre gebad,
weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,
oð þæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra
10 ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
gomban gylðan. Þæt wæs god cýning.
Dæm eafra wæs æfter cenned,
geong in geardum, þonne God sande
folce to frofre. Fyrendearfe ongeat.
15 Þæt hie ær drugon aldrlease
lange hwile. Him þæs Liffrea,
wuldres wealdend, woroldare forgeaf.
Beowulf wæs breme, blæd wide sprang,
Scyldes eafra Scedelandum in.
20 Swa sceal geong guma gode gewyrcean,
129v fromum feohgiftum on fæder þearme,
þæt hine on ylde eft gewunigen
wilgesþas, þonne wig cume,
leode gelæsten. Lofdædum sceal

HWÆT WE GAR-DENA
Hwa in gearum dægum þeod cýningas
þrym ge frunon huda æþelingas ellen
fremedon oft scyld scefing sceapena
þreatum monegum mægþum meodosetta
ofteah egsode eorl syððan ærest wearð
feasceaft funden he þæs frofre gebad
weox under wolcnum weorðmyndum þah
oð þæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra
ofer hronrade hyran scolde gomban
gylðan þæt wæs god cýning dæm eafra
wæs æfter cenned geong in geardum
þonne god sande folce to frofre
fyrendearfe ongeat þæt hie ær drugon
aldrlease lange hwile him þæs
liffrea wuldres wealdend woroldare
forgeaf beowulf wæs breme blæd wide
sprang scyldes eafra scedelandum in
swa sceal geong guma gode gewyrcean
fromum feohgiftum on fæder þearme
þæt hine on ylde eft gewunigen
wilgesþas þonne wig cume leode
gelæsten lofdædum sceal

ELECTRONIC Beowulf INDEX & GUIDE



Digital editions: second generation / 1

“Electronic Beowulf” (example: vol. 3rd edition),
since 1991/93 prepared electronically, first edition on CD-ROM, 1999.

Basic (original) target: CD-ROM (currently: DVD)

Current information: <http://ebeowulf.uky.edu/>

Responsible for paradigm: Kevin Kiernan



Digital editions: second generation / 1

The medium is a discrete set of digital containers (CD-ROMs / DVDs)

- ❖ Manuscript images and transcriptions / reconstitution of “correct” text are connected, for academic as well as educational reasons.
- ❖ Manuscripts are enhanced before classical editorial work by electronic means.
- ❖ Embedded into environment of digital resources and tools.

Principle: An editor shows the documents on which the interpretation is based.

Corollary: If something seems strange, check for yourself.



Digital editions: second generation / 2

“Wittgenstein Nachlass / Bergen edition”,
prepared 1989 / 2000 electronically, first edition on CD-ROM, 2000.

Target: CD-ROM set

Background information: <http://wab.uib.no/>

Responsible for paradigm: Claus Huitfeldt



Digital editions: second generation / 2

The medium is a discrete set of digital containers (CD-ROMs)

- ❖ Manuscript images and transcriptions / reconstitution of “correct” text are connected, for academic reasons.
- ❖ Very big effort to give normalized as well as diplomatic transcriptions.

Principle: *Integrate two editions targeted at different communities into one.*

Corollary: *Allow different concepts of what an edition requires.*



Digital editions: second generation / 3

Wife of Bath - fulltext

The Wife of Bath's Prologue: An Electronic Edition (prototype 4)

- Base Text for Collation
- The Witnesses
 - Regularized Collation
- Articles
- Gloss Base Text and Collation
- Regularization Database
- General Bibliography

The Wife of Bath's Prologue
Edited by Peter Robinson

 **CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Base Text for Collation
Click on any word to see all the readings in witnesses at that word; click on a line number to see what witnesses have this line.

- 1 Experience/ thogh noon auctoritee
- 2 Were in this world/ is right ynogh
for me
- 3 To speke of wo/ that is in mariage
- 4 For lordynge/ sith that I twelf yeer



Digital editions: second generation / 3

Wife of Bath - revapp

Click the icon to the left to see the text of all witnesses to a reading; click on the sigil for any witness to see the text only of that witness. The base text line here is:

1 Experience / thogh noon auctoritee

Witnesses lacking line 1

4 witnesses Cn En2 Gg Ha5

The lemma for the following variant or variants is: Experience

➡ Agreeing with the lemma: 42 witnesses Ad1 Ad3 Bo1 Bo2 Ch Cx1 Cx2 Dd Dl Ds El En1 En3 Ha2 Ha4 He Hg Hk Ht Lc Ld2 Ln Ma Mc Mg Ne Nl Ph2 Ph3 Pn Ps Pw Py Ra1 Ra3 Ry2 Se Si Tc1 Tc2 To Wy

Reading: Experiment

➡ 10 witnesses Bw Cp Fi Gl La Ld1 Mm Ry1 Sl1 Sl2



Digital editions: second generation / 3

“Peter Robinson’s Canterbury Tales editions”,
1996 –

Original target: CD-ROM sets

Background information:

<http://www.textualcommunities.usask.ca/web/canterbury-tales/home>

Responsible for paradigm: Peter Robinson



Digital editions: second generation / 3

The medium is a discrete set of digital containers (CD-ROMs)

- ❖ Focus is on handling of apparatus criticus.
- ❖ Emphasis on editorial process and its connection to software tools (collation).

Principle: *Witnesses may be as important as the “correct” archetype*



Digital editions: the way to the third generation



Digital editions ca. 2000: a puzzle

Peter Robinson: *Despite great promise ... digital editions have not been as successful with the general scholarly community as was expected by early digital theorists.*

(Digital Medievalist 1, 2005)

One reason in the nineties: A new software package and a new interface for each and every new digital edition ...



Digital editions ca. 2000: a puzzle

One reason in the nineties: A new software package and a new interface for each and every new digital edition ...

However, also in the nineties:

The WWW established de facto standards for user interfaces.



Digital editions: second and a half generation



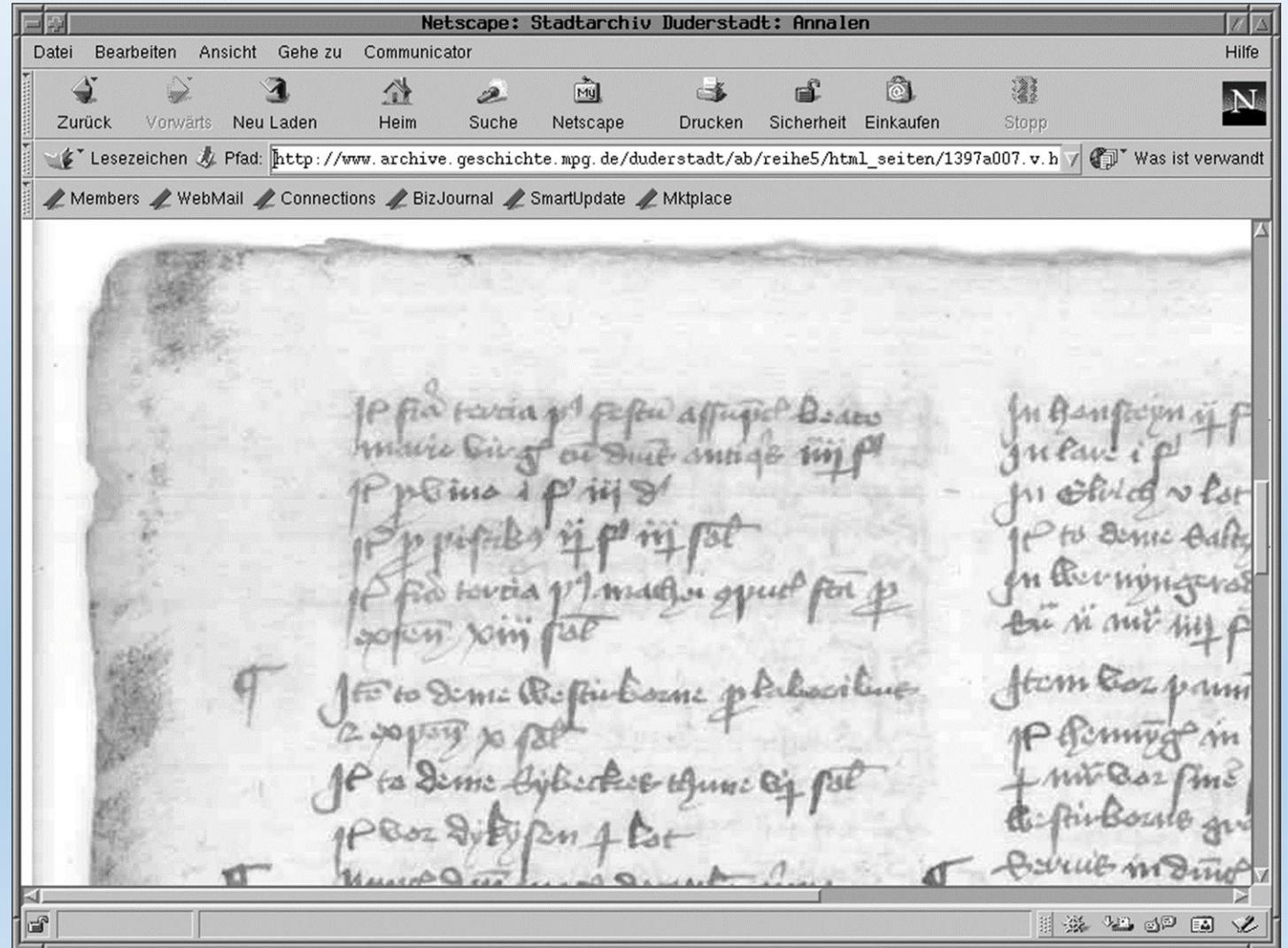
Almost all second generation digital editions were transferred into the internet – but without major conceptual innovations.

Digital editions 1995 – 2005: private observation



Duderstadt project,
1996 onward:

77,285 archival pages
scanned and available in
the internet.



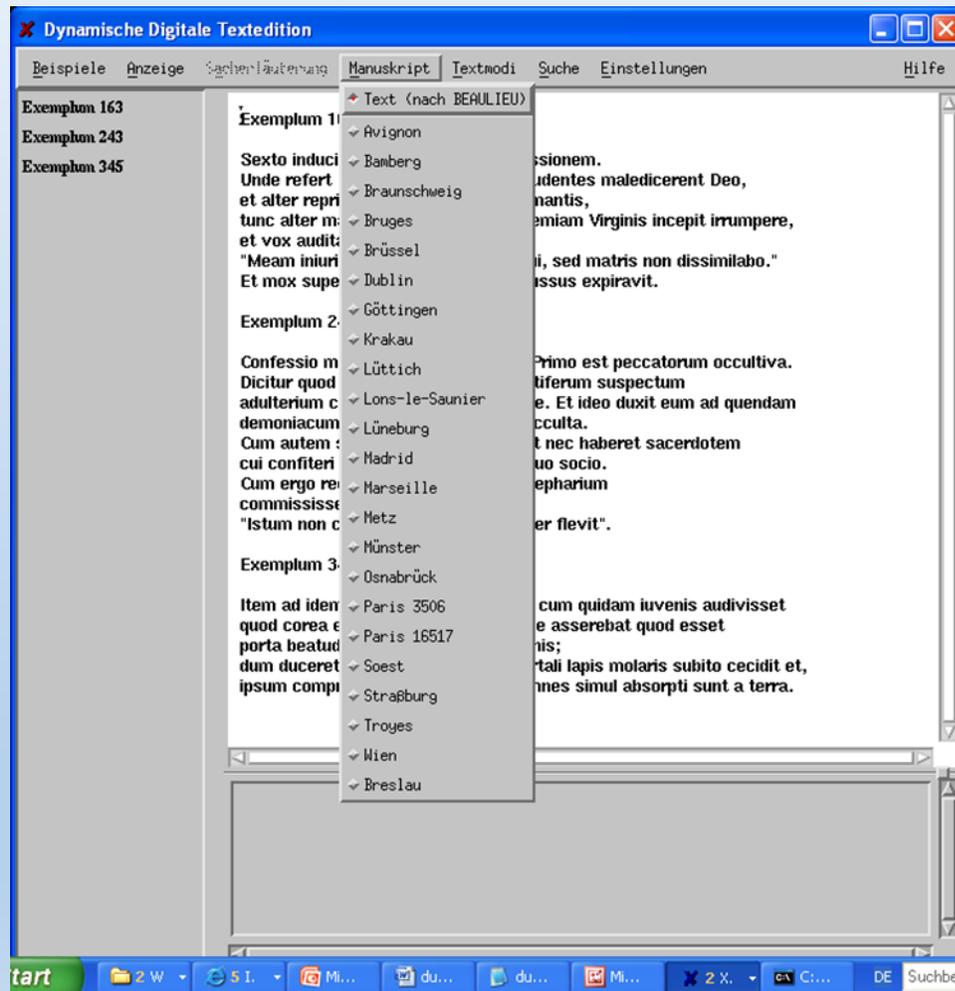


Digital editions 1995 – 2005: private observation

Duderstadt project,
1996 onward:

Try to integrate editorial
proof of concept

(Malte Rehbein)



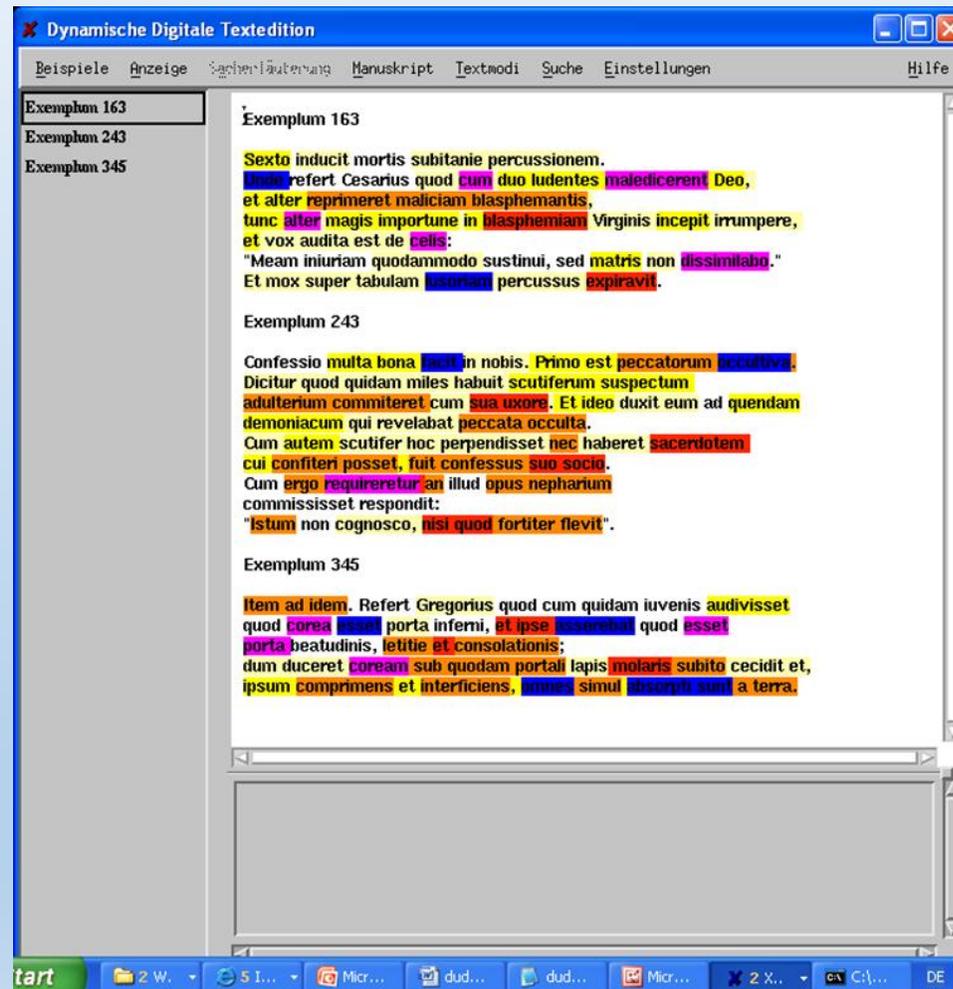


Digital editions 1995 – 2005: private observation

Duderstadt project,
1996 onward:

Try to integrate editorial
proof of concept

(Malte Rehbein)





Third generation = second generation + WWW?

Peter Robinson: *Despite great promise ... digital editions have not been as successful with the general scholarly community as was expected by early digital theorists.*

(Digital Medievalist 1, 2005)

The great promise of systematic digitization transferred the technology leadership and the focus of interest from editorial projects to systematic digitization but reduced the limelight on editions.



Digital editions: fourth generation



Collaboration 2018: Itinera Nova Leuven

The great promise of systematic digitization transferred the technology leadership from editorial projects to systematic digitization ...

... and the move towards collaboration and cooperation was often concentrated on attracting the interest of the lay community.

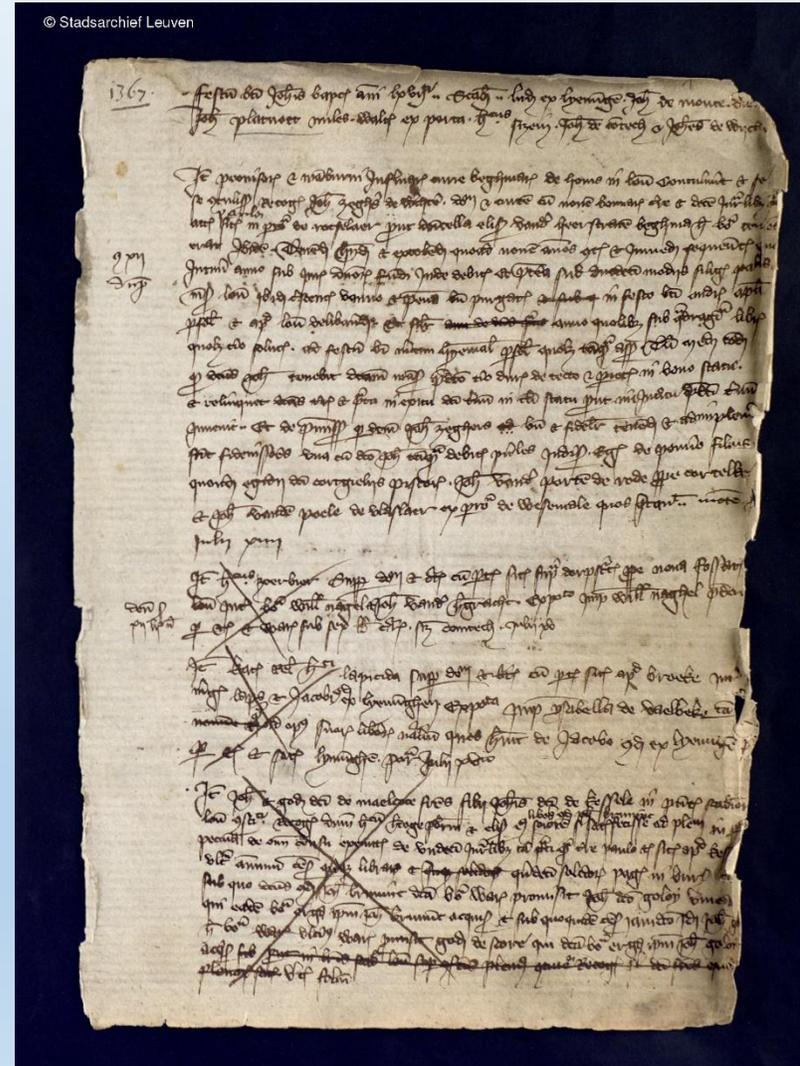
Collaboration 2018: Itinera Nova Leuven



Stadsarchief van
Leuven, 2009
onwards:

Series of protocols
1362-1795,
currently 830.000
pages digitized

itineranova.be



Collaboration 2018: Itinera Nova Leuven



Stadsarchief van
Leuven, 2009
onwards:

Series of protocols
1362-1795,
currently 830.000
pages



itineranova.be



Digital editions: fourth generation / 1

The medium is the internet

- ❖ Editorial activities are handled collaboratively.
- ❖ Lay communities are involved.

Principle: *Collections cannot be edited, but access can be approved.*

Corollary: *This you can do as non-specialist.*

Collaboration 2018: Monasterium



The medium is the internet

- ❖ Editorial activities are handled collaboratively.
- ❖ All tools are fully supportive of the relevant academic standards.

Principle: *Whole collections cannot be edited, but access can be approved step by step.*

Corollary: *You can follow this principle keeping editorial quality alive.*

Collaboration 2018: S. Maria della Grotta



The medium is the internet

- ❖ Editorial activities are handled collaboratively.
- ❖ All tools are fully supportive of the relevant academic standards.

Principle: *An edition can be embedded into an archive.*



A Promise kept

The great promise of digital editions in the time of the internet has been:

Create digital editions by a collaborative effort following academic standards, and embed them into an integrating structure, which blurs the borders between archives and editions.



A Promise kept

The edition of the abbey S. Maria della Grotta has kept that promise.



Thank you for keeping the
promise!

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