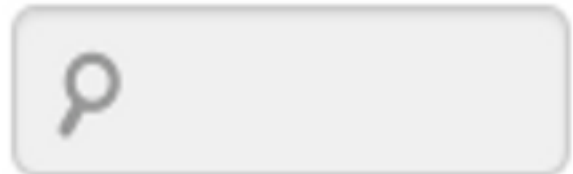


Bibliotheca legum



A database on Carolingian secular law texts

About the project

Use of TEI/XML

Wordpress & TEI/XML

Project development

The Linked TEI: Text Encoding in the Web – TEI Conference and Members Meeting 2013, Rome



About the project

The *Bibliotheca legum regni Francorum manuscripta* provides an overview of the legal knowledge that was prevalent in the Frankish Empire. All *leges* (secular law texts) copied during the Carolingian period are included in the database. Short descriptions containing information on repository, origin and history of the manuscript, contents as well as additional literature etc. are available for each textual witness. At the moment there are 274 descriptions of codices from more than 80 different repositories available.

The aim of the *Bibliotheca legum* is to sum up the current state of research as well as the research history as complete as possible. Therefore all prior studies concerning single manuscripts and several editions of the law texts were surveyed. Age determinations and assumptions about its origin carried out by the different describers are recorded for several manuscripts. Short introductory texts, a comprehensive bibliography as well as indices on people (*VIAF*), places (*TGM*) and repositories facilitate further orientation.

The *Bibliotheca legum* relies heavily on reusing existing resources. With regard to the needs of academic research, it gathers digital images of all available manuscript testimonies (e.g. from *Europeana*, *Gallica* etc.) as well as catalogue information (e.g. *Manuscripta Medievalia*) and online editions (e.g. *dMGH*). Connections are established via hyperlinking. Thus, the website can be seen as a gateway to further resources.

It is work-in-progress and not officially launched yet. Although not all functionalities as well as information are available by now, it is accessible on the web. This was a willful decision to enable the public to pursue genesis and development of the project. So far the *Bibliotheca legum* has received no third-party funding.

Features

- multi-language site with menu navigation and general information available in German and English
- descriptions can be reached via different browsing accesses
- full text and faceted search
- manuscript descriptions available as XML downloads
- comprehensive bibliography on the subject
- indices on people, places (with use of *authority files*) as well as repositories
- integration of prior studies and some editions (usable via viewer / PDF downloads)
- hyperlinking to further external resources
- transcription and translation of the "Tituli legum" (Milan, Bibliotheca Ambrosiana, A. 46 inf.)
- basic visualizations (graphs, maps, *stemmata* etc.)

License & privacy

The material is licensed under a *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike* license.



*GA*Analytics is used to analyse the web traffic. Only personal information needed for the statistical review of the general user behaviour is collected.

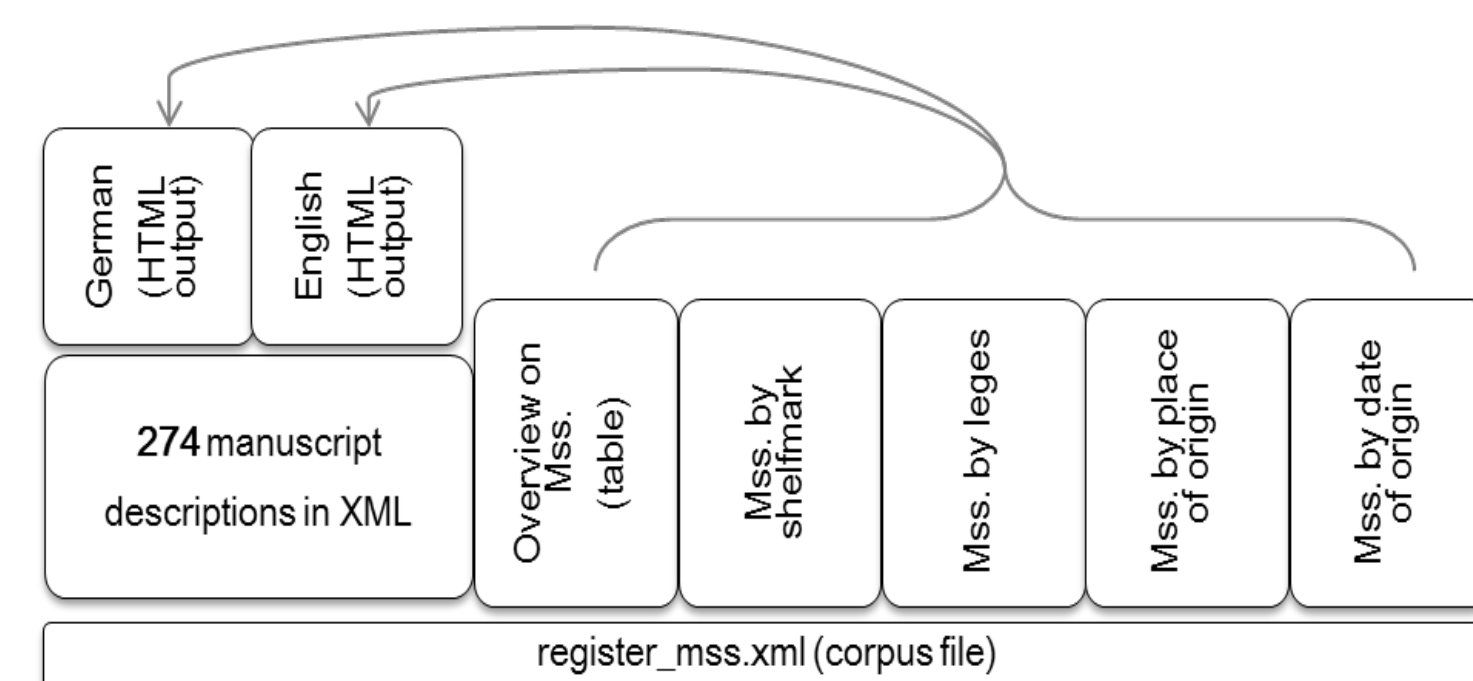
Future

- reaching conformity to the *DFG* guidelines
- gathering digital images available as well as catalogue information in a systematic way
- enhancing information
- application of comprehensive descriptions for a certain corpus of manuscripts
- providing further transcriptions
- integrating studies that accrue within the context of the project
- creating visualizations for different aspects
- integrating our data into bigger research infrastructures

Use of TEI/XML

The text encoding is carried out according to the TEI P5 guidelines. Via the *Roma* tool a customized schema was created to validate the markup.

A corpus file (*register_mss.xml*) containing all information gathered is the basic data set from which all other forms of representation are derived via XSLT.



The practices documented by the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbuettel (Germany) were taken as an example for structuring the manuscript descriptions.

Wordpress & TEI/XML

...or "How far can you get without any 'real' programming?"

Wordpress is an open source Content Management System (CMS) which is based on PHP and MySQL. While this platform is quite commonly used in the WWW especially as a blogging system, it has not been widely adopted for Digital Humanities' projects working with XML data.

Basic functions such as full text search or user management as well as certain features (for instance multilingualism, taxonomies, integration of viewers etc.) are realized via plugins. The transformation from XML to HTML via XSL takes place within the CMS by use of the *XSL Processor* Plugin.

```
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```

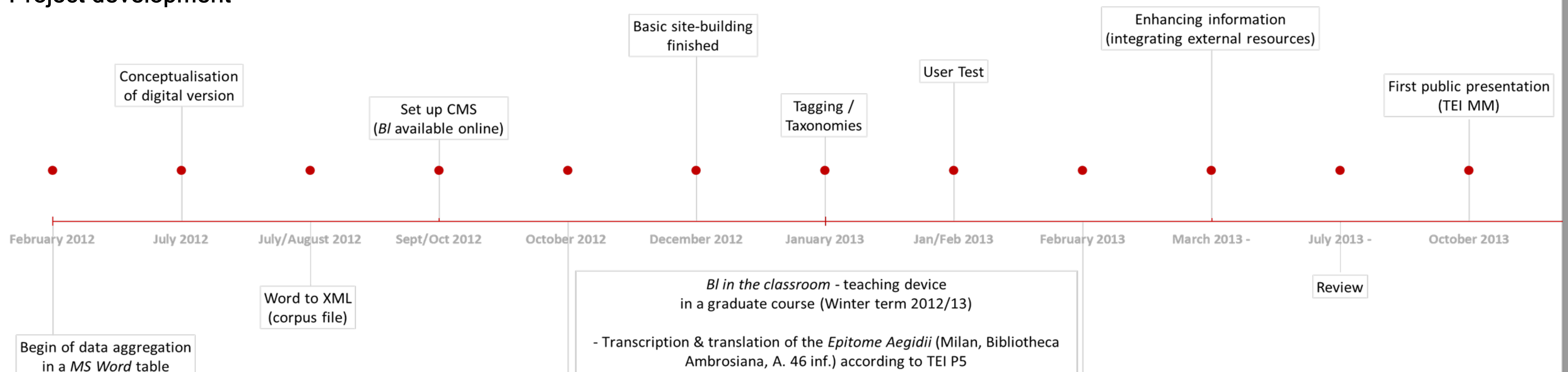
Evaluation of Wordpress

- pros and cons -

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ open source | - short & irregular release cycle |
| ✓ intuitive operation | - many plugins outdated/not maintained |
| ✓ flat learning curve | - lack of previous experience with regard to <i>DH</i> projects |
| ✓ clean code, peer support and detailed documentation (<i>Wordpress Codex</i>) | - not "prepared" for TEI (no specific plugins, customizations) |
| ✓ clean permalink structure | - inconsistent appearance due to use of various plugins |
| ✓ customization for all needs (plugins & themes) | |
| ✓ possibility to use own/custom stylesheets (XSL) | |

➔ *With Wordpress you can get quite far without programming, but programming ...*
... makes things a lot easier (e.g. automation).
... increases your control.
... enhances your possibilities regarding customization.

Project development



Staff:

Prof. Karl Ubl (Project lead)
Dominik Trump (Data aggregation and text encoding)
Daniela Schulz (Technical lead)

Bibliotheca legum regni Francorum manuscripta

<http://www.leges.uni-koeln.de>

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<https://www.facebook.com/BibliothecaLegum>



Cologne University, Germany 2012

