

Digital Literary Annotation Newsletter No. 1 (August 2016)

TEASys - News

In June, the TEASys viewer module launched a new prototype aimed at mobile touchscreen devices. The beta build does not yet feature all functions, but a first impression of the web application can be gained [here](#). The results from the TEASys annotation courses taught last semester in Berlin (by PD Dr. Angelika Zirker) and Tübingen (by Timo Stösser) will be published on this site over the course of the coming weeks.

The Annotated Web Edition Directory is looking forward to your suggestions. We are always on the look-out for new entries to add to the list. Feel free to recommend literary digital editions that include explanatory annotation (of the social or the editorial kind), web platforms, tools and applications that enable the user to (collaboratively) annotate texts. Please use the corresponding [form on our webpage](#). We thank you for your help.

Recent digital projects and tools

The freshly launched [\(Dis\)Similitudes](#) is a highly specialized social annotation project that crowdsources the analysis of similes in a small corpus of literary works (including texts by Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stein, Edgar Allan Poe or William Blake). Its aim is to arrive at a standard annotated corpus that could be used in testing the algorithmic identification of similes in larger corpora.

One of the best-known digital edition projects (which recently also gathered a mention in the New York Times) concerned with social annotation on a scholarly level, Amanda Visconti's [Infinite Ulysses](#) is about to leave the beta phase and reach its version 1.0. More information on the changes to come and some interesting insights into the everyday management of a digital edition are on [the creator's blog](#).

Recent Publications

The article "Annotation of Toponyms in TEI Digital Literary Editions and Linking to the Web of Data" by Francesca Frontini, Carmen Brando, Marine Riguet, Clémence Jacquot and Vincent Jolivet addresses the common practice of linking "place names that have relevance for literary analysis and literary criticism (both primary and secondary sources), as well as for history of ideas in general" to external web sources. Furthermore, they discuss how to prepare this kind of annotation in compliance with the TEI standards. You can read the full article [here](#).

From Recent Conferences and Events

At the DH2016 conference in July, only very few talks were concerned with the digital practice of annotating literary texts. The first of three notable exceptions is a short paper by Kurt Fendt, Suzanne Lane and Andy Kelleher Stuhl titled "[Writing Composition in the Close Reading Cycle: Developing the Annotation Studio Idea Space](#)." They presented the latest extension of the MIT's collaborative, open source annotation tool Annotation Studio, the titular *Idea Space*.

The second contribution of interest was "[Enhancing Close Reading](#)," a poster presentation created by Muhammad Faisal Cheema, Stefan Jänicke and Gerik Scheuermann. The authors are interested in the question how different kinds of annotation (textual, pictorial or algorithmic) might further the insights gained by close reading and how the information might be displayed. The link leads to the poster's full content.

Andrea Bolioli and Riccardo Tasso's poster presentation features the web app *CBook* as a means of "[Collaborative Annotation and Exploration of Literary Works in Learning Contexts](#)." The link leads to the poster's full content.

A specialized "annotation scheme for detecting and resolving character mention" together with the matching digital tool *CHARLES* ("CHAracter Resolution Label-Entry System") created by Hardik Vala, Stefan Dimitrov, David Jurgens, Andrew Piper and Derek Ruthsat was the topic of a short paper at LREC 2016. Under the title "Annotating Characters in Literary Corpora: A Scheme, the CHARLES Tool and an Annotated Novel" they introduce the annotation system used and present some of the results from their pilot study on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The full text is [available here](#). An installation package of the application is [stored at GitHub](#)

The annotation system TEASys was showcased at the DHSI 2016 (University of Victoria) with the workshop "Dynamics of Explanatory Annotation" by Prof. Matthias Bauer and Dr. Angelika Zirker. They discussed a number of annotations with regard to concepts of the reader and then worked on an example, John Donne's "Air and Angels," to come up with a test case of annotations based on existing notes and TEASys. The discussion sparked during the workshop will continue.

Other Articles of Interest

Recently, the Annotating all Knowledge coalition (organized by *hypothes.is* in late 2015) took up its work and started to lay down their agenda. Their goal is "[to develop and implement a strategy for bringing an open, interoperable web-based annotation capability to all scholarly works within 3 years](#)." These are "lofty goals" (as stated by themselves) but in the past two years *hypothes.is* has successfully set itself up as a more scholarly alternative to genius.com and established a good position in the field of digital content annotation. They gathered the support of over 40 scholarly organizations including a cooperation with the Hathitrust, JStor, Wiley, Elsevier, OUP, CUP and the W3C, to just name a few. Read their statement on this new "coalition of scholarly annotators" [here](#). The use cases they intend to cover in their project are drawn from a variety of fields but show a clear focus on textual knowledge from the positions of authors, annotators and editors.