Exemplary digital editions

Inspiration, evaluation

NEH Institute “Advanced Digital Editing”
Week 1, day 1
July 11: 4pm - 5.30pm

A diverse landscape

Different shapes:

- Scholarly edition
- Database
- Archive
- Text collection
- Resource
- …

Similar objectives:

- Representing an argument about a text or work
- Making archives or corpora digitally accessible
- Virtual (collaborative) research environments, work sites/work stations

> > > Many alternatives exist for common problems

Our working definition of a digital edition

A digital edition makes meaningful use of technology to explore research materials and share research results.

Reviewing digital editions

- Goals, scope, and (scholarly) objectives of the edition
- Users
- Transparent methodology
  - Textual (selection of material, editorial orientation to text, etc)
  - Technical (data models, standards, etc)
- Accessibility
  - User side
  - Application side
- Documentation
- Search / browse functionality
- Images
- Reuse, rights, licenses
- Room for improvement
- …

1. Shelley Godwin Archive

2. The *Chronicle* of Matthew of Edessa

3. CoReMA

Discussion

- Form groups;
- Navigate to list of exemplary digital editions in the Institute's repo: https://github.com/Pittsburgh-NEH-Institute/Institute-Materials-2020/blob/gh-pages/ref/exemplary-editions.md ;
- Pick one edition from the list;

  ALTERNATIVELY: choose a digital edition that is not on the list

- Review the edition:
  - Scope, material, objectives
  - Technical approach
  - Accessibility
  - Suggestions for improvement
  - …
- Plenary discussion of findings.

References and further reading

- Greta Franzini et al., Catalogue Digital Editions (CDE);
- Patrick Sahle, A Catalog of Digital Scholarly Editions;
- RIDE criteria for reviewing digital scholarly editions and resources;
- Shannon Christine Mattern. 2012. “Evaluating Multimodal Work, Revisited”. *Journal of Digital Humanities*, Vol. 1, No. 4, Fall 2012. Available online.