The correspondence of Just Qvigstad, 1.0 and 2.0 – the ongoing story of a digital edition

UiT Digital Humanities Conference
Tromsø, 30 November – 1 December 2017

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Outline

• Just Qvigstad
• Qvigstad’s correspondence 1.0 – Documentation Project in the 1990s
• Qvigstad’s correspondence 2.0 – digital edition(s) project
• The role of university libraries in digital edition/humanities projects
Just Knud Qvigstad

Born 4\textsuperscript{th} of April 1853 in Lyngseidet, near Tromsø
Died 15\textsuperscript{th} of March 1957 in Tromsø
Norwegian philologist, linguist, ethnographer, historian and cultural historian
Headmaster at Tromsø Teacher Training College (= one of UiTs “predecessors”)
Expert on Sami language and culture (“lappologist”)
Extensive correspondence with other experts on Sami

(Photo: Wikimedia Commons – S. Blom (ed.): Den Kongelige Norske St. Olavs Orden, A. M. Hanches Forlag, 1934)
The Documentation Project

“From Drawer to Screen”

Nationwide digitisation project aiming at transferring the various university collections from paper to computers

Started in 1991 at the University of Oslo. Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø joined in 1992

Range of disciplines: archaeology, ethnography, history, lexicography, folklore studies, literature, medieval studies, place names, coins/numismatics
Qvigstad’s correspondence 1.0


Qvigstad to K. B. Wiklund 1891-1936 (96 letters). Uppsala University Library.

Qvigstad til Emil N. Setälä 1887-1935 (96 letters). National Archives of Finland, prof. Setälä’s private archive.

http://www.dokpro.uio.no/qvigstad/setele-faks/set004.jpg
Qvigstad’s correspondence 1.0

20 years have passed...
Low resolution tif/jpg facsimiles images
SGML transcription
Outdated web design
Unstable search engine
Requirements to modern digital scholarly editing and editions

Adhering to international standards for encoding and metadata

Flexible model, allowing to serve different needs / address different audiences:

• Research community → digital scholarly edition, no need to ‘mimic’ printed edition
• Education → “Natural sciences have developed quite a rich and engaging set of methods for the dissemination of their findings, and, while it is possible to find publications, games and toys that deal with scientific content, very little of the kind can be found for texts and textuality.” (Pierazzo 2015, p. 152)
Developers View to Linked Data: Rich Internet Applications (RIA)

Application 1

Application 2

Application N

SPARQL End Point

Client Side (Browser)

Linked Data Service
WWW Standard Model

Server Side

One basis, multiple applications

- Scholarly edition
- Outreach edition
- Educational resources

XML/TEI
Qvigstad’s correspondence 2.0

Additional correspondents:
Sophus Bugge

High resolution tif/jpg facsimile images

SGML to XML/TEI P5 conversion of transcription

Use existing semantic coding

Part of virtual research environment for humanities: TextGrid

Up-to-date web interface

Reader-friendly edition in Skriftserien NB kilder

(National Archives of Finland, prof. Setälä’s private archive)
Hanske: Katalog over privatarkiv og musikkmanuskripter: https://www.nb.no/hanske/brev/ knute.php?id=1265&aar=1922
Two presentations of one scholarly edition

• NB KILDER (PDF online, mimicking a printed scholarly edition)
  ➢ For the «traditional» reader
  ➢ Recognizably scholar’ish
  ➢ Facilitates «deep» reading, each letter from A to Z

• A website (flexible views – facsimile, transcription, commentary)
  ➢ For the «experimental» reader
  ➢ Possible visualization tools: mapping correspondence patterns, word frequency patterns, etc.
  ➢ Semantic web / data integration
Why should university libraries engage in digital editing / digital humanities projects?

Need for trustable editions/services

- Preserving data and interfaces → sustainable infrastructure beyond limited project period:
  
  “Keeping digital resources alive after they are finished is not trivial in terms of effort and cost. However, research funds only rarely include provisions for the long-term maintenance of the resources [...]” (Pierazzo 2015, pp. 174-175)

Preservation and dissemination are the core activities at university libraries

- Printed publications > Electronic publications > Research data, Digital {humanities/science} services?

University libraries have sustainable funding
Thank you!
References

Dokumentasjonsprosjektet. [http://www.dokpro.uio.no/](http://www.dokpro.uio.no/).


TextGrid – virtual research environment for humanities. [https://textgrid.de/en/](https://textgrid.de/en/).