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Charters Encoding Initiative Overview

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Charters Encoding Initiative Overview

Abstract
The Charters Encoding Initiative considers the possibilities of a standard to encode medieval and early modern charters with XML. It represents a working group to notify our intention to work continuously together, to spread our proposals in the scientific community and to integrate them into existing standards especially the guidelines of the TEI. See also http://www.cei.lmu.de/.

Keywords
medieval charters, digitization, medieval legal manuscripts
Charters

Documents as Legal Manuscripts

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Charters ...

- ..., documents, instrumenta, privilegia, litterae, actes juridiques, documenti, Urkunden ...

- = written document of a single legal act, authenticated by a particular form depending on issuer and content, region and period in which the document was produced.
Historical Source

- for the History of the Middle Ages
- from state affairs and great politics to
- local history, social history etc.
Diplomatics

- *discrimen veri ac falsi*
- produce critical editions
- analyze the legal context of the document
Digitization

- Retrodigitization
- Image digitization of originals
- Calendars, archival descriptions
- Critical digital editions

=> integrate them
  - Charters Encoding Initiative
  - Charter portal
Charters Encoding Initiative (CEI)

- http://www.cei.lmu.de
- TEI does not suffice?
- Propose a terminology/encoding standard for interoperation of digital resource representing charters

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monasterium.net

- http://www.monasterium.net
- Virtual charter archives
  - More than 125,000 documents online
  - From 8 middle european countries
- Collaborative platform
  - Edit descriptions or transcriptions online
  - In standard conform XML without any knowledge of XML ("no angle brackets")
Digital Diplomatics

- Digital tools
  - from Regular Expressions
  - to Textmining-technologies
    - Named Entity Recognition
    - Automatic Authorship Attribution
    - Dating of undated documents

- applied on a large, distributed online corpus of documents

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Studies of legal manuscripts in the Digital Age should ...

- ... analyse their source material with the help of the computer;
- ... make the digitizations of the legal manuscripts and their text part of the public domain to make this analysis possible;
- ... integrate the documentation of the living legal live outside the abstract and prescriptive texts;

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Thank you for your attention

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