

together with an account of their interrelationships and meanings.

2. The Poughkeepsie Principles Closing Statement of Vassar Conference The Preparation of Text Encoding Guidelines

Poughkeepsie, New York
13 November 1987

1. The guidelines are intended to provide a standard format for data interchange in humanities research.
2. The guidelines are also intended to suggest principles for the encoding of texts in the same format.
3. The guidelines should
1. define a recommended syntax for the format,
 2. define a metalanguage for the description of text-encoding schemes,

3. describe the new format and representative existing schemes both in that metalanguage and in prose.

4. The guidelines should propose sets of coding conventions suited for various applications.

5. The guidelines should include a minimal set of conventions for encoding new texts in the format.

6. The guidelines are to be drafted by committees on

1. text documentation
2. text representation
3. text interpretation and analysis
4. metalanguage definition and description of existing and proposed schemes,

coordinated by a steering committee of representatives of the principal sponsoring organizations.

7. Compatibility with existing standards will be maintained as far as possible.

8. A number of large text archives have agreed in principle to support the guidelines in their function as an interchange format. We encourage funding agencies to support development of tools to facilitate this interchange.

9. Conversion of existing machine-readable texts to the new format involves the translation of their conventions into the syntax of the new format. No requirements will be made for the addition of information not already coded in the texts.

The principles agreed upon at the Poughkeepsie Planning Conference are expounded in more detail and supplemented with other material in the sections which follow.

3. Purpose of the Guidelines

3.1. Guidance for New Encodings

more detail

independent committees
even the sub-
groups

applications
domains