

Statuta Comunis are collections of civic rules very common in Northern and Central Italy since the 12th century.

The process that has led to this regulatory texts had begun when every *commune* needed to have his own measures of law to rule the city. It had been a complex evolution of different written sources, such as oaths of different officers or ordinances to govern the public matters, already important in the political and institutional architecture.

Starting from the 13th century *Statuta* became more typical and common with a more compact structure. They were usually organized in a unique or more *codices*, where one could find the collection of the civic rules, matched and allotted in big chapters (*libri*) according to subject. Another fundamental characteristic was the constant review of the original text in different periods, generally due to changes in the government or in the organization of the city. For these reasons *Statuta* are historical phenomena which have physical manifestations and are the products of social interaction and should be studied as dynamic text constantly recast, re-issued and reinterpreted by different people at different times.

The *Statuta Comunis Vicentie* is a sample of this kind. Written in 1264 under the direction (*potestas*) of Rolando de Englesco, it was the first legislative *corpus* of Vicenza, born to obey to the power of the near Padua that had the control of that area in that period. The text is divided in four books with a proem; the first book defines tasks and duties of the most important officers, the second is about civil justice, the third is about criminal justice and eventually the fourth book, that is the largest of the collection, is dedicated in the first part to rules about trades, handcrafts and town planning, and at the end to the relations between Vicenza and its countryside.



<http://vicenza.statutacommunis.org>

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Why TEI ?

Advantages of choosing a standard:

- Online documentation available
- Comparison to encoding samples from other projects
- Worldwide community of Developers
- Several tools and software ready to use
- Easy customization of software
- High learning curve

TeiHeader - Metadata

Last TEI P5 version includes in <sourceDesc> a special element <msDesc> which allows us an in-depth description of the handwritten source

<msDesc>

<msIdentifier>

<head>

<msContents>

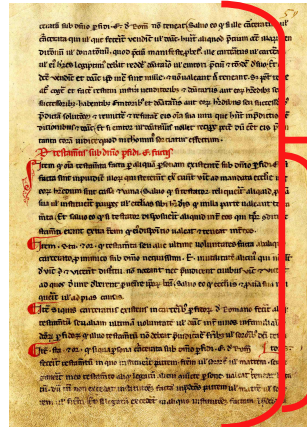
<physDesc> <objectDesc>

<handDesc>

<additions>

<bindingDesc>

1. Structure



<text>

<front>

<body>

<div type="libro">

<div type="rubrica">

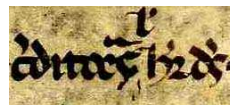
<div type="capitolo">

Statuta have partitions that are well

described by TEI's Structural Tagset.

2. Additions and Amendments

They are very common, and have been encoded using standard core Module tags, such as and <add>, and setting specific values for attributes. For example:



...creditores

<add place=

"sopralinea continuando"

hand="manol" cert="high"

rend="segno_inserzione">

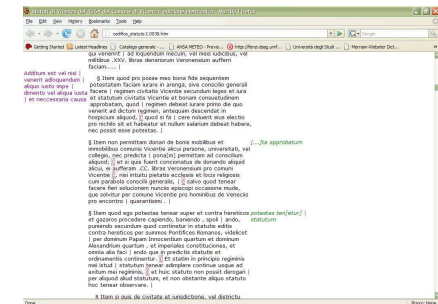
vel</add> heredes...

3. Semantics

The first layer of semantic markup includes personal names <persName>, organizations <orgName> and locations <placeName>; more complex or specific places, like quarters and neighbourhoods are defined by the tag <settlement>.

Work in progress

The beta release of the first book has been completed. The source code is available to download. Customizations of xsl and css stylesheets are under development and will be published on the web site.



Future developments

- Deeper semantic markup
- Sorting of lists and extraction of indexes
- Output to other media and support
- and more...



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