

TEI Technical Council Report: 2013

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¹(delivered by Sebastian Rahtz)

TEI-C Technical Council: Members

Chair

- James Cummings, University of Oxford (Appointed, but standing down for election)

Term January 2012–December 2013

- Brett Barney, University of Nebraska
- Gabriel Bodard, King's College London
- Kevin Hawkins, University of Michigan
- Martin Holmes, University of Victoria
- Paul Schaffner, University of Michigan
- Rebecca Welzenbach, University of Michigan

Term January 2013–December 2014

- Syd Bauman, Northeastern University
- Hugh Cayless, Duke University
- Elli Mylonas, Brown University
- Sebastian Rahtz, University of Oxford

Board Representative

- Lou Burnard, Independent Consultant

New Bylaws: Changes affecting Technical Council

- All-elected technical council
- Chair chosen by elected council members, Board will only choose if Technical Council cannot decide
- Reduction of numbers to 11 (from previous bylaws of '12') to match reality
- Individual members now allowed to vote for Technical Council positions
- ...also Technical Council chair takes on role of SIG Coordinator

Recent/Upcoming Technical Council meetings

- 19-21 September 2012: face to face meeting in Oxford
- 13 December 2012: tele-conference call
- 11-13 April 2013: face to face meeting in Providence
- **Scheduled:** tele-conference call in October
- **Scheduled:** 11-13 November face to face meeting in Oxford

Coincidence of location of members makes Providence / Ann Arbor / Oxford fiscally-responsible choices for locations of meetings

TEI Guidelines Releases since last Members' Meeting

- 2.3.0: 17 January 2013
- 2.4.0: 5 July 2013
- 2.5.0: 26 July 2013
- **Next Release:** Timetabled for end of November/Early December 2013

Note: You can now have the TEI schemas and stylesheets automatically update in oXygen by subscribing to a framework.

All previous versions and release notes for the TEI P5 Guidelines are linked to from: <http://www.tei-c.org/Guidelines/P5/#previous> (which is also where we note vague intended date of next release)

Guidelines Maintenance

Hundreds of changes including such things as:

- The creation of a `<media>` element to indicate the location of any form of external media (such as an audio or video clip); also the creation of a new `att.media` class which provides `@width`, `@height`, and `@scale` attributes
- Revising section 1.3.1.1.5 on XML Whitespace for further clarity
- The creation of `<listPrefixDef>` and `<prefixDef>` to define prefixing schemes used in `data.pointer` values, showing how abbreviated URIs using the scheme may be expanded into full URIs.
- The `data.sex` datatype was loosened to enable recording of non-binary sexual categories, based on a bug report.
- The `<citedRange>` element has been added in response to <http://sourceforge.net/p/tei/feature-requests/376/> in order to enable users to document in a bibliographic reference the range within a larger text that is being cited.
- The `@type` attribute on `<biblScope>` has been deprecated and replaced with a `@unit` attribute for greater clarity. The `@type` attribute will be removed at a future release.
- Implementation of a new notation in the specifications for previously deprecated elements and attributes, which now have a 'valid until' date recorded including:
 - `@targets` on `<alt>`, `<join>`, and `<link>`;
 - `@type` on `<biblScope>`;
 - `@form` on `<quotation>`;
 - `@status` on members of `att.identified`;
 - `<relationGrp>`;
- A number of Schematron constraints, as well as modifications to the TEI Guidelines building and testing process, were added, revised, or removed
- As part of continuing improvements to the build process, all of the source files for the TEI Guidelines now use an `xml-model` processing instruction to point to the last successful build of an NVDL schema
- A new simplified index/table-of-contents page for the web version of the Guidelines was created
- A number of changes to loosen content models driven by EEBO-TCP migration efforts

TEI Consortium Stylesheets since last Members' Meeting

Version	Date
7.1.0	2013-09-07
6.38	2013-07-22
6.37	2013-07-06
6.35	2013-06-21
6.34	2013-06-12
6.33	2013-06-03
6.31	2013-05-25
6.30	2013-04-24
6.28	2013-03-02
6.27	2013-01-29
6.23	2013-01-05
6.22	2012-12-19
6.21	2012-11-24

The TEI-C Stylesheets have been separated from the TEI Guidelines SourceForge Subversion repository and placed in GitHub at: <http://github.com/TEIC> along with Roma to separate software development activities from Guidelines maintenance. **Please do contribute to the Stylesheets on GitHub!**

Future Plans

General work:

- More re-modelling of prose-based recommendations in ISO Schematron
- Encouragement of more community developed TEI software tools (eg Byzantium replacement for Roma)
- Improvements to the TEI build process (e.g. a stable vs development branch)
- Complete changes to bring EEBO TCP entirely into the fold

Development work:

- Extensions to TEI ODD language ('Pure ODD')
- Better support for stand-off and out-of-line markup
- Recommendations on marking text directionality
- Generalize manuscript description to cover any 'text-bearing object'

TEI Guidelines: How you can change them!

- Most changes to the TEI Guidelines are as a result of bug reports or feature requests made on sourceforge:
<http://tei.sf.net/>
- **You can change the Guidelines!** They are a community-developed standard.
- Discussions on TEI-L often turn into feature requests: if something doesn't work for you...ask!
- If you submit a ticket, then it is more likely to happen if you provide good examples, explanation, and stay involved as it is discussed
- Another option: work with others (in a SIG or not) to come up with more detailed proposal for significant changes
- Email council@tei-c.org which goes to the chair to create a bug report or feature request for you!
- Read the Technical Council mailing list archives – our discussions are open!