A platform for digital history

The symogih.org project has deployed an environment developed using eXist-db technologies for analysing, sharing and publishing XML/TEI encoded texts. The semantic annotation of named entities and knowledge units is achieved by interlinking the semantic tags defined according to the guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) with the resources created in the relational database.

Ontology

The symogih.org ontology has been developed since 2012 to gradually interconnect the project’s data with the semantic web. It has a top-level ontological structure comparable to those of DOLCE and CIDOC-CRM.

It is organised around three main classes: objects, knowledge units and roles. To enable interoperability with other linked data resources, alignment with CIDOC-CRM and FRBR is in progress.

International consortium

The platform management entails the creation of an international organised community of users in the form of a consortium.

This community will be built around a governance committee, responsible for ensuring a collaborative approach at all levels from managing the ontology’s definition to data capture. The consortium would be composed by research teams running local scientific projects and training users in data modelling and capture, working closely with the governance committee.

By offering access to a collaboratively managed ontology and platform, designed for supporting a wide community of users, the symogih.org project will contribute to the evolution of practices in the domain of data curation in historical research.

Some examples of symogih.org websites

Data input and curation by the users

Publishing of references:
http://symogih.org

Data interlinking:
Society Religion Science (SRS)
http://srs.symogih.org

Digital texts editing:
Mémoires de L. Michon
http://journal-michon.symogih.org

A dataset of XML-TEI texts

The symogih.org project has been developed in collaboration with the Pôle histoire numérique (PHN) of the CNRS and Université de Lyon, with the support of other institutions such as INALI, BNF, NDL, CIRIUS, CNRS, and the Pôle histoire numérique (PHN) of the CNRS and Université de Lyon.

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The symogih.org project is an open-source project, and its documentation and code are available on GitHub (https://github.com/symogih). The symogih.org project is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license (CC BY-SA 4.0).