Introduction

Christoph Anderl

The papers collected in this volume are originally based on lectures presented at the workshop "Resources in the Mark-up and Digitization of Historical Texts", organized at the University of Oslo, bringing together scholars from a variety of backgrounds and with different research interests.[1] The workshop was organized in connection to a conference on various aspects of Dūnhuáng manuscripts and early Chán Buddhism, and also included a TEI meeting.[2]

Whereas the *Dūnhuáng Conference* was primarily concerned with early Chán in the Dūnhuáng area and its relation to ritual practices, esoteric Buddhism and Daoism, as reflected in Dūnhuáng manuscripts and early Chán historiographical materials, one of the main objectives of the *Resources Conference* included questions concerning the analysis of text/manuscript materials and methods of presenting them to scholarly communities and to the general public.

Many aspects of text/manuscript digitization and text mark-up have undergone tremendous progress in recent years and it is sometimes difficult to follow the new developments and approaches in this field. Originally, the workshops focused on East Asian materials and the scripts used in these texts and manuscripts, however, through the interdisciplinary approach of including a variety of other languages, and locations, the discussion was greatly enriched by this comparative approach. The workshop featured both descriptive presentations of existing database projects (providing an overview of current projects),[3] lectures dealing with specific analytical research questions, in addition

---

1. For the conference website, see *http://folk.uio.no/christoa/ZenManus_Front.html*; see also *http://www.hf.uio.no/ikos/english/research/projects/zen/*. The conference (September 27th – October 1st, 2009) was a joint project with the Institute of Research in Humanities (Kyōto University), and was co-organized by Christian Wittern.

2. The conference and workshops were part of a larger interdisciplinary project on Chán/Zen Buddhist culture, literature, and language at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS, University of Oslo). The results of the 2008 conference on Chán/Sŏn/Zen Buddhist rhetoric were recently published in form of an edited volume (Anderl, Christoph. ed. 2012. *Zen Buddhist Rhetoric in China, Korea, and Japan*. Leiden/Boston: Brill).

3. This included presentations concerning the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI), CBETA, the Digital Dictionary of Buddhism (DDB), Thesaurus Literaturae Buddhicae (Oslo Univ.), the Thesaurus Linguae Sericae Project (Oslo/Heidelberg Univ.), The International Dunhuang Project (British Library), digitization projects a the Dharma Drum College (Taiwan), a project on the Daoist Canon (Kyōto University), the PROIEL parallel corpus (Oslo Univ.), the Text Laboratory

to approaches focusing on the technological aspects of digitization and mark-up. In the context of this volume, research-focused presentations primarily concerned with text analysis and the development of analytical tools were selected.

Through the presentation of a variety of analytical approaches to texts and manuscripts, as well as methods of (visual) presentations, we hope to stimulate further interdisciplinary work and collaboration in this field. Digital Humanities have become an indispensible aspect of continuously increasing significance in historical, religious, and linguistic studies with all their sub-fields, and it is a research area where technology and philology (in the broadest sense) interact in a dynamic and fascinating way.

The workshops also focused on some problems arising through the enormous speed with which aspects of Digital Humanities have been developing during recent times. Many philologically inclined scholars (including myself!) have originally not been trained in the arts of mark-up and programming, or the magic skills of transformations, or have only been confronted with these disciplines during a later stage of their scholarly development. My interest in XML-based methods of structuring and analyzing texts was generated by concrete research questions (and – I have to admit – by a certain fascination concerning the flexibility of XML on the one hand, and the rigid structure which has to be imposed on the material, on the other hand). Often it is difficult for the non-specialist to make the right decisions concerning the adaptation of appropriate methods in the framework of specific research projects. In addition, it is difficult to maintain an overview of ongoing projects and the technological and mark-up strategies chosen and developed. As such, collaboration and interdisciplinary communication is crucial for copying with these challenges, and in order to avoid redundant work. With the publication of this volume, we hope to make a small contribution to these ongoing developments.

I want to extend my special thanks to the co-organizer of the conference and the workshops, Christian Wittern. Without him and his expertise in the field of Digital Humanities, neither the conference nor the subsequent publications would have materialized.

We want to thank all the participants who contributed during the workshops and discussions, as well as the staff of IKOS who helped with the organization of the conference, especially Arne Bugge Amundsen (Head of Department), Rune Svarverud (Head of Research), Mona Bjørbæk (Head of Academics), Cecilie Wingerei Lilleheil

---

(Oslo Univ.), digitization projects in the context of the Turfan Collection in Berlin, a project on Old Japanese syntax at Oxford University, a relational database on Confucius' *Analects*, as well as the Organon Knowledge Editor (AnaCypher, Oslo). The presentations gave an overview of important current projects within the field of Digital Humanities. For more information and a pdf of the abstracts, see *http://folk.uio.no/christoa/Zen%20conference_2009_abstracts_03.pdf*. The meetings were complemented by workshops on text mark-up, in addition to a course on text mark-up for Master and Ph.D. students at Oslo University.

(Research Advisor), and Sathya Sritharan (Economy Officer). Our gratitude also extends to the conference assistants Bori Kim, Therese Sollien, Øystein Krogh Visted, and Kevin Dippner. Special thanks to Daniel Paul O'Donnell (TEI chair in 2009) for co-organizing the TEI meeting.

We are also greatly indebted to Marcus Bingenheimer, Bill Magee, and Su-an Lin for providing the opportunity to publish the articles in this journal, and their great efforts in editing and proofreading the papers. Our thanks also extends to the readers/reviewers who provided many good suggestions for improving the quality of the papers.

An editorial note on the illustrations and photographs used in the articles:
Originally, several of the articles contained high-resolution color illustrations, as well as sections of text marked with different colors. Since these features could not be integrated in the black-and-white printing of the journal, we kindly ask the reader to refer to the following web site containing these photographs and pictures:
http://www.chibs.edu.tw/ch_html/index_ch00_07.html