Reading Hamlet – Transcriber's Manual

(Last updated 7/12/2017)

"Reading Hamlet" focuses on one of the earliest surviving prompt books of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, a copy of the quarto of 1676, which contains annotations from the English stage manager and actor John Ward (1704-1773). Ward annotated his copy of *Hamlet* sometime in the 1740s in preparation for a production of the play at his theater in Birmingham, England. This project proposes to create an online research environment in which scholars can explore high definition digitized images of the prompt book, together with encoded and searchable transcriptions of Ward's annotations. In order to produce machine-readable transcriptions, the annotations will be encoded using XML and following a standard paradigm known as an XML schema. The Transcriber's Manual provides an overview of this schema with examples taken from Ward's annotations.

Each page of the Hamlet book is represented by an individual XML file, which translates each mark found on the page—such as marginal note, deletions, and textual changes— into a discrete XML element. To facilitate the transcription of each page, each transcriber should download the file Template.xml, which demonstrates the proper formatting and syntax for transcribing annotations. A new copy of the Template should be made and renamed for each individual page.

It is important to remember that XML formatting is very precise, and even the smallest changes can lead to an error. In order to have a properly formatted—also known as validated—XML file, you must have certain elements. Each page must begin with the following lines, with no spaces or extra lines before them:

RHschema.xsd | Template.xml

```
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
2
3  <!DOCTYPE transcription SYSTEM "http://www.livesandletters.ac.uk/schema/aor_20141023.dtd">
4
5  <transcription xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
6          xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ChrisRG/ReadingHamlet/master/RHschema.xsd">
7
8          <page filename="Hamlet.002r.tif" pagination="3" signature="l.1" reader="John Ward"/> <!-- Signature = act + scene -->
9          <annotation>
```

The document must also end with these lines:

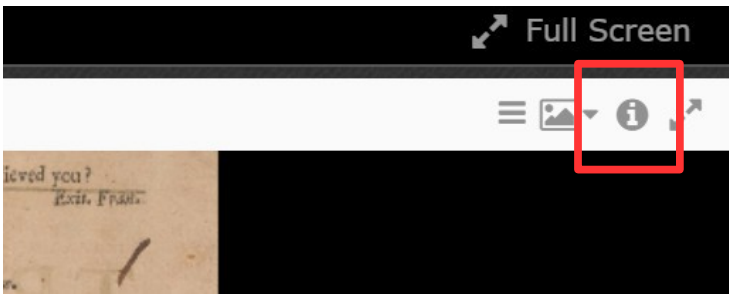
```
97      </annotation>
98  
```

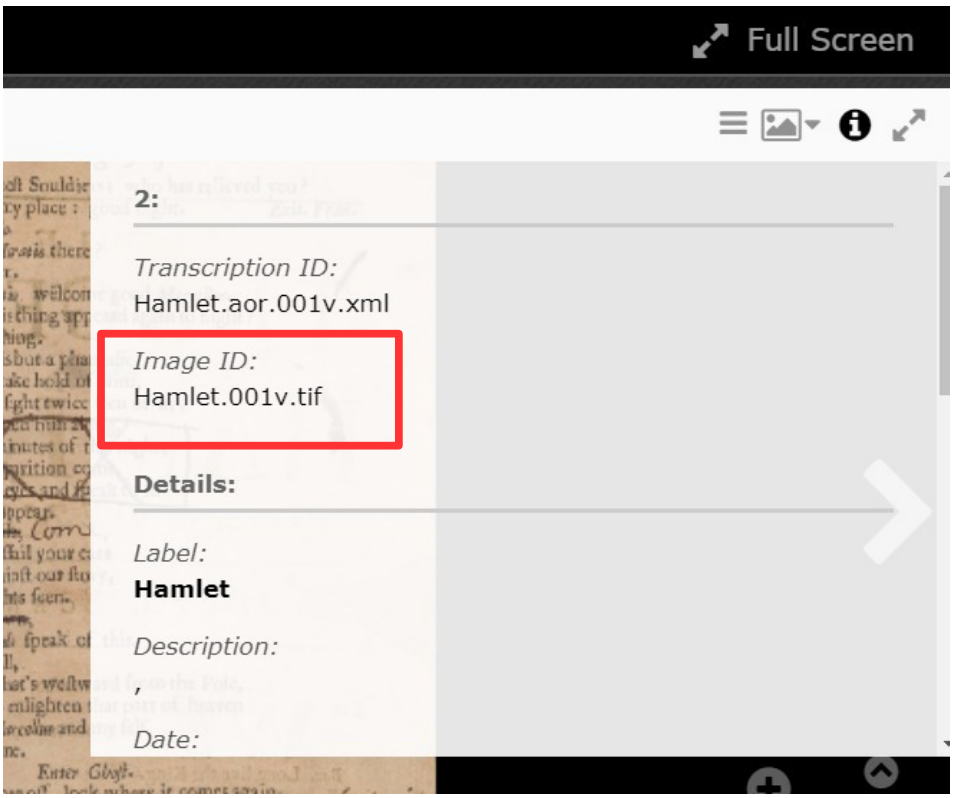
Before working on the annotations, the transcriber must modify several attributes of the **page** element in order to correctly identity the page being transcribed.

```
<page filename="Hamlet.002r.tif" pagination="3" signature="I.1" reader="John Ward"/>
```

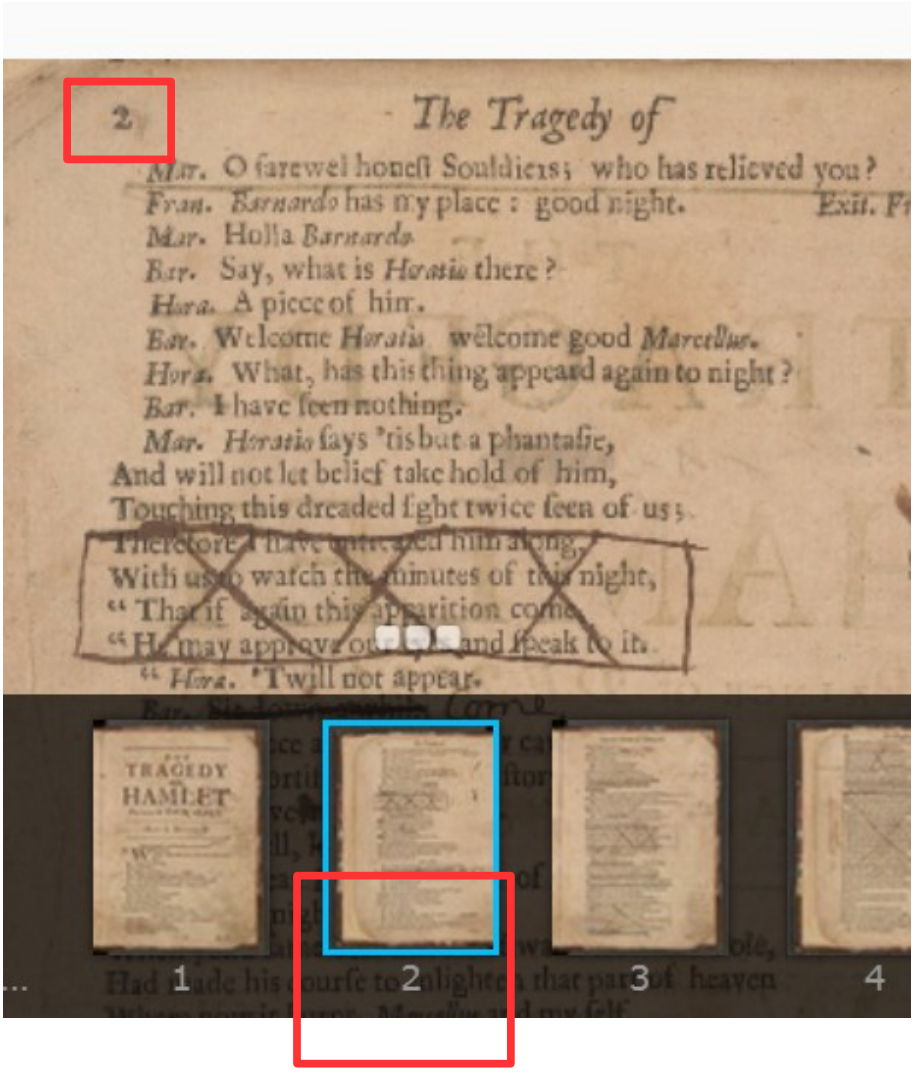
The transcriber must change filename, pagination, and signature—the reader remains the same across the work.

- **filename:** the name of the file containing the image of the page. To find this, in the book viewer, click the "i" button on the top right and copy the name under "Image ID". Copy the name under Image ID.





- **pagination**: the page number, found in viewer at bottom or on the physical page itself



- **signature**: the act and scene of the current page, written with Roman numerals for the act and Arabic numerals for the scene. For example: Act 1, Scene 1 –> I.1; Act 3, Scene 2 –> III.2

<u>Annotations</u>:

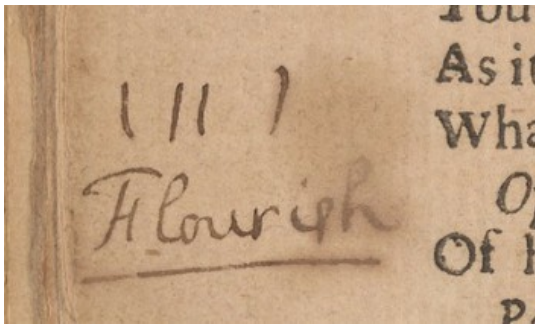
There are several types of annotations on the page, but in the XML file these types follow a specific order. The types and their order are the following:

1) **marginalia** – anything written in the margins that does not have an explicit relationship to the printed text
2) **substitution** – changes to the printed text, including deletions, insertions, and replacements
3) **symbol** – a mark on the page which has a specific and unchanging meaning beyond simply drawing attention to the text. John Ward uses primarily one symbol, Hatching.
4) **mark** – any mark on the page without a clear meaning beyond drawing attention to the text.

Each of these types requires an individual element in the file. Examples are explored below. If using the template, the transcriber must remember to delete extra elements in the file.

Marginalia:

Example 1 – Simple marginalia:

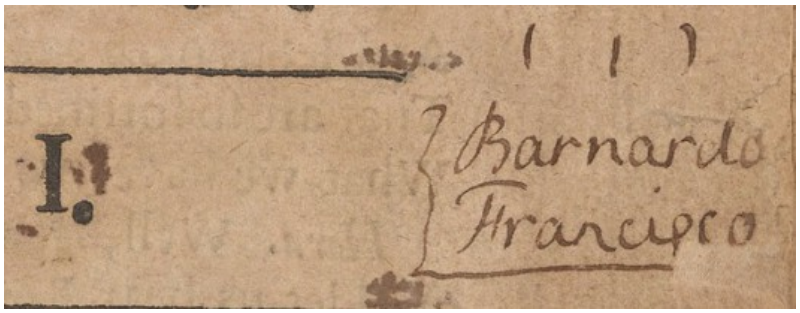



```
<marginalia>
    <language ident="EN">
        <position place="left_margin" book_orientation="0">
            <marginalia_text>
                (11)
                Flourish
            </marginalia_text>
        </position>
    </language>
</marginalia>
```

Things to note:

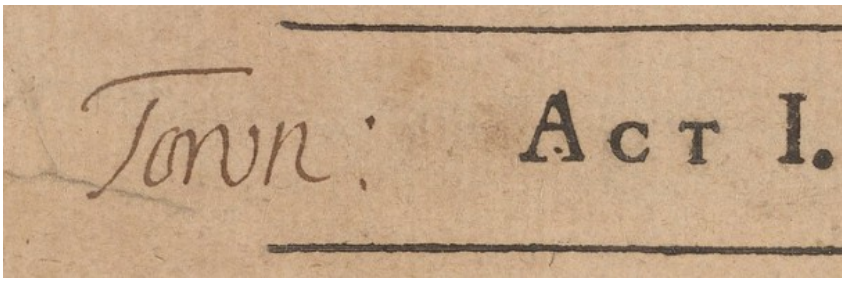
1) Leave the language element as it is
2) Leave the book orientation as it is
3) Options for place are: head, left_margin, right_margin, intext, tail
4) The important thing is the marginalia text
5) Use separate tags for names of people (see example 2)
6) Record whether the marginalia is connected (i.e. “anchored”) to the printed text (see example 3)

Example 2 – People referenced:



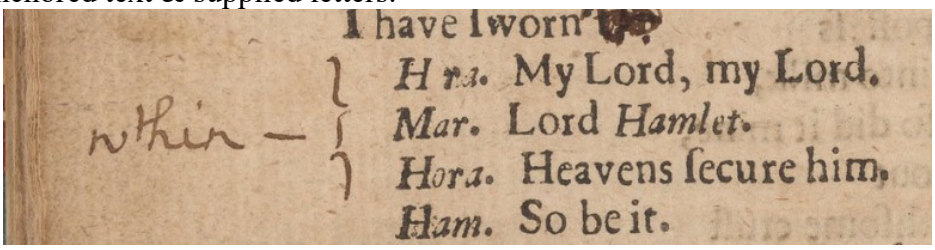

```
<marginalia>
	<language ident="EN">
		<position place="right_margin" book_orientation="0">
			<marginalia_text>
				(1)
				Barnardo
				Francisco
			</marginalia_text>
			<person name="Barnardo"/>
			<person name="Francisco"/>
		</position>
	</language>
</marginalia>
```

Example 3 – anchored text (i.e. the marginalia seems to relate explicitly to the printed text):



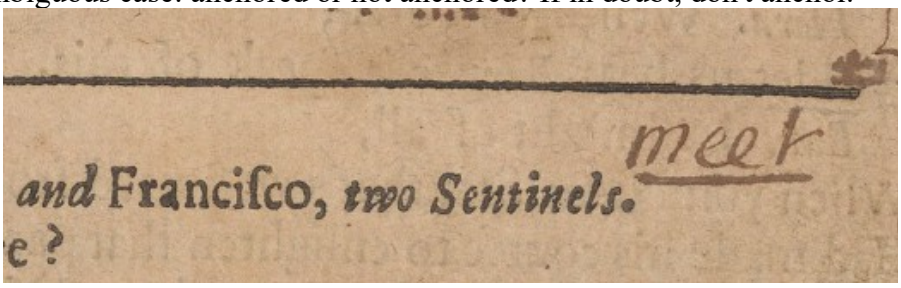

```
<marginalia anchor_text="Act I.">
	<language ident="EN">
		<position place="left_margin" book_orientation="0">
			<marginalia_text>
				Town:
			</marginalia_text>
		</position>
	</language>
</marginalia>
```

Example 4 – anchored text & supplied letters:

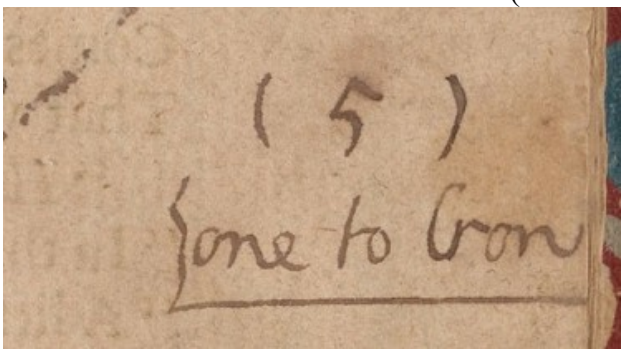



```
<marginalia anchor_text="Hora. My Lord, my lord.">
        <language ident="EN">
                <position place="left_margin" book_orientation="0">
                        <marginalia_text>
                                w[i]thin
                        </marginalia_text>
                </position>
        </language>
</marginalia>
```

Example 5 – Ambiguous case: anchored or not anchored? If in doubt, don't anchor.



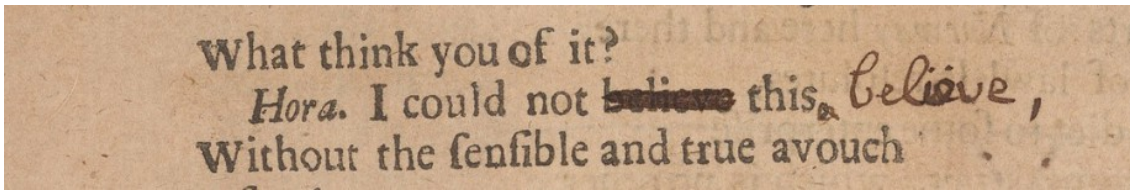
Example 6 – Uncertainty about text: Added “Unsure” as comment (<!-- -->)




```
<marginalia>
        <language ident="EN">
                <position place="right_margin" book_orientation="0">
                        <marginalia_text>
                                (5)
                                one to Cron     <!-- Unsure -->
                        </marginalia_text>
                </position>
        </language>
</marginalia>
```

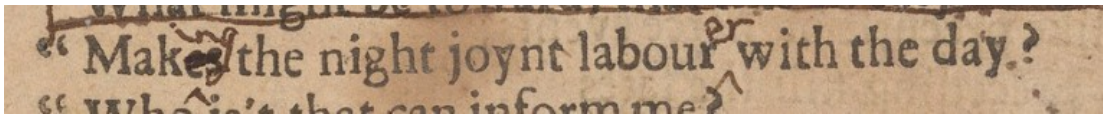
Substitution – Replacement:

Example 1:



<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="I could not believe this,"
amendedText="I could not this believe,"/>

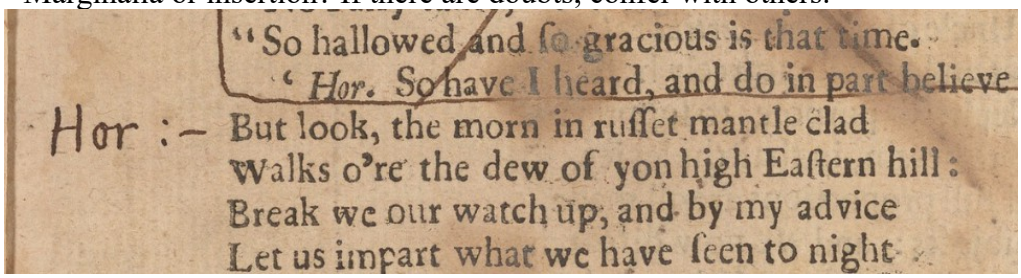
Example 2:



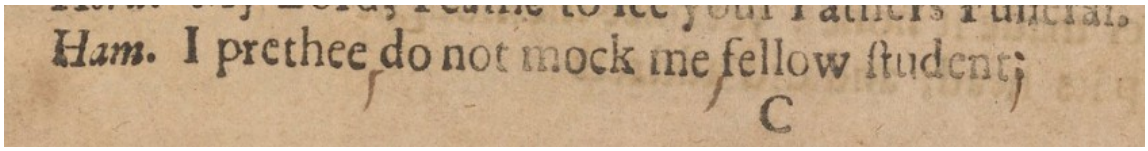
<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="Makes the night joynt labour with the day?" amendedText="Making the night joynt labourer with the day?"/>

Substitution – Insertion:

Example 1 – Marginalia or insertion? If there are doubts, confer with others.

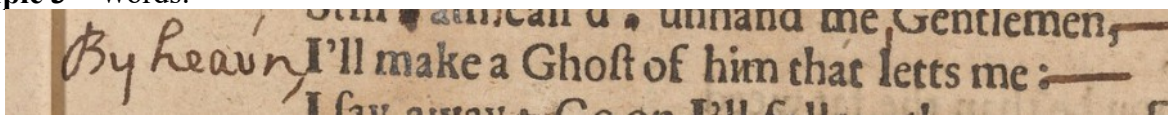


Example 2 – Punctuation:



<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="I prethee do not mock me fellow student"
amendedText="I prethee, do not mock me, fellow student;"/>

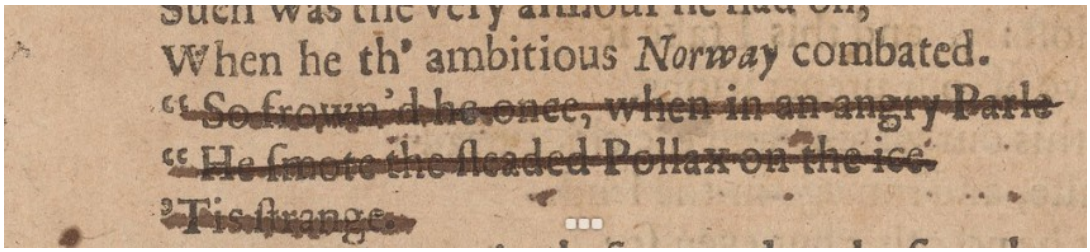
Example 3 – Words:



<substitution method="pen" type="replacement" copyText="I'll make a Ghost of him that letts me:"
amendedText="By heav'n, I'll make a Ghost of him that letts me: --"/>

Substitution – Deletion:

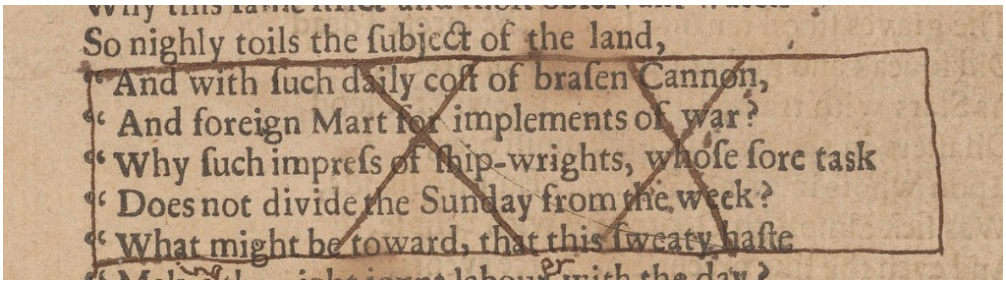
Example 1 –



<substitution method="pen" type="deletion" copyText="" So frown'd he once, when in angry Parle | "
He smote the sleaded Pollax on the ice | 'Tis strange." amendedText=""/>

Two things to remember:
1) Use the vertical bar (|) after every line, except the last line.
2) Use two single quotation marks (') and space before lines that are preceded by quotes

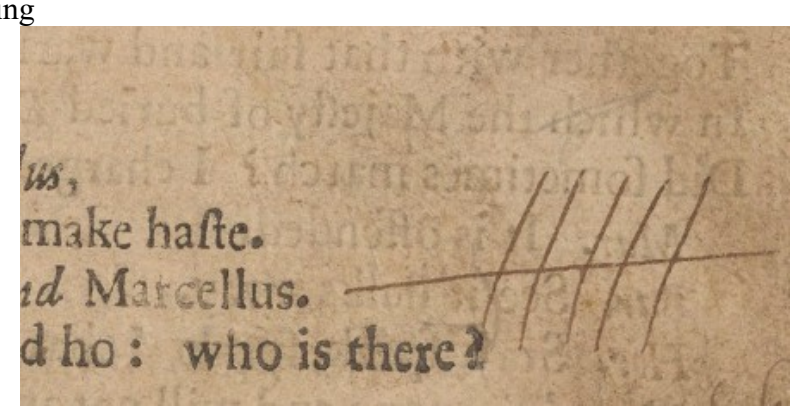
Example 2:



<substitution method="pen" type="deletion" copyText="
" And with such daily cost of brasen Cannon, |
" And foreign Mart for implements of war? |
" Why such impress of ship-wrights, whose sore task |
" Does not divide the Sunday from the week?
" What might be toward, that this sweaty haste" amendedText=""/>

Symbols:

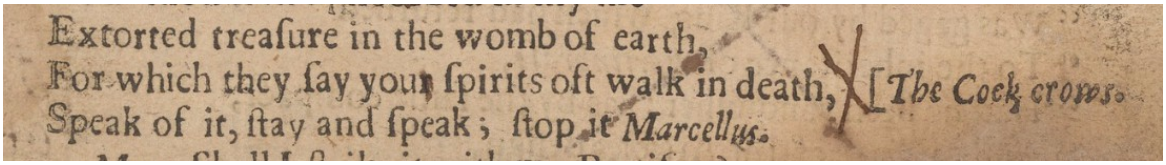
Example 1 – Hatching



<symbol name="Hatching" place="right_margin"/>

Marks:

Example 1 – X_sign



<mark name="X_sign" method="pen" place="right_margin" text="For which they say you spirits oft walk in death,"/>

Additional notes:

Ampersand (&) -- Due to the way that XML deals with special characters (i.e. not letters or numbers), any use of the ampserand must be written as **&**

When saving your file, use the name given under “Filename” (e.g. Hamlet.001r) but instead of a .tif, save it as an .xml. (e.g. Hamlet.001r.xml).

Checking work:

*** Use the comment tag to insert remarks without affecting the code: <!-- comment here -->**

File name:

1. Should conform to the .tif name under filename, although replace the .tif extension with .xml e.g. Hamlet.001r.tif –> Hamlet.001r.xml

Page information:

1. Check the filename (should be .tif), pagination, signature

Marginalia:

1. Check formatting: properly indented elements (marginalia, language, position, marginalia_text), must be closed in reverse order (</marginalia_text>, </position>, etc)
2. Check position
3. If applicable, check "anchor_text" -- i.e. the section of text clearly associated with marginalia
4. Check text
5. Check person tags

Substitutions:

1. Check formatting: indented, and must have method, type, copyText, amendedText, each with open and close quotation marks; must be closed with "/>"
2. Check proper type (deletion, insertion, replacement, errata)
3. Check text

Symbols:

1. Check formatting: indented, and must have name (X_sign or Hatching), method (pen), and place (i.e. position)
2. If associated with a text, check textt

If there are red bars even after checking previous components:

1) **Check file format**

Must open with:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<!DOCTYPE transcription SYSTEM  ...>
<transcription ...>
<page .... />
<annotation> ...
```

Must close with:

```
</annotation>
```