

Conclusion: Reflections

This exhibit has explored the letters of **Queen Constance of Hungary** through multiple layers of analysis. Plain text, TEI markup, and computational tools all revealed the depth and texture of Constance's political and rhetorical authority. From fiscal governance to spiritual patronage, she emerges not as a ceremonial figurehead but as an active legal and moral agent, asserting her influence across Bohemia's religious, economic, and dynastic domains.

This project has been both a technical and intellectual journey into the world of medieval queenship, digital text encoding, and digital humanities scholarship for me. By working with her letters, I have explored how a queen used written language to assert authority, confer rights, and participate in the political and religious life of her kingdom. All while getting hands-on experience with tools and methods that I have had the pleasure of using for the very first time.

Through the process of learning and applying XML and TEI standards, I gained a deeper understanding of the structure and meaning of historical texts. TEI allowed me to go beyond surface reading to identify and tag patterns of power, relationships, geography, and authorship. Using Voyant Tools, I was able to examine textual features such as word frequency and repetition, which uncovered thematic consistencies in Constance's voice. Creating this digital exhibit with Omeka gave me invaluable experience with metadata, curation, and narrative-building skills, which I plan to continue to develop.

More broadly, this project reinforced the value of digital humanities as a method for making hidden histories more visible, especially those of women. The act of encoding Queen Constance's words was also an act of recognition, restoring a queen's legal, maternal, and religious agency in the historical record.

While this project focused on four letters from Constance of Hungary solely, it opens up many possibilities for future exploration:

- **Corpus Expansion:** More letters from Constance, or from other medieval queens, could be added to build a larger dataset for comparison and deeper analysis.
- **Network Analysis:** Using tools like Gephi, I could visualize the relationships between individuals, institutions, and places mentioned in the texts to show the full extent of Constance's influence.
- **Interactive Visuals:** Incorporating maps, timelines, or family trees would help situate the letters within the historical and geographic context of 13th century Europe.
- **Pedagogical Integration:** The texts and tools used in this project could support classroom instruction in medieval studies, women's history, or digital humanities methods.
- **Academic Publication:** A reflective essay on this project's process, challenges, and discoveries could be written up and submitted to an undergraduate journal or digital humanities blog.

This work marks the beginning of what I hope will be a continuing engagement with historical documents and digital tools, and a deeper commitment to uncovering women's voices in the archive.

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