

Learn Text Encoding! <digital type= "Humanities"/> Roundtable Panel:

50-word abstract: We combine a roundtable with a hands-on workshop in XML markup and its applications in humanities research, working with short poems and student-designed XML projects. Participants will learn how to write markup and while exploring in real time the limitations and possibilities of text encoding in the Digital Humanities.

Full Description: What can we learn about literature when we code it in XML? (What is this strange thing called XML, and why should it matter to English majors?) eXtensible Markup Language (XML) is not as strange as it may sound to the uninitiated, and actually evolved from earlier forms of editing markup, as an extension of the editor's pen in computer form, though also much, much more. Text encoding permits us to "mark up" texts in a structured and systematic way, and thereby permits us to use computers to help reveal patterns we could not have recognized with our human eyes and brains alone. Using systematic markup, we can make texts dynamic, linkable in digital archives, and more widely accessible. From our markup, we can build graphs, maps, and trees to chart information and create new teaching and research tools.

Roundtable panelists from two University of Pittsburgh campuses will interact with audience members in a 75-minute workshop combined with discussion to share some fundamentals of text encoding. If participants bring their laptops, and install a free trial version of XML editing software (on site) they can follow along as we code a poem by Emily Dickinson together. Together with our audience, we will explore and discuss what kinds of patterns we can mark, as well as some of the issues and limitations with XML markup in coding poetry and other kinds of literary texts. We will also share views of our work on the Digital Pacific and Digital Mitford projects (<http://pacific.pitt.edu/> and <http://mitford.pitt.edu/>) as well as completed student work on Russian Rap (<http://rap.obdurodon.org/>) and other student projects under development this year.

Participants:

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