COST Action Distant Reading for European Literary History

Corpus design and text contribution for ELTeC

Lou Burnard, Carolin Odebrecht, Christian Reul and Martina Scholger

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Introduction

- metadata for novels in ELTeC
- introduction to metadata schema
- metadata collection with world cat
- encoding metadata in TEI schema

Outline

1. WG Scholary Resources and ELTeC
2. ELTeC Encoding Schema – Metadata
3. Research for metadata – World cat

Outline

Working Group 1: Scholarly Resources

- Creating an open source multi-lingual benchmark corpus for European literature of the 19th century (novels): European Literary Text Collection (ELTeC)[1]
- 34 Members from 22 countries
- Main tasks are
  - defining corpus design
  - developing basic encoding schemas
  - developing workflows

[1] https://www.distant-reading.net/wg-1/

Corpus design

Corpus design defines two things (cf. Hunston 2008; Lüdeling et al. 2016):

- candidates → sampling
  - Which text(s) can be included in the corpus? Which can't?
- proportion → balancing
  - How many texts with which characteristics should the corpus contain?

Corpus design – approach of WG1

- Sampling and balancing criteria[2] will
  - not define what a novel is (cf. WG 3)
  - follow a non-normative but metadata-based approach (not canon-based)[3]
  - aim to represent the variety of a population[4]
  - allow for a comparability of texts and individual sub-collections according to different metadata set(s)

[2] https://github.com/distantreading/WG1/blob/master/sampling_proposal.xml

[3] Each canon is a result of rating texts from different perspectives: intellectual, economical, or/and reader rating (a.o. Herrmann 2011; Winko 1996).

[4] Cf. for discussion of representativeness Biber (1993) and canonicity and corpus design Algee-Hewitt and McGurl (2018) and Bode (2018).

Sampling criteria

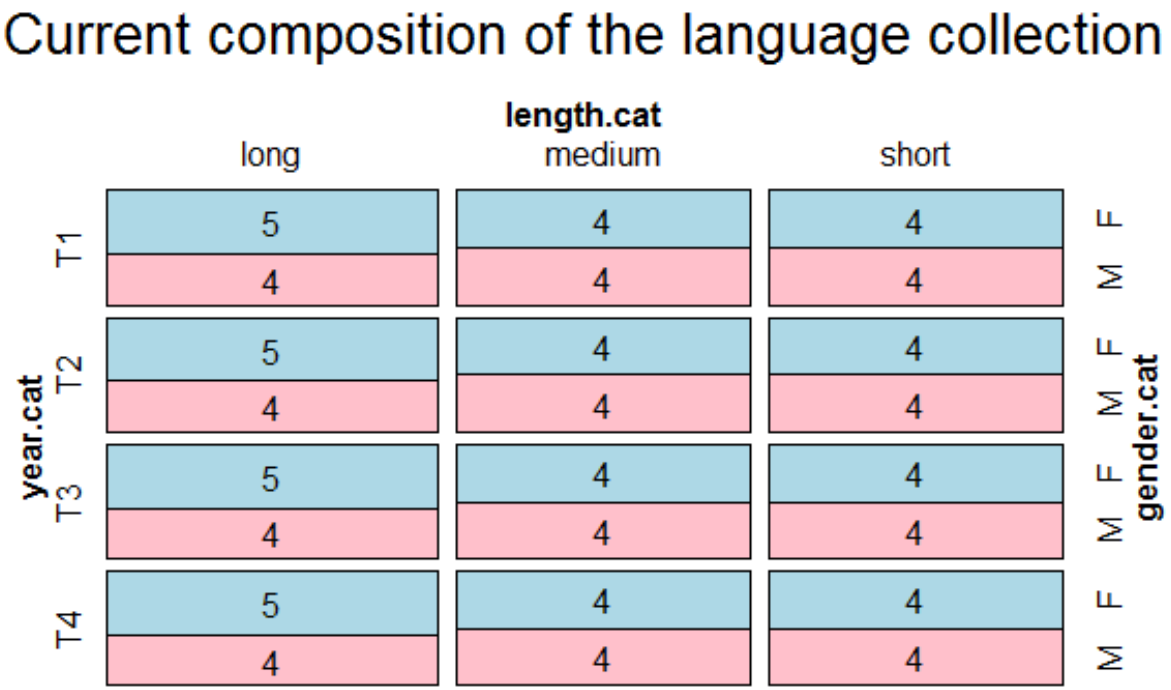
- **language**: European languages, no translations
- **prose**: narrative fictional prose
- **period**: 1840–1920
- **length**: min. 10.000 words
- **publication**: prefer books over novels published in serial publications
- **access**: only freely available digitizations

Balancing criteria

100 texts per language (language collection)

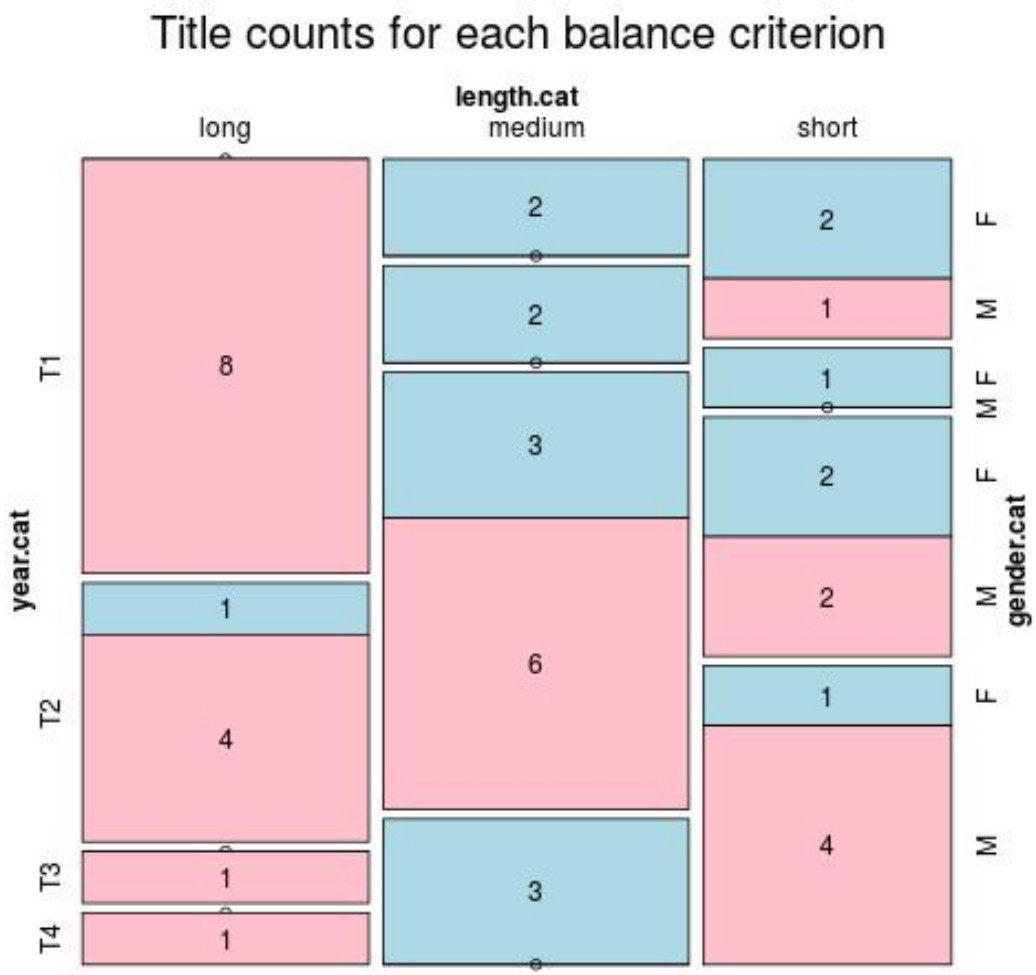
- **period**: distribution over time
  - group T1: 1840-1859
  - group T2: 1860-1879
  - group T3: 1880-1899
  - group T4: 1900-1920
- **gender**: min. 10% and max. 50% written by female authors
- **authorship**: 9 - 11 authors with exactly three novels (otherwise, only one text for each author)
- **length**: min. 20% are short novels (10-50k word tokens), min. 20% are long novels (>100k word tokens).
- **reprint**: min. 30% are highly canonized novels, min. 30% should be non-canonized novels, based reprint counts within the period 1970-2009 (work in progress)

(ideal) Composition



Amount of texts with balancing categories (year, length, gender)

Example: German Text Collection



Outline

TEI encoding for ELTeC

Sources:

- different texts levels / editions (cf. e.g. IFLA 2009)
- different levels of digitization/annotation
- various languages, encodings, fonts

Corpus:

- minimal, uniform encoding (applicable for different sources)
- text representation focus on consistency and simplicity (not full complexity/richness needed for digital editions)
- basic metadata and references (not replicating work of libraries)
- serves as master file container for automatically generating transformations, annotations and derivations

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Encoding levels for ELTeC

TEI ODD-chain[5] provides different levels of encoding:

- **level0**: basic encoding with e.g. paragraph, heading, page break, text division,
- **level1**: richer encoding, adding e.g. font change, graphic, quotation, correction
- **level2**: token-based encoding with automatic lemmatization and part-of-speech annotation

→ consistent metadata for each level of encoding

[5] Cf. TEI ODD Burnard and Rahtz (2004), for documentation of ELTeC ODD `https://github.com/distantreading/WG1`

Metadata schema

```
<teiHeader>
  <fileDesc>
    <titleStmt>
        <title><!-- title of work --></title>
        <author><!-- information about the author --></author>
        <respStmt><!-- information about the encoder --></respStmt>
    </titleStmt>
    <extent>
             <!-- size of the text, in pages and words -->
     </extent>
     <publicationStmt>
         <availability>
         <!-- standard text about the licence -->
         </availability>
         <!-- standard text about status as part of ELTeC -->
    </publicationStmt>
    <sourceDesc>
     <bibl>
        <!-- bibliographic description of the source from which it was derived -->
     </bibl>
    </sourceDesc>
</fileDesc>
<profileDesc>
      <!-- additional descriptive information -->
</profileDesc>
<revisionDesc>
     <!-- revision information -->
</revisionDesc>
</teiHeader>
```

TEI document, encoding level 1

```
<TEI xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" xml:lang="de" xml:id="deu032">
   <teiHeader>
      <fileDesc>
         <titleStmt>
            <title>Sibilla Dalmar: ELTeC Edition</title>
            <author ref="http://d-nb.info/gnd/pnd:11852643X">Dohm,
               Hedwig (1831-1919)</author>
            <respStmt>
               <resp>ELTeC conversion</resp>
               <name>Leonard Konle</name>
            </respStmt>
         </titleStmt>
         <extent>
            <measure unit="words">97252</measure><measure unit="pages"
               >374</measure>
         </extent><publicationStmt><p>Veröffentlicht als ein Teil von ELTeC <date>2

         <sourceDesc>
            <!-- converted from TextGrid (textgrid:mh3s.0) via Kallimachos: +71+ --
            <bibl type="copyText">
               <title>Sibilla Dalmar</title>
               <author>Dohm, Hedwig</author>
               <date>1896</date>
            </bibl>
         </sourceDesc>
      </fileDesc>
      <encodingDesc n="eltec-1">
```

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[6] https://github.com/COST-ELTeC/ELTeC-deu/blob/master/level1/deu032.xml

Outline

Research for metadata

- Using *worldcat* to get required metadata
- `https://www.worldcat.org/`

References I


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