

# Text Modelling

Introduction to TEI for scholarly texts

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“[E]very electronic representation of text is an interpretation”

— Paul Eggert, *Securing the Past*, Cambridge UP (2009).

# But what is a text?

**Intentionality:** from the Latin *intentio* (“directed at”), intentionality is an attempt to communicate something meaningful in the world (in other words, a text cannot just reside in your head).

**Materiality:** must be recorded on some material substrate which comes with its own history of innovation (this is where the “technological” part figures prominently: “the more successful a text technology is, the more perfectly adapted tool and substrate are to one another”).

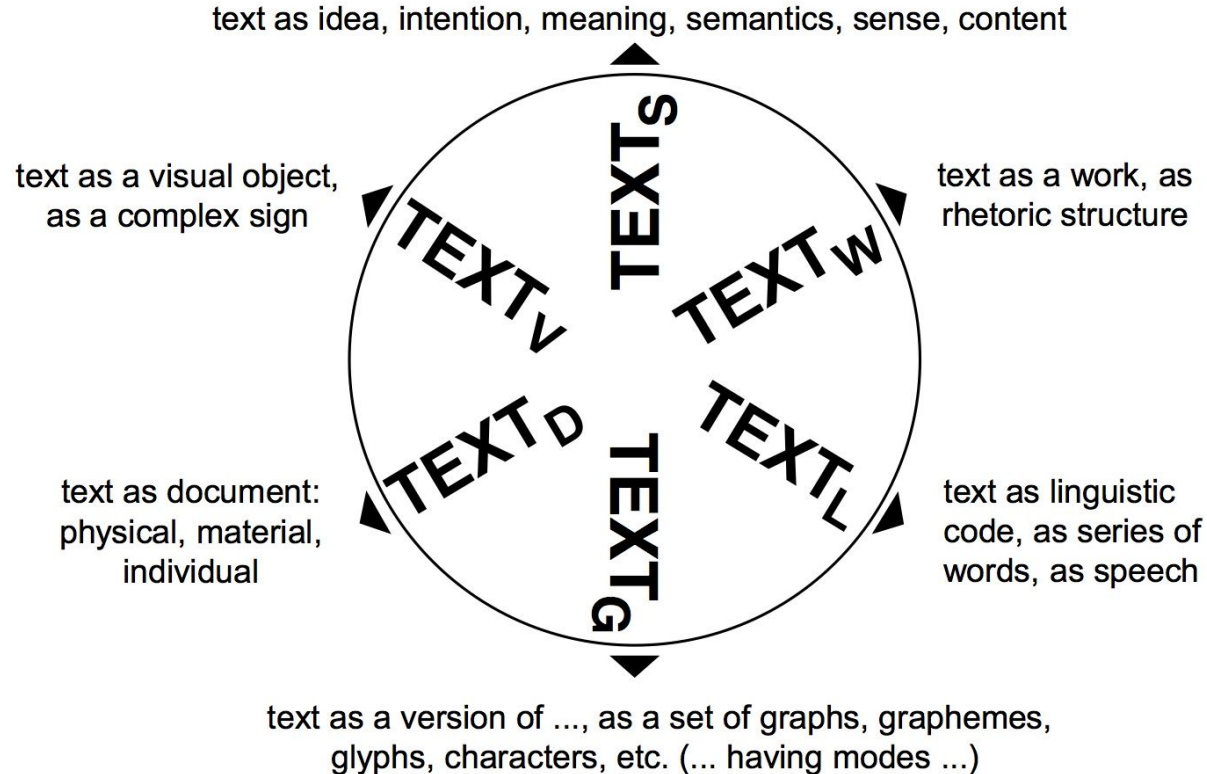
**Functionality:** meant to do something in the world, and comes with contexts of use (of audience, e.g.).

**Cultural “aura”:** Walter Benjamin’s term in “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” for our tendency to valorize the “authenticity” of original objects (not reproductions), especially when our culture highly values those objects.

(Elaine Treharne and Claude Willan, *Text Technologies: A History* (Stanford University Press, 2019), pp. 9–15).

Patrick Sahle:

## a pluralistic notion of text



# Patrick Sahle's pluralistic notion of text modelling

For the full slideshow, go to

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And for his essay on the subject, click go to

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