References

Introduction

This guide is aimed at the editor interested in creating an image-based edition using EVT, and not at the reader/user of such edition. To use EVT, the editor must have a good knowledge of the TEI XML markup, and must be able to apply XSLT style sheets to an XML document. EVT main configuration is done by editing a single .xsl file (see section *3. Configuring EVT*), note however that the software can be customized as desired modifying the relevant XSLT and CSS style sheets, or adding new ones (f.i. for a different kind of text visualization).

About EVT

EVT (Edition Visualization Technology) is a software for creating and browsing digital editions of manuscripts based on text encoded according to the TEI XML schemas and Guidelines. This tool was born as part of the DVB (Digital Vercelli Book) project in order to allow the creation of a digital edition of the Vercelli Book, a parchment codex of the late tenth century, now preserved in the Archivio e Biblioteca Capitolare of Vercelli and regarded as one of the four most important manuscripts of the Anglo-Saxon period as regards the transmission of poetic texts in the Old English language.

To ensure that it will be working on all the most recent web browsers, and for as long as possible on the World Wide Web itself, the edition-browsing component is built on open and standard web technologies such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Specific features, such as the magnifying lens, are entrusted to jQuery plugins, again chosen among the open source and best supported ones to reduce the risk of future incompatibilities. The general architecture of the software, in any case, is modular, so that any component which may cause trouble or turn out to be not completely up to the task can be replaced easily.

How it Works

The basic idea of EVT is very similar to the *modus operandi* which is commonly used to convert TEI XML documents into HTML: when the main style-sheet is applied to the document, it starts a processing which ends with a website containing the digital edition of the manuscript. Our ideal goal, in fact, is to have a simple, very user-friendly drop-in tool, requiring little work and/or knowledge of anything beyond XML from the editor. To reach this goal, EVT is based on a modular structure where a single style-sheet (`evt_builder.xsl`) starts a chain of XSLT 2.0 transformations calling in turn all the other modules; the latter belong to two general categories: those devoted to building the HTML site, and the XML processing ones, which extract the edition text (the content of each folio which lies between `<pb/>` elements, or the content of each `<surface>` when the Embedded Transcription method is used) and format it according to the