## **ENDINGS: USING DIAGNOSTICS**

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## WHAT ARE DIAGNOSTICS

- A generated file (usually HTML or text) that displays common encoding errors and problems that are not usually caught by schema/schematron
- Validation catches for local errors in the data encoded in an original file and does not usually analyze linked data
- Diagnostics interrogate the linked data between documents, while also checking local errors, issues of consistency, and potential errors

# WHAT VALIDATION CAN DO

- Check that all ids are in the proper form (eg: if the file is named "BLOG2" then any ids created further in the file must start with "BLOG2")
- Ensure that elements of the file are included before particular stages of the document (eg: All published location files **must** include an abstract)
- Enforce stylistic conformity (eg: Straight apostrophes are not allowed, use curly apostrophes)
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# WHAT IT CAN'T (OR SHOULDN'T)

- Check to see if an @xml:id is unique out of 10742 other ids across over 1600 files
- Test to see if an a particular pointer actually points to something in another file
- Double check if the thing you're referencing is actually what you're claiming it is (eg: tagging a person as a location)
- Give a suggestion; even though you can differentiate between warnings and errors in schematron, the ominous line still makes you think what you're doing might be wrong even if it isn't

U + 000A

398: 165

Document is valid.

/Users/.../london/db/data/stow/1598/stow 1598.xml

## MOEML'S DIAGNOSTICS

- Diagnostics are generated as part of the regular build process
- Checks the encoding of the data, especially in relation to the data points to which the encoding links
- Checks for possible or "fuzzy" errors in the data: things that a computer can flag up as potentially wrong, but requires human intervention



#### **ENCODING ERRORS**

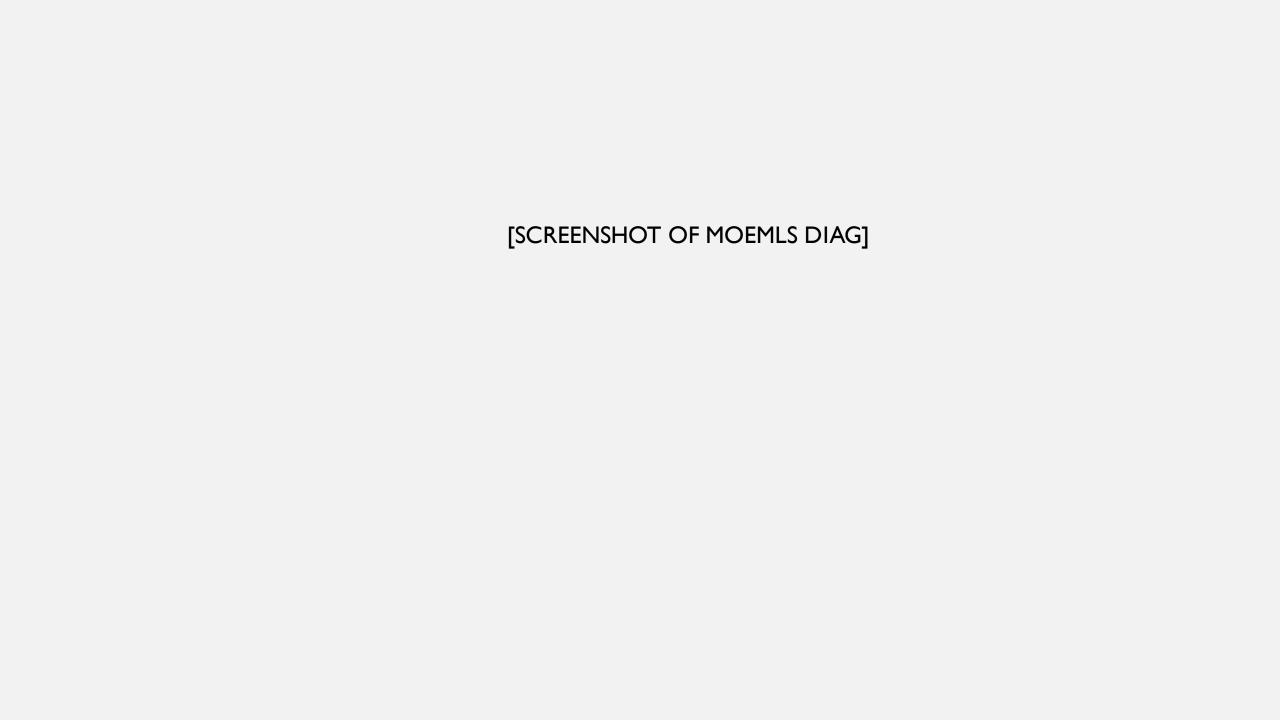
- Duplicate ids (breaks the build completely)
- <name> instead of <ref>
- Organizations tagged as <name>s but without an @type='org'
- Bibliography entries tagged without @type='bibl'
- Malformed ids (mostly typos)

#### **BENEFITS**

- While validation scenarios could potentially check for some errors like duplicate ids or malformed ids, it would require significant processing energy
- Catches typos and forces editors to go back and review their work, thus operates as a form of proofing
- Gives a graphic representation on how "healthy" the data is
- An easy way for large projects to chip away at legacy code
  - Every team member takes 10 minutes out at the end of the day to fix a few errors

## "FUZZY" ERRORS

• These are issues that aren't technically problems, but would make the site better if someone would fix or address them



#### **BENEFITS**

- Checks for possible errors without making something that is completely valid erroneously invalid
- Allows for decisions about project practices to be made and implemented as time allows, especially for big changes that would cause the majority of the project to become invalid
- **Problem**: How do we declare in our encoding that something that might look incorrect is actually correct?

## CASE STUDY: STOW\_1598

- Alongside our implementation of the regular site diagnostics, we have also created a similar system for our process of proofing the 1598 edition of Stow
- Proofing a text of this size is a challenge, especially since it requires that we have good definitions of what it means for something to be "finished" on the site
- Before we send chapters of Stow to peer-review (declaring that it is "finished"), we must ensure that everything that is included is also finished

#### Stow 1598 Diagnostics: Cornhill Ward

#### **Statistics ▼**

1552	
1470	
3255	
103	
141	
67	
6	
_	1470 3255 103 141 67

#### Incomplete locations (31) ▶

**Incomplete personography entries (53)** ▶

**Incomplete orgography entries (4)** ▶

<ref> used instead of <name> (0) ▶

<name> used instead of <ref> (0) ▶

#### CONCLUSION

- Diagnostics:
  - Allow encoders to check their work and make sure everything will function the way they want it to
  - Maintain site consistency and usability
  - Give a rendering of data's readiness for proofing/publishing purposes
- However, diagnostics can be misleading if there is no standardized way of declaring that an item has been checked and is certainly not an error