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A short introduction to the EXMARaLDA Partitur Editor

Version 1.3.2

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SOME GENERAL REMARKS

What is a “partitur”?

“Partitur” is the German word for a musical score. In linguistics, it is used to describe a particular way to layout transcriptions of spoken language: Just like in a musical score where the music to be performed by each voice or instrument is written on a separate staff, different speakers or different modalities are transcribed on different lines of a linguistic partitur:

Mi	They were . unfillers . or the colliers / hewers	onto the conveyors.
In	they ( ) coal from face onto the / uh	

In that way, it becomes possible to represent simultaneity which is very frequent in spoken language, for instance when (as in the above example) speaker turns overlap or when (as in the following example) utterances are accompanied by gestures or mimics.

Mi	And then he gave me this ridiculous hat.	
Mi	*--points at his hat ----*	
In		Oh, how beautiful!
In		*-- raises left eyebrow -*

A partitur is also useful for integrating analytical or other additional information into the transcription. Thus, in the following example, English translations are simply added on a separate line beneath the corresponding French utterances:

DS	Oui:. C'est ça. Ça. Okay. D'accord d'accord.	
DS [en]	*Yes. Exactly. Yes. Okay. Agreed, agreed.*	
FB		Alors ça dépend un petit peu
FB [en]		*That depends, then, a little bit*

To learn more about partitur notation, have a look at Ehlich (1992), Edwards (1992) or Schmidt (2002), (see bibliography at the end of this manual).

Why use the Partitur Editor and not a word processor?

The Partitur Editor is a software tool for inputting and outputting transcriptions of spoken language in partitur notation. Compared to an ordinary word processor, it facilitates this task because it allows editing (i. e. changing, deleting, adding etc.) at an arbitrary place in the partitur without having to bother about breaking up the text so that it fits on a page of a certain size. When you input data into the Partitur Editor, you do this into one single partitur of (potentially) infinite width:

INT [v]	Do you wanna continue this for the rest of your life,	let's say: a musical career?	
INT [de]	Willst Du für den Rest Deines Lebens so weitermachen,	mit dieser musikalischen Karriere?	
PMC [v]			(Me) I don't know really ((laughs)) ehm,
PMC [de]			I weiß es nicht so genau ((lacht)).

Only when you output the partitur (e. g. to a printer or a RTF-file) does the software “chop up” this large partitur into several smaller partiturs that fit on a given page size:

[14]

INT [v]			Do you wanna continue this for the rest of
INT [de]			Willst Du für den Rest Deines Lebens so
PMC [v]		Nothing else.	
PMC [de]	hatte.	Sonst nichts.	

[15]

INT [v]	your life,	let's say: a musical career?	
INT [de]	weitermachen,	mit dieser musikalischen Karriere?	
PMC [v]			(Me) I don't
PMC [de]			I weiß es nicht so

[16]

PMC [v]	know really ((laughs)) ehm,	I just wanna be able to do what I
PMC [de]	genau ((lacht)).	Ich möchte einfach das machen

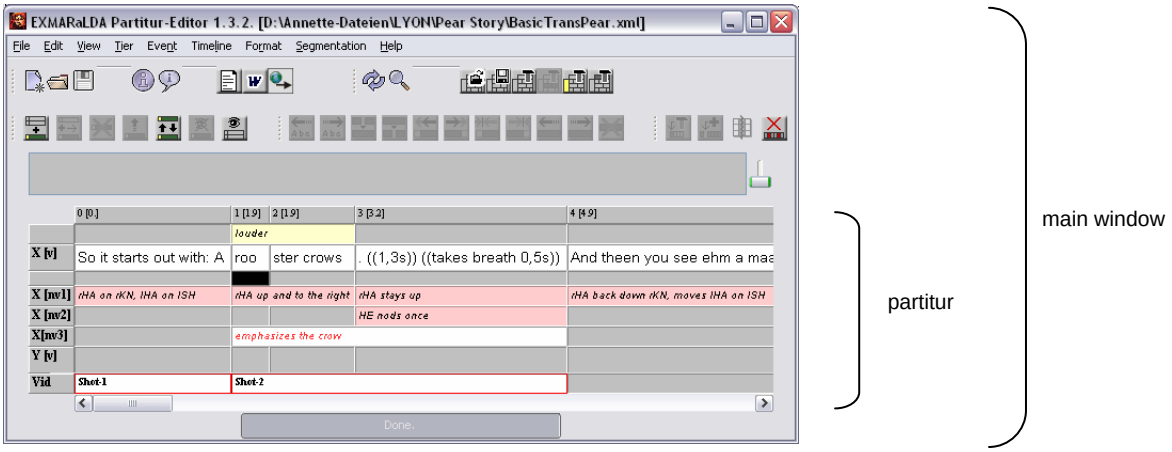
What is special about the EXMARaLDA Partitur Editor?

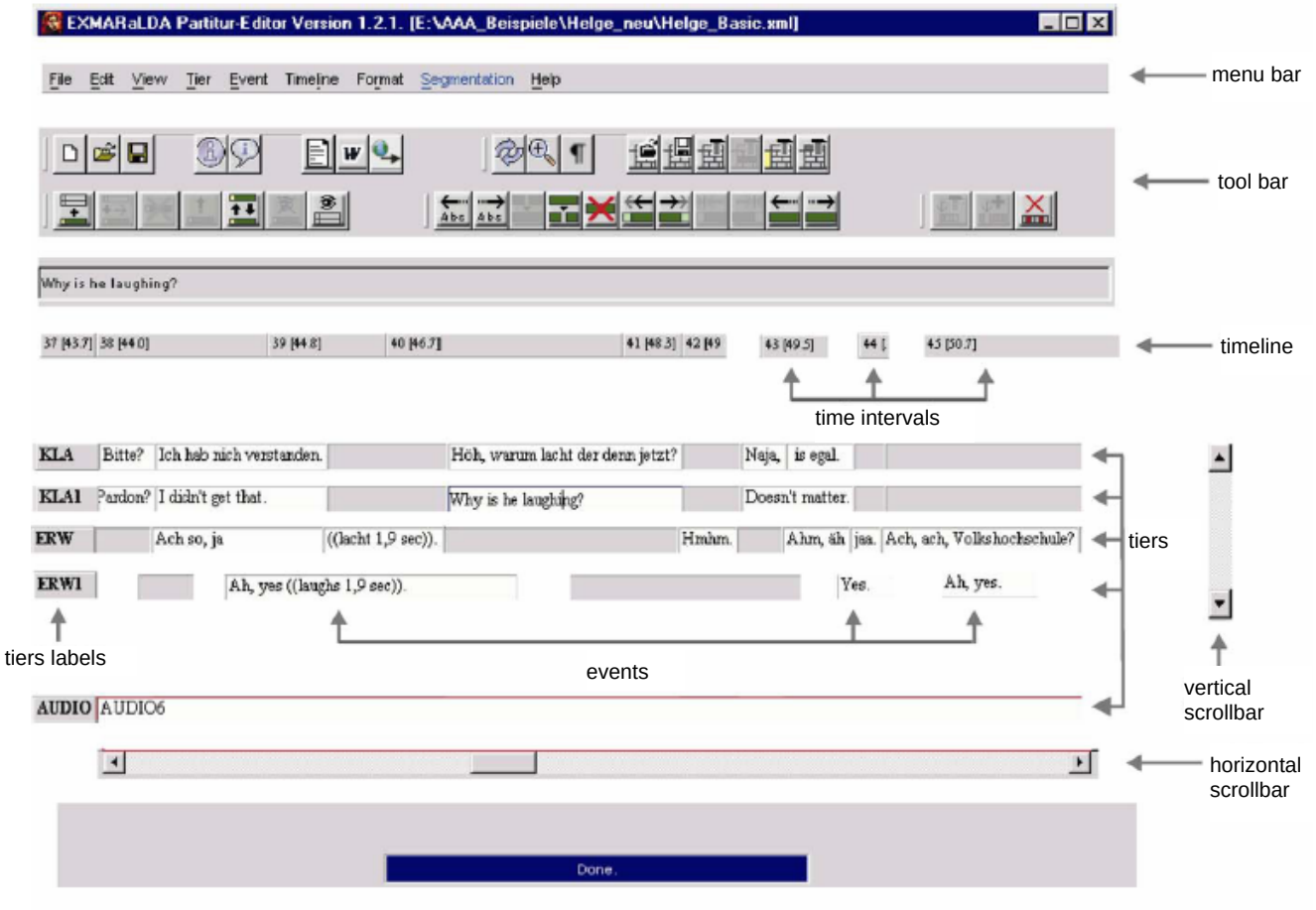
EXMARaLDA is an acronym of EXtensible MARkup Language for Discourse Annotation. It is an XML-based system for encoding transcriptions of spoken language in a computer-readable way. Because it is XML based and because it makes use of the annotation graph formalism proposed by Bird/Liberman (2001), EXMARaLDA transcriptions are more easily exchangeable between different programs and between different platforms and they are more flexibly adaptable to other purposes than transcriptions in other storage formats are. In other words: the Partitur Editor is not just meant to be an instrument for inputting and outputting partiturs, but it is intended as one of several input and output tools for EXMARaLDA data. You can, for instance, use Praat or a text editor to make a raw transcription, then import this data into the Partitur Editor, print out a partitur, and then export it to the Atlas Interchange Format (AIF) for archiving.

Furthermore, as the partitur editor is being programmed in Java, you can use it on different platforms, i. e. on Windows, Macintosh or Linux.

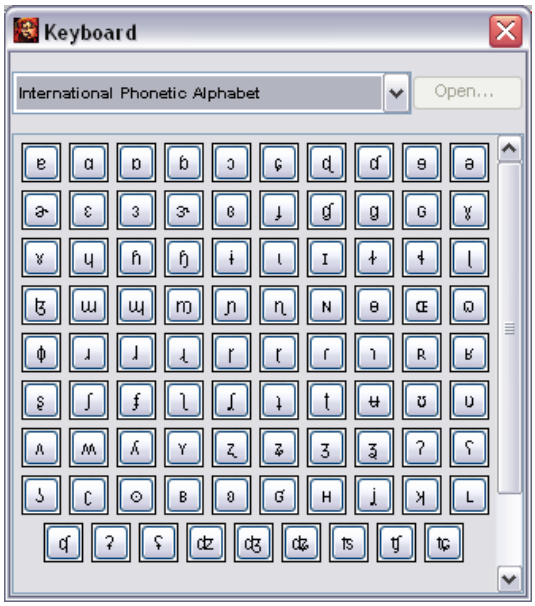
HOW TO USE THE PARTITUR EDITOR: A SHORT TUTORIAL

The graphical user interface of the Partitur Editor consists of a main window and some auxiliary panels. The main window contains the menu bar, several toolbars and the partitur itself. The partitur is divided into several tiers where each tier has a label and comprises several events. These events are aligned with one another and with the events in other tiers by the help of a timeline. Working with the Partitur Editor therefore means manipulating tiers, tier labels, events and the timeline:



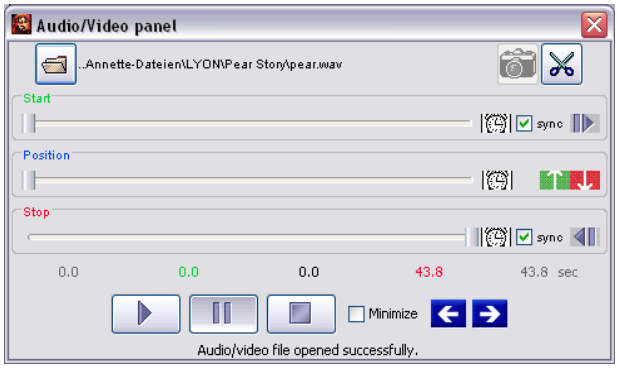

EXMARaLDA Partitur-Editor Version 1.2.1. [E:\AAA_Beispiele\Helge_neu\Helge_Basic.xml]
File Edit View Tier Event Timeline Format Segmentation Help
menu bar
tool bar
Why is he laughing?
timeline
time intervals
KLA Bitte? Ich hab mich verstanden. Höh, warum lacht der denn jetzt? Naja, is egal.
KLA1 Pardon? I didn't get that. Why is he laughing? Doesn't matter.
ERW Ach so, ja ((lacht 1,9 sec)). Hmhm. Ahm, äh jaa. Ach, ach, Volkshochschule?
ERW1 Ah, yes ((laughs 1,9 sec)). Yes. Ah, yes.
tiers
tiers labels
events
AUDIO AUDIO6
vertical scrollbar
horizontal scrollbar
Done.

Keyboard

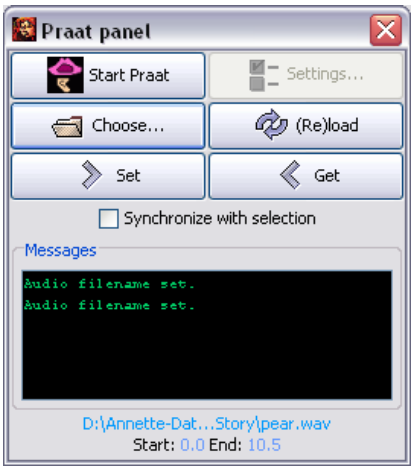

Keyboard
International Phonetic Alphabet
Open...

Link panel

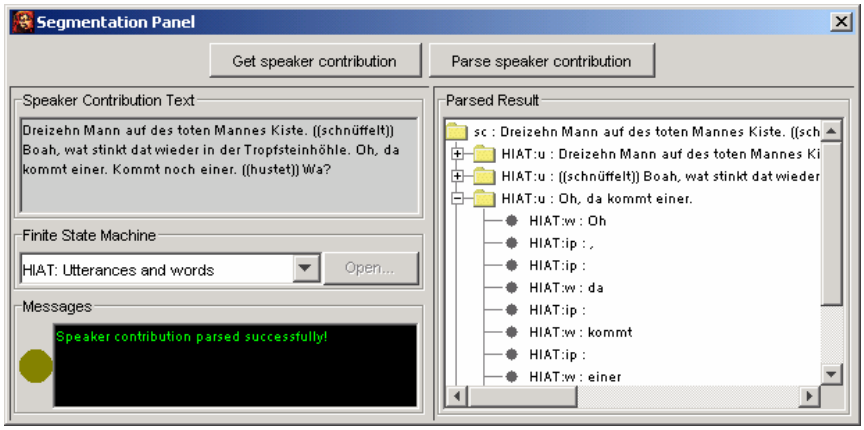
Audio/Video panel



Praat panel



Segmentation panel



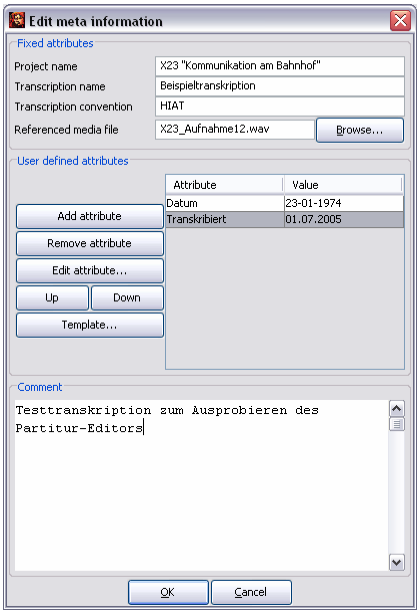
1. Create and edit a transcription in the Partitur Editor

Step 1 – Create a new empty transcription

If you haven't just started the editor (and therefore have a new empty transcription in front of you, anyway), choose *File* > *New*. The partitur should then look like this:

Step 2 – Edit the meta information

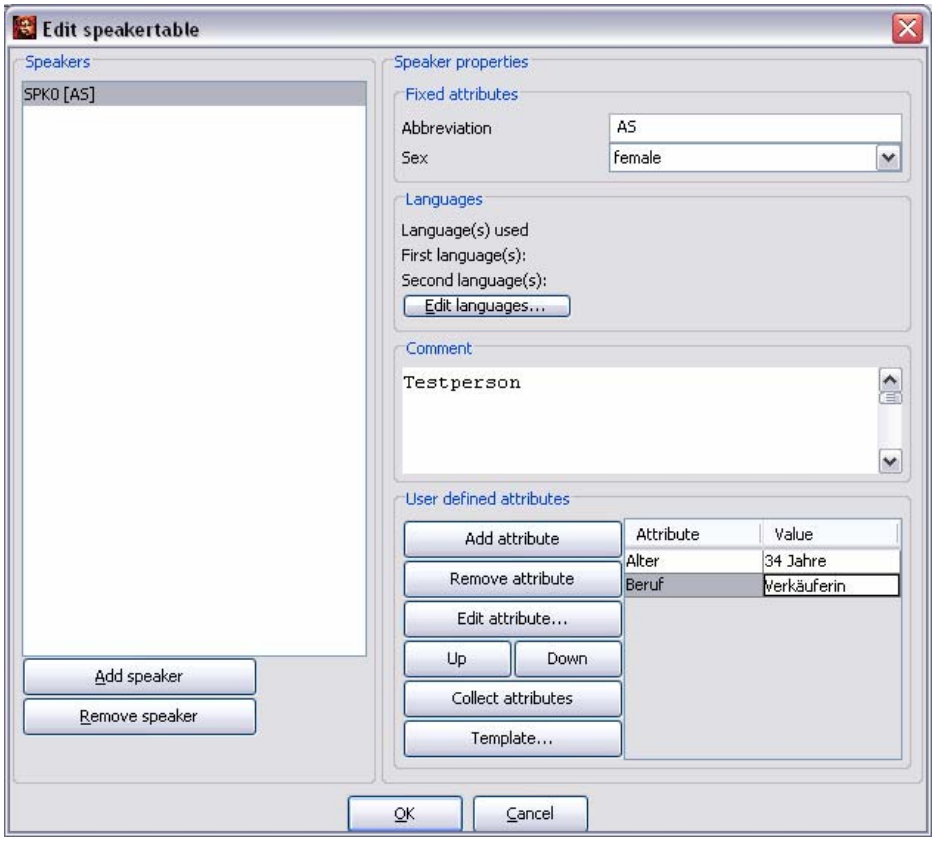
Choose *File* > *Meta information...* Enter a project name, a transcription name etc. into the text fields provided. In order to add a user defined attribute, click on *Add attribute...* and enter the desired attribute name. The corresponding value goes into the other cell of the respective table row:



Close the dialog by clicking on *OK* (otherwise, the changes will not be retained).

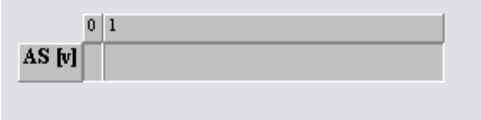
Step 3 – Edit the speaker table

Choose *File* > *Speakertable...* . Select the existing speaker (X) and change the corresponding *Abbreviation*. Edit this speaker's properties. To add user defined attributes, proceed as in step 2.



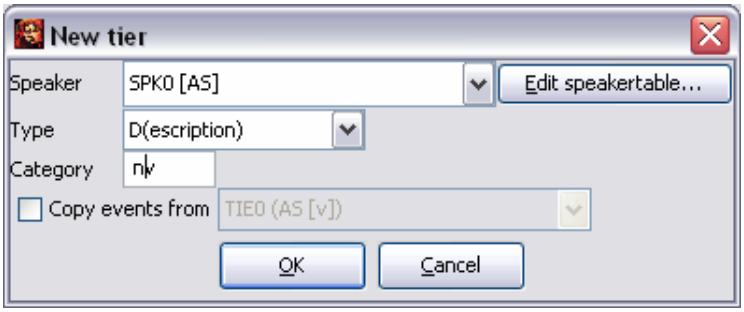
Add another speaker by clicking on *Add speaker*. Select this new speaker and change the corresponding properties. In order to add the user defined attributes of the first speaker, click *Collect attributes*. Close the dialog by clicking on *OK* (otherwise, the changes will not be retained).

The partitur should now show the modified speaker abbreviation:



Step 4 – Create tiers

Choose *Tier* > *Add tier...* . You will be shown a dialog in which you can specify properties of the new tier. Choose a speaker and a type (a verbal tier will usually have type “T”, a non-verbal one type “D” and an annotation type “A”) and enter a category (e. g. “v” for “verbal”).

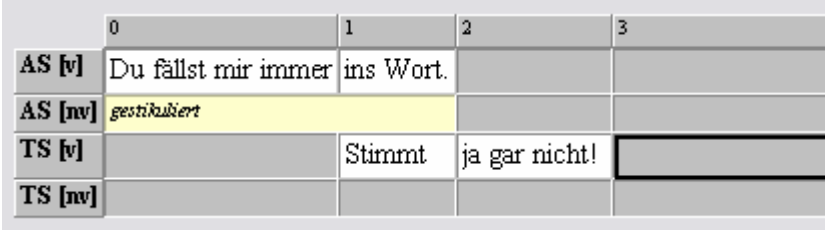


Close the dialog by clicking *OK.* Repeat this step until the partitur has as many tiers as you need. (You can, of course, add more tiers later if necessary). The partitur should then look something like this:

Depending on their type, the tiers are assigned a standard formatting. You can change this at any time (see further down).

Step 5 – Transcribe

You can now transcribe by entering text into the cells. The size of the cells will automatically adapt to the size of their content.



Keep in mind, that, according to the EXMARaLDA paradigm, transcribing means

- describing events,
- assign them to a speaker and a category
- and place them on a timeline.

You assign a speaker and a category by choosing the corresponding tier. Placing the event in time is done by locating the appropriate time interval, i. e. the corresponding cell beneath the appropriate section of the timeline. The actual description is done by entering text into this cell.

For the above example, this means there are altogether five events.

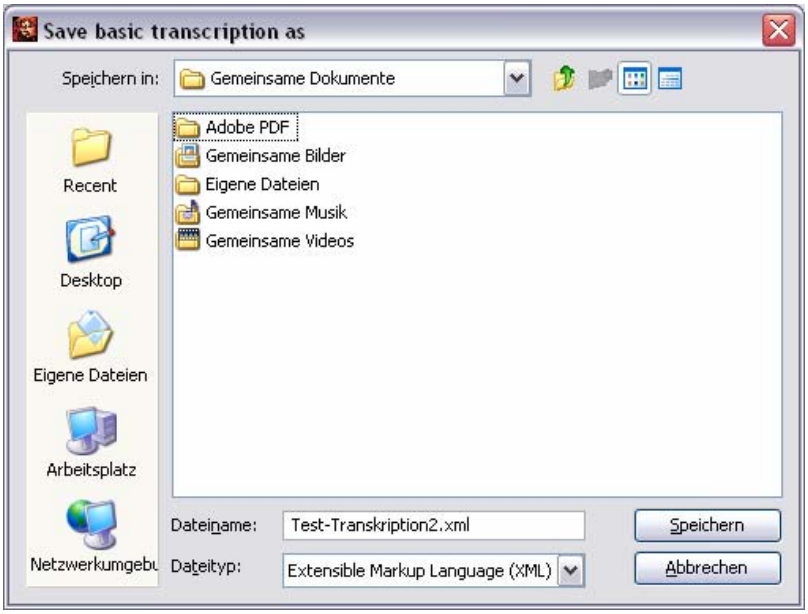
1. The event described by “Du fällst mir immer” is assigned to speaker “Max”, to the category “v” and to the time interval 0.
2. The event described by “gestikuliert” is assigned to speaker “Max”, to the category “nv” and to the time intervals 0 and 1.
3. The event described by “ja gar nicht.” is assigned to speaker “Tom”, to the category “v” and to the time interval 2.

4./5. Since the events described by “ins Wort” and “Stimmt” are simultaneous, they are assigned to the same interval (interval 1), in other words: the two speakers’ contributions overlap at this place etc.

The editor has several methods to support entering and editing such events. You’ll find these methods in the menus “Event” and “Timeline”.

Step 6 – Save transcription

Choose *File > Save as…* and use the dialog to give name to the file (the suffix “.xml“ is generated automaticly) and to save it.



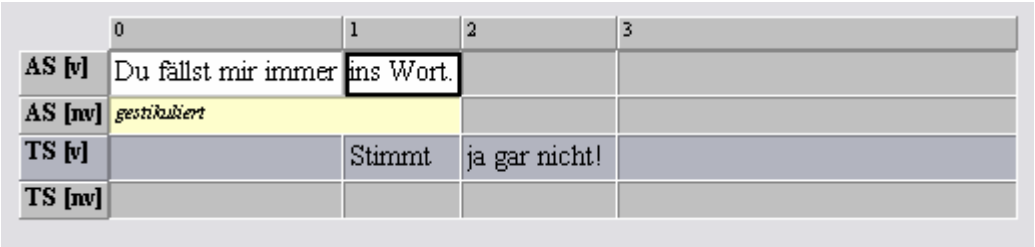
2. Format a transcription

Formatting, i. e. information about fonts, font sizes, background colors etc. is not part of the transcription itself, but treated as additional information which is only relevant for visually representing a transcription in the editor or in the output. Formatting information is therefore stored separately from the transcription data (as a separate file). The editor assigns a default formatting to each tier. This section shows how you can modify this default formatting according to your needs.

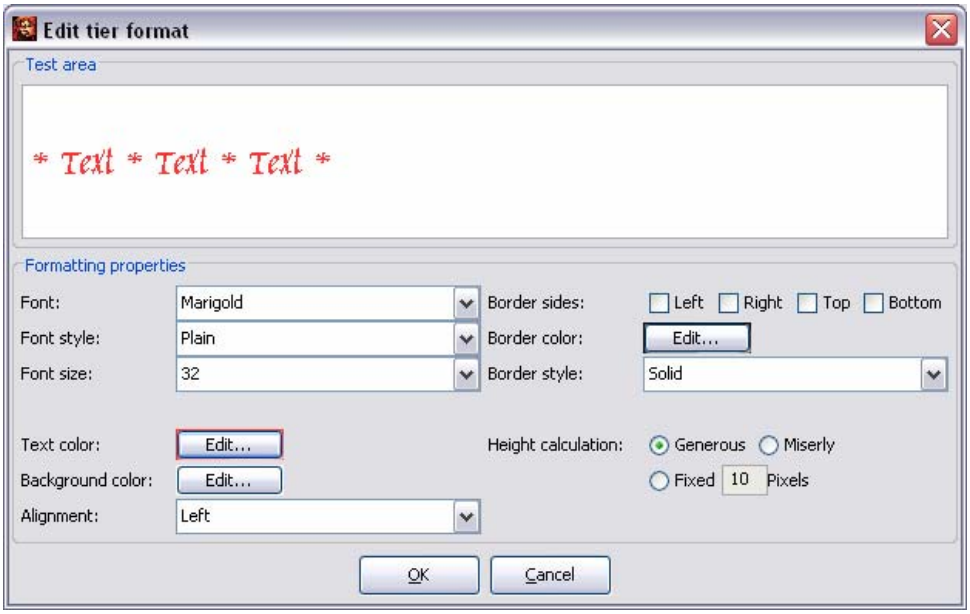
The architecture of the system only allows formatting a tier as well as the tier labels or the time line labels as a whole. It is not possible to format a certain segment of a tier (e. g. a single word or utterance) in bold type, italics or in a different font. If you'd like to use different formats only for aesthetical reasons you can design the transcription later on as an exported RTF document. If a certain format is part of the transcription convention you follow (e. g. representing emphasis by underline), try to think of an alternative way of characterizing it.

Step 1 – Format a tier

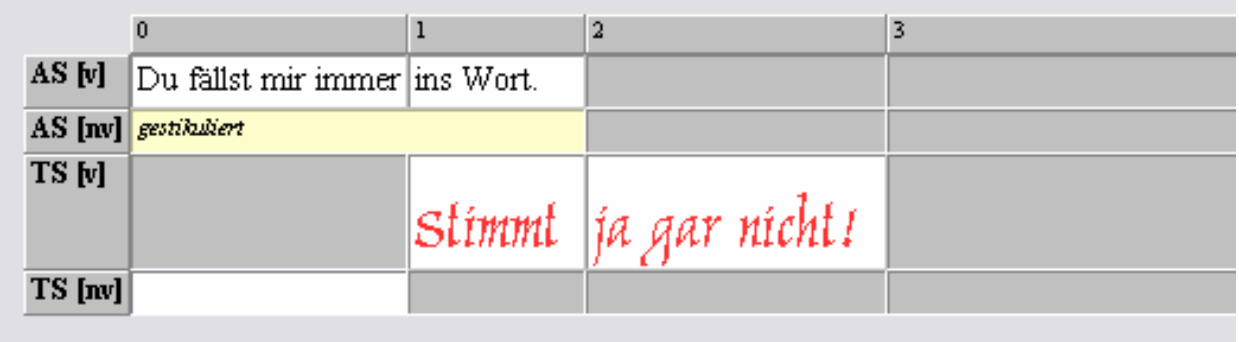
Create a new transcription or open an existing one. Tiers and labels will be given a default format by the editor. Select the tier whose format you wish to change by clicking on the corresponding tier label:



Now choose *Format* > *Format tier...* (or use the corresponding symbol of the toolbar or die keyboard combination Strg+F using a PC respectively ⌘+F using a Macintosh). You will be given a dialog in which you can change the formatting properties. For instance, you can change the font, the font size or the background color. The "Test area" works as a kind of preview and lets you test your changes.

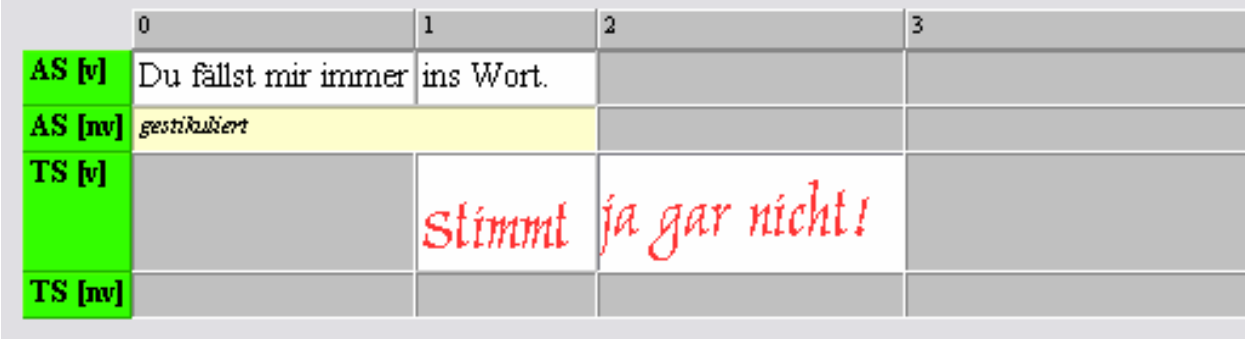


Close the dialog by clicking on *OK* (otherwise, the changes will not be retained). The selected tier will now have the modified formatting:



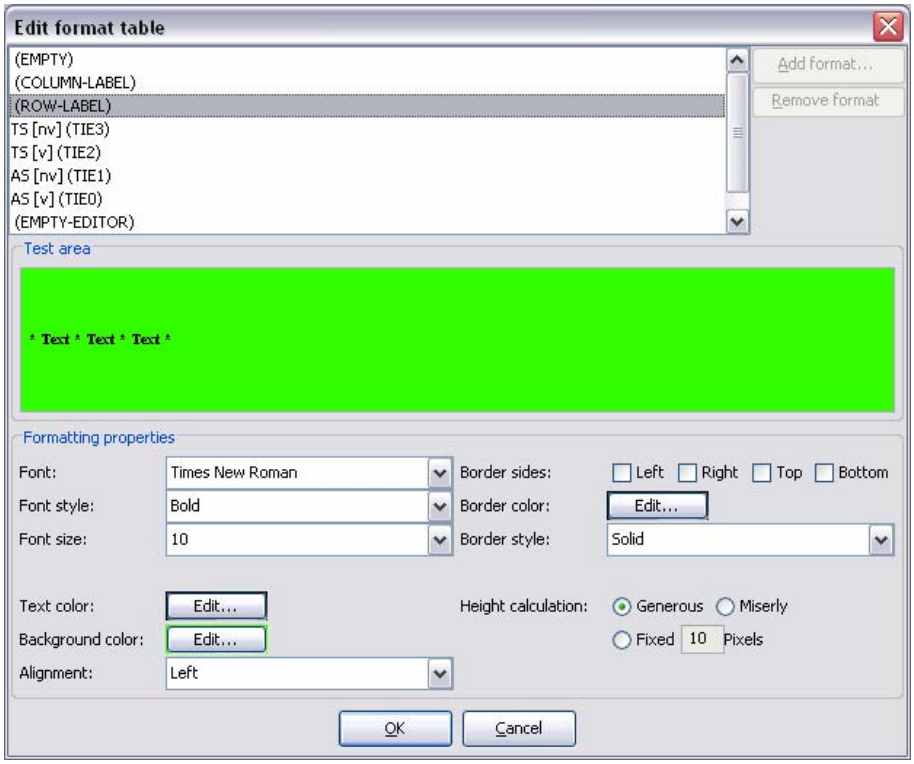
Step 2 – Alternative 1: Format tier and timeline labels

In order to change the formatting of tier labels or timeline labels choose *Format* > *Format tier labels...* respectively *Format* > *Format timeline...* and proceed as described above.



Step 2 – Alternative 2: Edit the format table

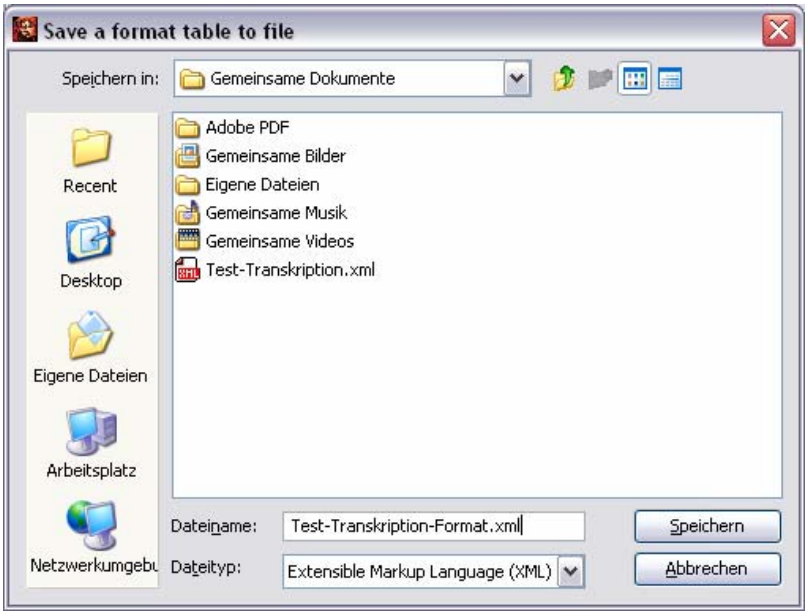
Instead of formatting each single tier step by step you can also edit the whole format table at once. Choose *Format* > *Edit format table...* . You are given the following dialog:



The list on top shows you all elements of the transcription that are formatable. Choose the element that you would like to edit and proceed as in step 1. The elements “(EMPTY)“ and “(EMPTY-EDITOR)“ refer to empty events.

Step 3 – Save the format table

Since the format is not an integral part of the transcription, you have to save it to a separate file. Choose *Format > Save format table as...* to do this. (As a format table file also has the suffix “.xml” it is advisable to choose a name that reveals as well the partitur it belongs to as the fact that it is a format table.)



Step 4 – Open a format table

If you now reopen the transcription, it will at first be given the default format. To return to your individual format, choose *Format > Open format table...* and the format table saved in step 3 will be applied to the

transcription.

Edit more than one format table for one transcription if you would like to optimize the formatting of different output methods.

3. Output a transcription

The editor has three methods for outputting partiturs:

1. Print: The partitur will be sent directly to a printer. Use this method if you only want a printout of the partitur. On a Macintosh this method can also be used to directly create a PDF version of the partitur.
2. RTF visualization: The partitur will be exported to a RTF document. This can then be opened by most word processors (MS Word in particular) and be further edited there (e. g. add page numbers or headers and footers).
3. HTML visualization: The partitur will be exported to a HTML document. This can then be opened by any Internet Browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator etc.).
4. SVG visualization: SVG means “Scalable Vector Graphics” and is an XML-based solution for two-dimensional vector graphics. It's ideal for charts on web pages and as a free, well-documented replacement technology for Macromedia Flash. Furthermore SVG files are probably the best solution for embedding partiturs as pictures into printed publications.

Setting partitur parameters

Independently of the actual output method you choose, you can set certain parameters for the output via *File* > *Partitur parameters*… .

Setting up the page

If you want to output your partitur to a printer or an RTF document, you need to set up the page via *File* > *Page setup*. (The operating system will give you a dialog to edit the page setup.) Close the dialog by clicking on *OK*. The chosen settings are now retained for printing as well as for RTF visulization.

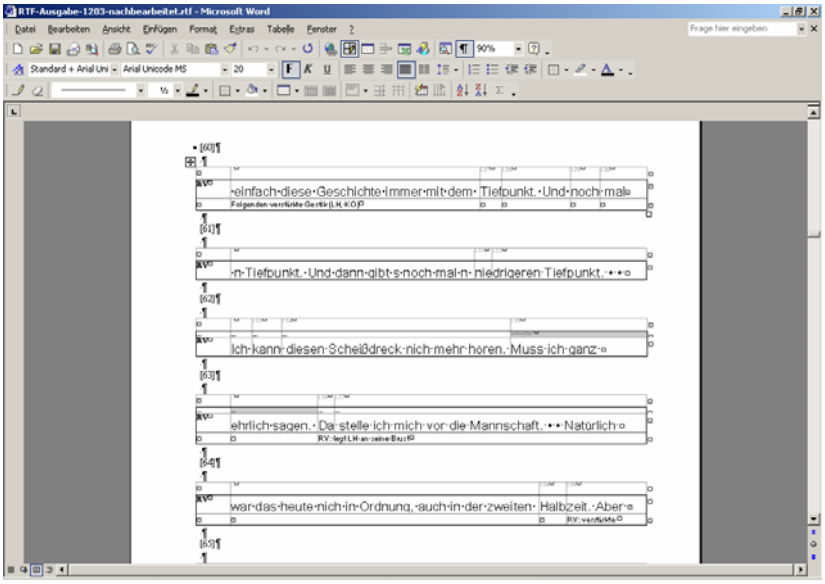
Print a transcription

To send a partitur to a printer, choose *File* > *Print*… . You will be shown the system’s own print dialog. (On Mac OS X you can use the *Preview* button to get a PDF version.)

Visualize a transcription as a RTF document

A word of caution: RTF is a “standard” from Microsoft which is intended to guarantee a loss-free exchange of MS Word documents between different versions of the MS Word software. Unfortunately, it does not quite work in that way. Different versions of MS Word will render one and the same RTF document in different ways. The RTF documents exported from the Partitur Editor will work best with MS Word 2000 under MS Windows. Other constellations may yield unsatisfactory results. If that is the case, use the print method or the HTML visualization instead.

In order to visualize a transcription to RTF, you can start by setting some parameters via the “RTF” tab under *File* > *Partitur parameters*… . Then choose *File* > *Visualize* > *RTF partiture*… . You will be prompted to provide a name for the file. The exported file can then be opened with MS Word:

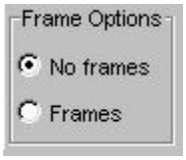


Visualize a transcription as a HTML document

Another word of caution: HTML is a much more reliable standard than RTF. However, different browsers may still render the same HTML document in slightly different manners. Make sure to use a sufficiently recent version of your browser in order to minimize these differences. (so far no problems with Internet Explorer 6.0 nor with Netscape Navigator 6.1 under MS Windows; under Macintosh we recommend Safari, Netscape 7.0. or Mozilla).

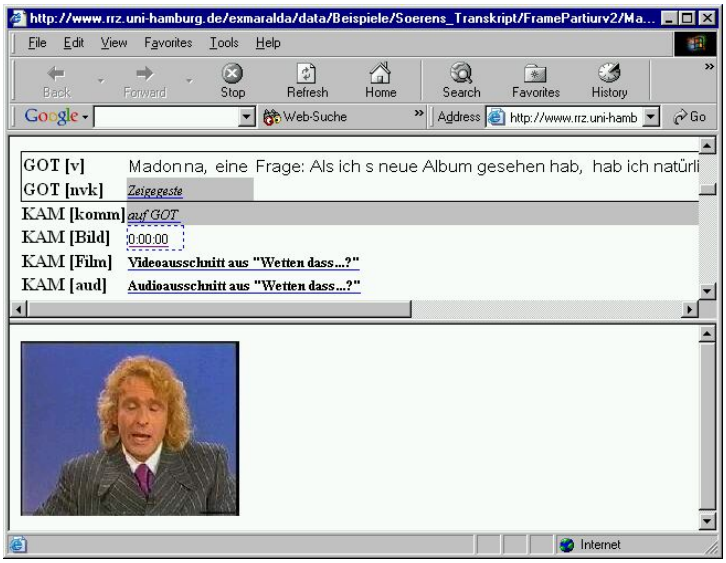
HTML export is especially useful if you have linked your transcript to audio, video or image files. The browser will render these links as hyperlinks and play or show the linked files, provided that it has the appropriate plug-ins installed.

In order to visualize a transcription as HTML, you can start by setting some parameters via the “HTML” tab under *File > Partitur parameters…*. Then choose *File > Visualize > HTML partiture…* . You will be prompted to provide a filename for the file and to choose whether the output should have frames or not:



Chose “No frames“ in case your transcription does not contain any links or if you want your browser to open the linked files in a separate window. Choose “Frames” if you want the browser to open the linked files in the same window as the transcription (but in a separate frame).

Close the dialog by clicking on *OK*. The exported file can then be opened with an internet browser:



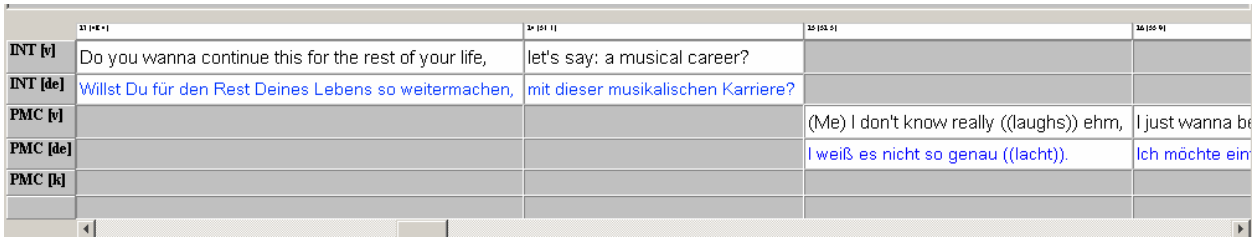
Hint: Reexport HTML files / Direct sending to browser

The option „Reexport HTML“ sends the latest version of the transcription directly to the last used HTML file. For the “reexport” choose *File* > *Visualize* > *Reexport HTML*. After clicking the *Refresh* button of your browser the new HTML version of the transcription will be loaded.

An even easier alternative is the command *File* > *Visualize* > *Send HTM partiture to Browser* which is accessable via the toolbar, too. It sends the latest version of the transcription directly to your browser.

Visualize a section of the transcription to RTF or HTML file

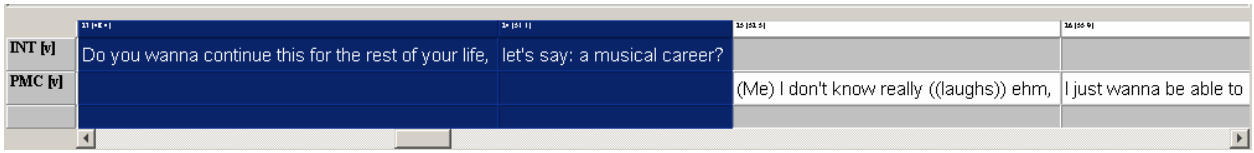
Frequently, one does not want to visualize the transcription as a whole but only a part of it.



INT [v]	Do you wanna continue this for the rest of your life,	let's say: a musical career?		
INT [de]	Willst Du für den Rest Deines Lebens so weitermachen,	mit dieser musikalischen Karriere?		
PMC [v]			(Me) I don't know really ((laughs)) ehm,	I just wanna be
PMC [de]			I weiß es nicht so genau ((lacht)).	Ich möchte ein
PMC [k]				

For instance, in order to visualize only the verbal tiers of this transcription without the German translations between two given timeline items of the example transcription used above, follow these instructions:

Select the first translation tier by clicking on the tier label and choose *Tier* > *Hide tier*. Proceed likewise with the second translation tier and the non verbal tier. (In order to undo these steps later on, choose *Tier* > *Show all tiers.*) Select the section of the transcription which you’d like to export by clicking on the first corresponding time line label and dragging the mouse up to the last time line lable you are interested in:



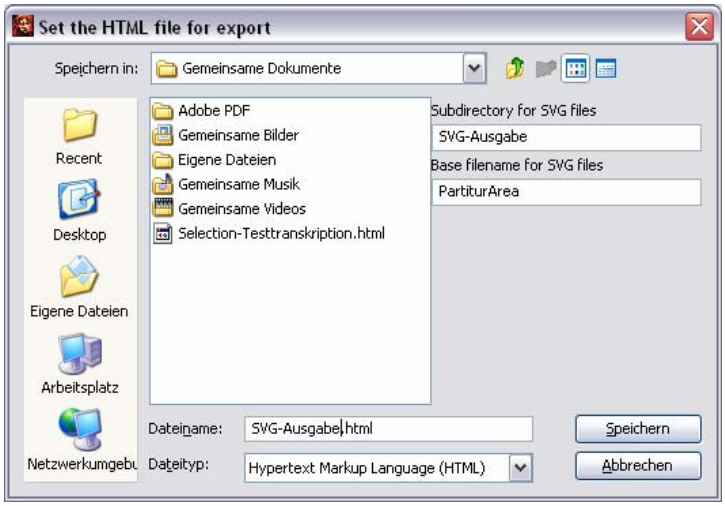
INT [v]	Do you wanna continue this for the rest of your life,	let's say: a musical career?		
PMC [v]			(Me) I don't know really ((laughs)) ehm,	I just wanna be able to

In order to export the selected section choose *Edit* > *Selection* > *Selection to RTF...* or *Edit* > *Selection* > *Selection to HTML... .*

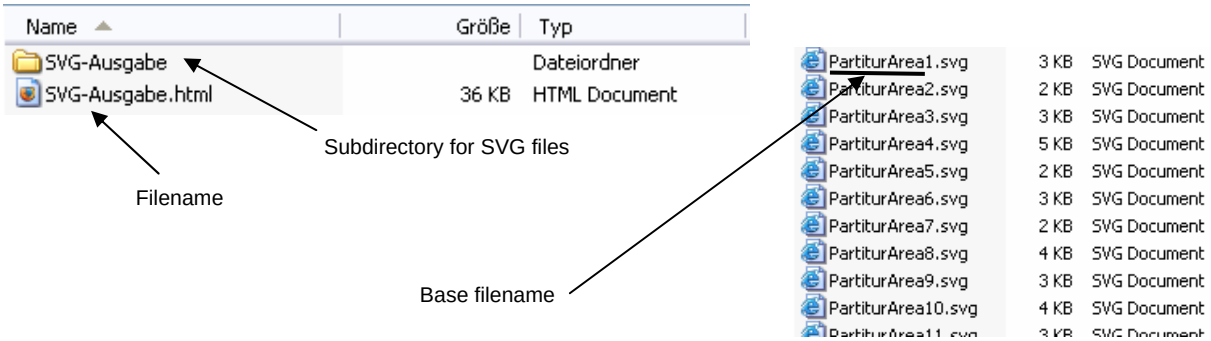
Visualize a transcription as SVG files

Using the SVG visualization the Partitur Editor generates a SVG file for each partitur area created by line breaks. The SVG files are saved in an automaticly generated folder and are linked by a superordinated HTML file which can be opened with any browser that supports the SVG format.

In order to visualize a transcription as SVG files, you can start by setting some parameters via the "SVG" tab under *File* > *Partitur parameters*…. Set a pixel width and scale factor that serves your purpose. Then choose *File* > *Visualize* > *SVG*… . You will be prompted to provide a subdirectory, a filename for the superordinated HTML file and a basic filename for the set of SVG files:



With the settings chosen above the Partitur Editor generates the following objects:



4. A final remark

This "short introduction" to the EXMARaLDA Partitur Editor is really short, maybe too short. There is much more documentation of the software itself and of the underlying EXMARaLDA system in German. If you do not happen to get along with the "Handbuch" (manual) but have questions that this document does not answer, please don't hesitate to subscribe to the EXMARaLDA mailing list (http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/exmaralda/) and ask your question(s) there.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SOME KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

The marking of keyboards differs from manufacturer to manufacturer. For the following shortcuts

Strg ≙ **Ctrl** ≙ ⌘ .

Menu:	Shortcut:	Function:
„File“:	Strg + N	**=** New
	Strg + O	**=** Open
	Strg + S	**=** Save
	Strg + P	**=** Print
	Strg + R	**=** Export RTF partiture…
	Strg + H	**=** Export HTML partiture…
	Strg + ⇧Shift + H	= Send HTML partiture to browser
„Edit“:	Strg + C	= Copy
	Strg + V	= Paste
	Strg + X	= Cut
„Tier“:	Strg + A	= Add tier
	Strg + I	= Insert tier
	Strg + ↑	= Move tier upwards
	Strg + Alt + H	= Hide tier
„Event“:	Strg + D	= Delete event
	Strg + 1	**=** Merge events
	Strg + 2	**=** Split event
	Strg + 3	**=** Double split event
	Strg + ⇧Shift + R	**=** Shift characters to the right
	Strg + ⇧Shift + L	**=** Shift characters to the left
	Strg + ⇧Shift + →	**=** Extend event to the right
	Strg + ⇧Shift + ←	**=** Extend event to the left
	Strg + Alt + →	**=** Shrink event on the right
	Strg + Alt + ←	**=** Shrink event on the left
	Strg + →	**=** Move event to the right
	Strg + ←	**=** Move event to the left
	Strg + Enter	**=** Edit event properties
„Format“:	Strg + F	**=** Format tier
	Strg + ⇧Shift + S	**=** Save format table
Miscellaneous:	Strg + Pos1	= Jump to start (of the transcription)
	Strg + End	= Jump to end (of the transcription)