


#hdr

#hdr2

#hdr3

#lh-col

#rh-col



# TEI U5: Encoding for Interchange: an introduction to the TEI

Style sheets | Consortium | FAQ | TEI P5

Skip to content | Home

TEI Consortium home page

For Printing

Prefatory note

1. Introduction
2. A Short Example
3. The Structure of a TEI Text
4. Encoding the Body
5. Page and Line Numbers
6. Marking Highlighted Phrases
7. Notes
8. Cross References and Links
9. Editorial Interventions
10. Omissions, Deletions, and Additions
11. Names, Dates, Numbers and Abbreviations
- 11.1. Names and Referring Strings
- 11.2. Dates and Times
- 11.3. Numbers
- 11.4. Abbreviations and their Expansion
- 11.5. Addresses
12. Lists
13. Bibliographic

## 11. Names, Dates, Numbers and Abbreviations

The TEI scheme defines elements for a large number of 'data-like' features which may appear almost anywhere within almost any kind of text. These features may be of particular interest in a range of disciplines; they all relate to objects external to the text itself, such as the names of persons and places, numbers and dates. They also pose particular problems for many natural language processing (NLP) applications because of the variety of ways in which they may be presented within a text. The elements described here, by making such features explicit, reduce the complexity of processing texts containing them.

### 11.1. Names and Referring Strings

A *referring string* is a phrase which refers to some person, place, object, etc. Two elements are provided to mark such strings:

`<rs>`  
contains a general purpose name or referring string. Attributes include:

type  
indicates more specifically the object referred to by the referencing string. Values might include person, place, ship, element, etc.

`<name>`  
contains a proper noun or noun phrase. Attributes include:

type  
indicates the type of the object which is being named by the phrase.

The type attribute is used to distinguish amongst (for example) names of persons, places and organizations, where this is possible:

```
<q>My dear <rs type="person">Mr. Bennet</rs>, </q>  
said his lady to him one day, <q>have you heard  
that <rs type="place">Netherfield Park</rs> is let  
at last?</q>
```