

# A TEI/IIIF Structure for Standardizing Palaeographic Examples

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## Summary

The wealth of palaeographical examples described in catalogue entries that are stored in TEI are not currently comparable or retrievable in any meaningful way. A standard for the markup of palaeographic examples with corresponding IIIF zones allowing the serving of the associated images would allow for the easy indexing and comparison of hands. Another advantage of linking to small regions in the IIIF is that the context is preserved for scholars who follow the link back to the original.

A simple standard, developed for a project on Syrian manuscripts, but with general utility, is presented here and described in in the linked ODD. It provides three new elements within `handDesc`/`handNote` to link description to examples: `letterformDesc`, `letterform`, and `letterformExample`, intended to promote discoverability and reusability.

## Markup example:

```
<handDesc>
  <handNote scope="major" script="syr-Syre" xml:id="p1handNote1">
    <letterformDesc>
      <letterform>ܐ</letterform>
      <letterformExample>
        <graphic url="/pct:27.13816,64.01681,2.38487,1.55336/full/0/default.jpg"/>
      </letterformExample>
      <letterformExample>
        <graphic url="/pct:41.99561,66.10015,2.38487,1.55336/full/0/default.jpg"/>
      </letterformExample>
      <letterformExample>
        <graphic url="/pct:34.48465,31.12208,2.46711,1.97368/full/0/default.jpg"/>
      </letterformExample>
      <note>
        the right side of the Heh is not curving but bit straight
      </note>
    </letterformDesc>
  </handNote>
</handDesc>
```

Manuscripts ▾ Project Bibliography Indices ▾ Volltextsuche 🔍

Damascus, Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate Library, SOP 92  
Anonymous. *Cause of Causes*

ID Codicology Layout Palaeography Images Content Citations

*Hands:* 3: Syriac in Estrangela, Syriac in Estrangela, Arabic

Hand 1 (Main Hand, Syriac in Estrangela)

Letter	Form	Example	Notes
ܐ			the right side of the Heh is not curving but bit straight
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			
ܐ			

The first hand used a brown ink, now paled. It had been carefully overwritten at many places in the book applying a dark brown ink (see the contrast e.g. on fol. 106. Headlines written in red. All texts (old and new)

Fig. 1: Example of proposed practice: Damascus, Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate Library, SOP 92 Anonymous. *Cause of Causes* WIP preview of the *Hidden Treasures from the Syrian Heritage* interface (PI: Erich Renhart)

## Find the ODD on GitHub

[https://github.com/larkvi/PalaeographyExample\\_ODD](https://github.com/larkvi/PalaeographyExample_ODD)



## Let’s automate output like this across projects:

	BL. Add. 12150 (411-412)	BL. Add. 14512-lower (459)	NL. Russia Syr. NS (462)
ܐ	X 		
	BL. Add. 14425-f. 1-115 (463-464)	BL. Add. 14425-f. 116-230 (463-464)	Vat. Syr. 160 (473)
	BL. Add. 14528 (500-501)	BL. Add. 14542 (509)	BL. Add. 17126 (510-511)

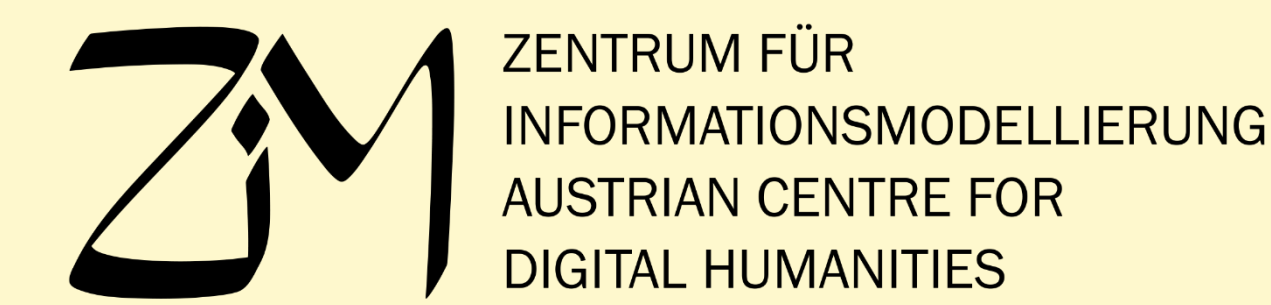
Fig. 2: Output from the DASH project (no relation to current project, except as inspiration) [dash.stanford.edu/viewer/](https://dash.stanford.edu/viewer/)

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