

Reflexive note

From the first assignment, I understood that it was necessary to find a balance between the DTD, which is entirely customized, and TEI all encoding, which is highly standardized and structured, although very permissive.

For the second assignment, I had difficulty finding where to put the metadata information in particular. For example, I had trouble figuring out how and where to properly describe the different levels of archival description: fonds, series, item. I thoroughly searched the TEI guidelines and once I found the corresponding elements, the metadata in my corpus became structured and clear.

Another difficulty was to encode particularities specific to my corpus, such as additions and notes outside the text. The extensive structuring of TEI makes it difficult to encode and represent such specificities. I understood that TEI structure is very useful for structuring metadata for reuse, but lacks customization for the chosen corpus.

The third exercise, customizing the TEI encoding with ODD helped me find the right balance between the necessary structuring of metadata and encoding the body text in a way that suited its specific characteristics. I explored different levels of customization, with ODD and then with Schematron rules that enable testing and content constraints. This allowed me, for example, to enforce the link between the add and ref elements to express a reference to a note outside the body of the text. This adds clarity to the meaning of the text.

I had difficulties converting my ODD to XHTML. This was due to redundancies in the module declarations, which blocked the conversion. These difficulties gave me a better understanding of the content and logic of an ODD file.