

- Whitespace is not allowed inside locus identifiers
- Whitespace should only appear among the transliterated text in interlinear files
- The use of whitespace after the transliterated text, at the end of a line, is deprecated
- One <space> should appear before a / at the end of a line
- One <space> should appear after the / at the start of a continuation line

5.7 Comments

The format allows three types of comments:

- Comment lines (already mentioned above)
- In-line free comments
- In-line dedicated comments

5.7.1 Comment lines

Comment lines may appear almost anywhere, and are recognised by:

- Obligatory # sign in the first position of the line
- Recommended (optional) whitespace following the # sign

Apart from this, any character may appear in comment lines, in any order, without restriction.

5.7.2 In-line free comments

In-line free comments may appear as part of the transliterated text, for example to annotate something. These comments are intended for human interpretation of the file.

An in-line free comment starts with the character pair: <!

It is terminated by the first appearance after this of the character > which has to be on the same line.

It may include any sequence of characters, also whitespace.

5.7.3 In-line dedicated comments

A few in-line dedicated comments are defined, e.g. <-> and <\$> . Their meaning is explained further below (Table 10: characters defining different types of in-line comments). These comments are primarily intended for machine processing, but can be equally informative for human interpretation of the file.

5.8 Page variables and text tags

The format foresees two similar methods of annotating the text with meta-data. The first of these, page variables, are valid for an entire page. These variables are defined in the page headers. The second, text tags, are set using dedicated comments in the transliterated text. These values are valid from that line of text onwards, until the end of the page, or until they are overruled by a new setting of the same tag. The format of the two is very similar. Page variables are set using: \$X=Y while text tags are set using @X=Y. The variables and tags share the same meaning.