

Workshop “Ethiopian Studies and Digital Humanities: tools and projects (Beta maṣāḥəft, Ethiopian Manuscript Archives, EthioMap)”

21-24 January 2019

Venue : CNRS – 27 rue Paul Bert – 94 200 Ivry-sur-Seine – France

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Scientific presentation

The objective of this workshop is to create the conditions for the emergence of a scientific community using digital collaborative tools within Ethiopian studies. There is no need to recall the scientific and technological context in which we live to understand the importance and challenges of this methodological revolution. Many initiatives have emerged over the past two decades, both in terms of the availability of digitized documentation and the tools to use it.¹ After the first experiments, interoperability and sharing have become the key words, and Ethiopian studies must respond to these good practices.

Three projects developed in France and Germany will thus have the opportunity to dialogue and harmonize their practices.

The Ethiopian Manuscript Archives project, initially developed in 2010 and now part of the EthioChrisProcess project (ANR, 2018-2022), aims to edit and equip the corpus of administrative acts of the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia, for medieval and modern periods.

The [EthioMap](#) project offers an online consultation of a selection of maps that illustrate either scientific advances or significant political developments in understanding Ethiopian territorial dynamics. Each map is indexed, listing all topographic information, comparing their occurrences and transcriptions from one map to another.

The [Beta maṣāḥəft](#) project aims to bring together all the Ethiopian manuscript catalogues, eventually integrating the texts themselves. Various tools equip this corpus: lexicon ge'ez, based on Dillmann's book; cartography: biographical sheets.

Researchers using this manuscript documentation will now make privileged use of this increased access to sources. It is desirable that users are also actors in this digital scientific environment, which is why this workshop is an invitation to take advantage of the tools currently in place and to participate in the supply of data.

¹ This includes, of course, the many collections of digitised manuscripts, maps (see in particular those of [E.W. Schimper](#)), the [Menestrel resource directory](#), the online publication of biblical texts, ancient works and online journals.

Schedule

Monday 21

14:00 – 18:00

Presentation of the different projects: Beta maṣāḥəft (BM) by Pietro Liuzzo, Ethiopian Manuscript Archives (EMA) by Anaïs Wion, EthioMap by Eloi Ficquet.

This first presentation will introduce the state of the art, in dialogue with the audience.

Tuesday 22

The workshops will be delivered by a BM team, composed of Pietro Liuzzo, Solomon Gebreyes Beyene, and Dorothea Reule. The main language will be English, but Italian, Amharic, French and German can also be spoken.

9:00 – 10:30 **The basic theory: what encoding means and why is it necessary**

- Introduction to XML (eXtensible Markup Language)
- Introduction to TEI ([Text Encoding Initiative](#)): why choosing TEI when building a virtual environment dealing –not exclusively- with texts.
- Introduction to the BM Encoding Guidelines: what are we encoding and how
- Introduction to the BM XML schema

11:00 – 12:30 **Practice: let's try to encode**

- Setting up the necessary software on personal computers.²
- Editing in the files.

Aim: get used to the file system and to GitHub (how to open the right file, make mini edit such as fixing the transliteration, and then use Git to push this change to the server and validate it)

14:00-15:30 **Theory: how to handle place-names**

- BM Guidelines for places
- Places/Repositories encoding (discussing place names gazetteer)
- Toponyms annotations in texts
- [Hypothes.is](#) and the annotation of external sources

16:00 – 17:30 **Practice : let's encode for real, focusing on place-names**

Place names annotations in manuscript sources

Annotation of texts on the web with hypothes.is and BM places identifiers

Aim: Learn to encode using or creating references to place entities. The participants will mark up place names in the [Chronicle of Zar'a Yā'qob](#) and the [Chronicle of Susenyos](#). We will add placeName elements. Annotation with [hypothes.is](#) open up the perspective and show how the identifier for places can be used in other contexts to network resources.

16:00-18:00 (in another room) Ethiomap / BM meeting

Wednesday 23

² Participants should be informed that they need to have the following:

- a newly installed [oXygen-XML editor](#) with an active trial licence if they do not have institutional or personal licence. Please remind them not to get this licence before the workshop, because we do not want to risk that it is already expired.
- a [GitHub](#) account
- a [Hypothes.is](#) account
- the [GitHub desktop](#) application

9:00 – 10:30 Theory: dealing with persons names and roles (titles and functions)

- BM Guidelines for Persons
- Persons encoding and description
- BM guidelines for taxonomy and authority files
- Using taxonomy and authority files

11:00 – 12:30 Practice: encoding the complexity of the human identities

Encoding persons in a document

Encoding a person file

Aim: Understanding how to designate the various elements identifying a person in a source document, and building a referential file extracting data from various sources.

14:00 – 15:30 Theory: describing the codicological unit

- BM guidelines on Manuscripts cataloguing and general structure of manuscript records
- Encoding of contents of a manuscript (msltems)
- EMA guidelines on corpora
- Encoding diplomatic structures in EMA

16:00 – 17:30 Practice: let's catalogue

Collaborative encoding and editing of manuscripts from [Ethio-SPaRe](#) whose descriptions need to be corrected and improved (such as MHG-016, MHG-013, DDM-007).

Aim: collaboration in editing the files, including skills of identification and encoding from the previous sessions

At the end of this session we will ask if any topics need to be repeated the following morning.

16:00-18:00 (in another room) EMA / BM meeting

Thursday 24

9:00 – 10:30 Analysis and tools: encoding can do much more than editing, it can also help to analyze the data !

- XPath and Regex : visualize and manipulate your encoded files
- Tools to publish TEI data (overview of possibilities, e.g. TEI-Publisher)
- Using and reusing BM resources (data, schema, etc.)
- [Dillmann Lexicon](#) in TEI and website, connection to the BM website

11:00 – 12:30 Questions, community building and feedback

- Eventual repetition of presentations
- Questions
- Feedback on the workshop structure
- Ways to keep involved in BM, EMA and Ethiomap