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# Digital Publishing and Preservation Using XML

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## TEI workshop session 9

# CHOICES

**You can encode (mark up) almost anything.**

**But what should you encode?**

**And to what depth?**

**Your choices will be dictated by ...**

- the nature of the material
- the character of your incoming data
- the amount of your funding
- the patience of your funders
- (how much time left till your retirement)
- the scale of the project (how many items)
- the scope and variety of the project
- the purpose of the project
  - desired functionality
  - expected (or guessed-at) audience
  - potential for repurposing
  - potential for sharing/reuse

- your own knowledge or ignorance
- the existence of standards
  - why to avoid them. They are:
    - complex, hard to use
    - not tailored to material
    - not supported by local expertise or compatible with local systems
    - not as good as what you can come up with yourself
    - etc.?
  - why to use them. You can
    - leverage community expertise
    - share data
    - share tools
    - entertain at least a faint hope of "sustainability"
  - library practice summarized in [GUIDELINES. \(http://www.tei-c.org/SIG/Libraries/teinlibraries/\)](http://www.tei-c.org/SIG/Libraries/teinlibraries/)
    - a good starting-point
    - provide good suggestions rooted in actual practice
    - do not merely define but *apply* tags, with examples
    - offer five 'levels' of commitment:
      1. raw OCR marked off into pages, linked to page images
      2. = LEVEL 1 + chapter divisions and headings
      3. = LEVEL 2 + refinements. Text may (?) stand on its own.
      4. Better text (keyed or corrected), tagged enough to stand alone
      5. = LEVEL 4 + considerable manual intervention based on subject knowledge.

### Our own projects as examples:

- (LEVEL 1) Mass-digitization projects [Making of America \(http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/\)](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/) and the Google-scanned books going into [HathiTrust \(http://www.hathitrust.org/\)](http://www.hathitrust.org/)

<http://www.natlitrust.org>

- (LEVEL IV) The [Text Creation Partnership](http://www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/docs/). (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/docs/>) See [sample TCP file](/files/departments/dpp/20101113-pfs/20101113-09b.xml). (</files/departments/dpp/20101113-pfs/20101113-09b.xml>)
- (LEVEL V) [Middle English Dictionary](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med) (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med>) (and [Compendium](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mec). (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mec>) See [sample MED file](/files/departments/dpp/20101113-pfs/20101113-09a.xml). (</files/departments/dpp/20101113-pfs/20101113-09a.xml>)
- (LEVEL IV) [Knight's American Mechanical Dictionary](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~pfs/knight/index.html) (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~pfs/knight/index.html>)
- (LEVEL V) The [Faculty CV project](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~pfs/cvs/) (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~pfs/cvs/>)

These differ in

- their adherence to standards
- their labor-intensity
- their longevity (the price of success?)
- their scale and scope

But share a common rationale:

- intelligible display
- intelligent navigation
- contextually useful search restrictions
- constraint by method and cost
- susceptibility to incremental improvement

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